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President Shelly Declares Eddie Basha a Noble Soul in Expressing Farewell

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. —Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly this morning expressed fond remembrances of an Arizona grocer and philanthropist who invested in grocery stores on the Navajo Nation.

“It is with great sadness to learn a noble soul has left us this past Tuesday afternoon,” President Shelly expressed to widow Mrs. Nadine Mathis Basha in a letter. “Eddie Basha was indeed a great friend to the Navajo Nation, who reached beyond his business comfort to invest in the unknown and all the while established a permanent presence here with a lifetime to come.”

In December 2012, the president’s office received more than 2,500 turkeys from the Basha family for Navajo families to enjoy the holiday season. In expressing appreciation to Mr. Basha, the president wrote, “I extend a sincere thank you for the large contribution of turkeys you made which will go to families and organizations for the holiday season.”

“Eddie lived in the nature of giving,” said the president on Good Friday morning. In his message to the Basha family, President Shelly concluded, “We shall always bear his memory as we say farewell to a man of humility who leaves his imprint in the days to come.”

Funeral services for Mr. Basha are scheduled to begin Saturday, April 6, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at the Arizona State University Gammage in Tempe, Ariz. The public is urged to contribute to a list of charities in lieu of flowers and donations.

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