



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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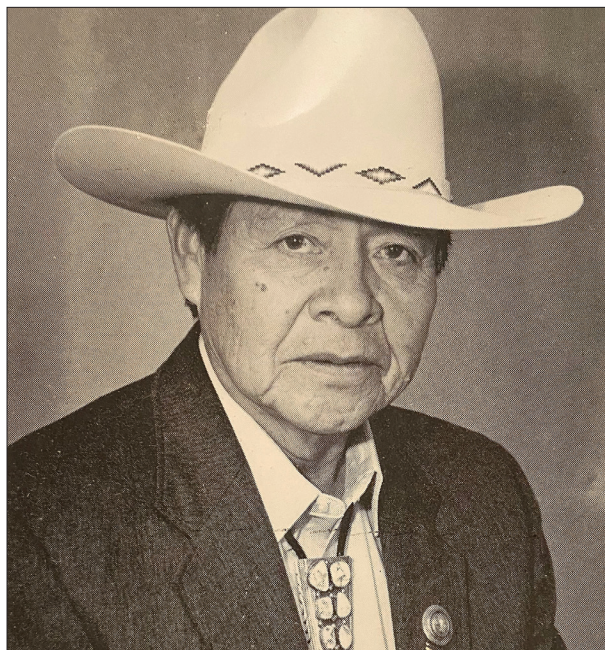
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**September 6, 2025**

### **25th Navajo Nation Council mourns the passing of the first Navajo Nation Speaker Nelson Gorman Jr.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — The 25th Navajo Nation Council offers its deepest condolences to the family of former Council Delegate and the first Speaker of the Navajo Nation, Nelson Gorman Jr., who passed on Thursday, Sept. 4, 2025, at the age of 91, according to his family.

“On behalf of the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we honor the life and leadership of Speaker Nelson Gorman Jr. As the first Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, he helped establish the foundation of our modern government and guided our people through a pivotal time of change. We extend our deepest condolences to the Gorman family and ask our Nation to keep them in prayer during this time of mourning,” said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.



**The first Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Nelson Gorman Jr.**

Gorman, of Chinle, Ariz., was Tódich’íi’níi, born for Kinyaa’áanii. His maternal grandfathers were Tóts’óhníi, and his paternal grandfathers were Dibé Łizhiníi.

He served from 1983 to 1995 as a Council Delegate representing Chinle Chapter. In 1990, he was elected as the first Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, helping establish the modern three-branch system of government and strengthening the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches. He was recognized as a peacemaker during the 1989 leadership crisis that deeply divided the Council and the Navajo people.

Gorman is survived by his wife of 66 years, Eva Gorman; his son and daughter-in-law, Cornelius and Josie Gorman; his daughter, Caroline Gorman; and six grandchildren.

After his service in tribal government, Gorman devoted his time to his family while continuing to follow the political landscape of the Navajo Nation. He often reminded others of the enduring strength and responsibility of the Navajo Nation Council as the governing body of the Nation.

“As he grew older, my father remained sharp and deeply thoughtful. He approached

challenges with analysis and patience, never accepting things at face value,” said his son, Cornelius Gorman. “He lived by his spirituality and faith, and those values guided every aspect of his life.”

Gorman’s family meetings will take place at the Chinle Presbyterian Church in Chinle, Ariz., on Wednesday, Sept. 10, and Thursday, Sept. 11, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., and on Friday, Sept. 12, from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

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