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For Immediate Release  
Aug. 27, 2013

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## President Shelly Honors Former Leaders and Meets about Navajo Mine

**CHINLE, Ariz.**—Navajo President Ben Shelly bestowed honor to Dr. Guy Gorman, and to former Speaker Nelson Gorman, declaring both gentlemen leaders taught him leadership during an honoring ceremony on Sunday.

“Dr. Gorman has given leadership in his years of service to the Navajo people,” President Shelly said at the Chinle chapter house on Sunday. “He’s a man of honor, wisdom, and great dedication.”

President Shelly bestowed Dr. Gorman with a Pendleton blanket, as he declared Dr. Gorman, a man whose leadership will always be known. He served with Dr. Gorman, as the two were members of the Diné Rights Association, a group dedicated to government accountability.

Dr. Guy Gorman was first elected to the Navajo Nation Council in 1974, and served concurrently with the late William D. Tsosie, as the two represented Chinle.

“Thank you Mr. Gorman for what you’ve done—I am a part of you, of what you have done,” President Shelly said as he gave honor to former Speaker Nelson Gorman. The former speaker served concurrently in the Council with President Shelly in 1991. Dr. Gorman and the former speaker are related by Navajo clan.

Sunday afternoon, President Shelly attended a public meeting regarding the proposed purchase of BHP Billiton’s Navajo Mine. The meeting was at the Shiprock chapter house and was attended by more than 200 people. A resolution “supporting the Diné citizenship against ruining our environment” was placed on the agenda, but not acted on.

“Give us four to five years to transition from coal to clean coal,” President Shelly said. “How do you close down a government,” he asked referring to closure of the mine and the adverse affect it would have on the Nation’s gross revenue receipts.

“I will be prepared,” President Shelly said. “For the people who say no here, give me an alternative plan. Just don’t say no.”

Sunday's meeting was co-sponsored by BHP-Billiton and Diné Care.

"President Obama is saying no to coal, but yet in China they're still using coal," President Shelly added.

The Navajo Nation is working with BSNF to build a railroad spur in Thoreau, New Mex. Plans call for an inland port authority for imports and exports. ship coal on the transcontinental for export to foreign countries. The railroad spur is expected to be in project initiation by December. Coal from the Navajo mine can be used for the local power plants, and for foreign shipment.

The Navajo Nation is currently in the process of buying the Navajo coal mine operated by BHP-Billiton for an estimated \$85 million.

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