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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Family meeting scheduled for the family of Army Sgt. Christopher N. Gonzalez to receive condolences**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Honorable council delegate Leonard Chee (Birdsprings/Leupp/Tolani Lake) said the occupation of Iraq has 'hit home' as his fellow community members mourn the loss of 25-year-old Army Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez.

Gonzalez was killed Monday, May 14 in Iraq. It has been unconfirmed by the Office of the Speaker as to how Gonzales was killed, and a family spokesperson referred questions to the Army Public Affairs Department.

"Everyone's really in shock," Chee said, noting that he had an early Tuesday morning meeting with Gonzalez's family in Birdsprings. "This war has really hit home."

Chee who is serving his fourth term as a council delegate said that he encourages community members, Navajo Nation members and leadership to "come together and be unified in prayer," for Sgt. Gonzales and his family.

"I also support other military families who have family members serving in the war," Chee added. "Say a prayer for all our Navajo-Native American soldiers who are in Iraq fighting."

The Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) extends his heartfelt condolences to the family for their loss, and offers his strong prayers for Sgt. Gonzales and the family during this difficult time.

Gonzalez is survived by a wife and a child. He was serving his second Tour of Duty in Iraq, according to Chee.

A family meeting is scheduled for tonight at 5 p.m., Mountain Standard Time, at the Birdsprings Falls Gospel Church in Birdsprings, Ariz. The meeting is for the family members to receive prayers, condolences and support from community members, Navajo Nation members and leaders.

For more information or to donate to Gonzalez's maternal grandparents, Junior and Betty Nez, call (928)206-3907 or (928)310-4893.