



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2025

25th Navajo Nation Council celebrates grand opening of the new St. Michaels Chapter House



Speaker Crystalyne Curley, Council Delegate Brenda Jesus, and dignitaries take part in a ceremonial ribbon cutting for the grand opening of the St. Michaels Chapter House

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined the community of St. Michaels today to celebrate the long-awaited grand opening of the new St. Michaels Chapter House, a milestone more than two decades in the making.

The facility stands as a tribute to past and present leadership, and as a commitment to the community's future. Local leaders and dignitaries honored the vision that was carried forward by chapter officials, project staff, and residents whose voices and vote ensured this project became a reality.

"This chapter house belongs to the people," said Council Delegate Brenda Jesus. "Our community deserves a place where every person can speak, be heard, and take part in shaping the future of St. Michaels. This building reflects the commitment, the grit, and the togetherness that define us. I'm proud of our elders, our families, and especially our youth for staying engaged, and I thank everyone—past and present—who worked tirelessly to bring this to life."

Speaker Crystalyne Curley praised the teamwork that pushed the project to the finish line and commended Delegate Jesus for her steady dedication to her community. "I remember coming to the old chapter house to host a wrestling club with my family," Speaker Curley

said. "To stand here today and see this beautiful new building is a reminder of what we can accomplish when we support one another. Thank you to everyone who showed persistence, humility, and heart in making this possible."

Speaker Curley also recognized the community's resilience and honored the leaders who preserved key elements of the original 1959 structure, including the historic fireplace that witnessed decades of advocacy and local decision-making.

Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez also celebrated this historic moment and expressed his gratitude to the community for their efforts to bring the project to the finish line.

Navajo Nation Vice President Richelle Montoya commended the community for its unified effort, noting that St. Michaels continues to serve their community members and is dedicated to elders and youth.

Throughout the ceremony, speakers highlighted the dedication that kept the project moving over a 20- to 30-year timeline. Community advocates like Wilson Stewart and representatives from the Oak Springs Chapter were honored for their service.

Leaders also acknowledged the support of individuals such as Victor Flores of La Plata, whose efforts helped bring healthier food options and resources to families in St. Michaels.

Chapter President Gabriel Freeland, Chapter Vice President Craig Tsosie, Legislative District Assistant Deidre Rodgers, and a full team of volunteers and chapter staff coordinated the celebration. Their work reflected the spirit that defines St. Michaels: people showing up for one another, embracing positive criticism, and uplifting the next generation by keeping them involved in local processes and decision-making.

Following the ribbon cutting, attendees toured the new chapter house and enjoyed a program filled with songs, dancing, and moments of lightheartedness. Performances by Talibah Begay and the Little Boy Blue singing group brought a sense of unity and gratitude to the gathering, reinforcing the pride and joy shared among families, elders, youth, and leaders.

The new St. Michaels Chapter House now stands as a symbol of community strength and a foundation for future progress—built through teamwork, carried by tradition, and shaped by the people who call St. Michaels home.

###