



## Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

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### Speaker Johnny Naize and Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie attend funeral services for Elouise P. Cobell

**BROWNING, Mont.** - On Saturday, October 22, 2011, Speaker Johnny Naize and Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie (Baca/Prewitt, Casamero Lake, Counselor, Littlewater, Ojo Encino, Pueblo Pintado, Torreon, Whitehorse Lake) attended funeral service for the late Elouise P. Cobell.

Cobell, who lost her fight with cancer on October 16, was the lead plaintiff in the Cobell v. Salazar class-action lawsuit that resulted in a settlement in the amount of \$3.4 billion.

Speaker Naize praised the work of Cobell because 40,000 Navajos will potentially benefit from the settlement. He felt it was necessary to show his appreciation for Cobell's work since it will positively impact his people and Indian Country.

Last week the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council sent a letter of condolence to the Cobell family that read, "Mrs. Cobell developed a wonderful relationship with the Navajo People and became a friend. It is our belief that the Creator made possible the birth of Mrs. Cobell to better this world—and she did.

"On behalf of the Navajo People, we as the Council of the Navajo Nation, express our sincere condolence to you and your family. May the Creator give you and your family comfort and strength through the coming days."

Speaker Naize and Council Delegate Tsosie presented a plaque to Elouise's husband Alvin and son Turk honoring and recognizing Cobell for her dedication in the landmark lawsuit that left Indian Country a more just and beautiful place.

The plaque contained the following quote, "I have seen life in beauty. I have been to places in beauty. I have visited my people in beauty. I walk all day long in beauty. Through the returning seasons I have walked. I now return to that sacred place in beauty. It is finished in beauty."



Speaker Johnny Naize and Council Delegate Leonard Tsosie offer words of condolence and present a plaque of appreciate to the family of Elouise P. Cobell.