



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan, Navajo Council send condolences to family of the late Nelson Tsosie

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. -- Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and the 21st Navajo Nation Council send their sincere condolences to the family of the late Nelson Tsosie, who was the Navajo Nation's first and very own Toughest Cowboy Champion, two-time Indian National Finals Rodeo bareback world champion, and International Indian Finals Rodeo world champion.

"I was saddened when I received news about the sudden passing of Nelson Tsosie," said Speaker Morgan. "He was a nationally known young man who left a legacy for all young people to follow, and achieve more with his example. He accomplished many goals in his short time with us."

Nelson was the first Navajo and Native American to participate in the Professional Bull Riding's Toughest Cowboy televised tour, where 12 bronc and bull riders compete to be named the Toughest Cowboy Champion. Tsosie competed for three years.

At the age of 19, he won his first world title as the International Indian Finals Rodeo bareback champion. In 2007 he won the Toughest Cowboy title and also his first bareback championship in the Indian National Finals Rodeo. In 2008, he won the INFR title for the second year in a row.

Nelson grew up in Burnham, N.M. He was 23 years old.

"The Navajo Nation will always be proud of Nelson Tsosie and will remember what he accomplished. He was our first and very own Toughest Cowboy Champion, and he will be missed," said Speaker Morgan. "Our prayers will continue to be with the Tsosie family during this difficult time."

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