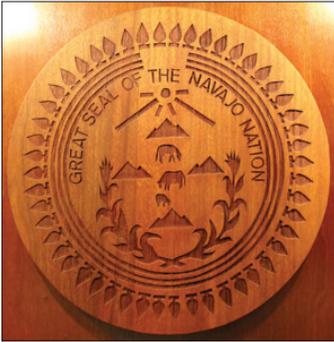




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 December 6, 2013

# President Shelly offers families statement of condolence



*The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President send their sincere condolences to the families of Dr. Guy Gorman, Sr. and Harry Tome, two influential Navajo leaders that recently passed. (Photo by Rick Abasta)*

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly respectfully offered condolences to the family of Dr. Guy Gorman, Sr., on his recent passing on Dec. 4, 2013. Gorman was 91.

“We extend our sincere condolences to the family of Dr. Guy Gorman, Sr. The Navajo Nation mourns the loss of a great leader and statesman. We appreciate Gorman’s dedication and service to our Nation and to the community of Chinle, which he served,” President Shelly said.

Gorman was recently honored at a dinner hosted by the Chinle Chapter. He served the chapter for many years.

“We joked about the days in office and involvement we both had in the organization called Diné Bidziil,” said the president.

A former delegate of the Navajo Nation Council, Gorman served 20 years on the Council and served the Advisory Committee, Budget and Finance Committee, Education Committee and others.

Gorman was also a veteran and

proudly served in the U.S. Army during World War II, where he spent the majority of his service in the European Theatre.

A proponent of education, he assisted in the formation of the first community-controlled schools on the Navajo Nation, focused on Navajo language, culture and history.

Through his efforts, the Rough Rock Demonstration School was established in 1969, through an incorporation process with the state of Arizona. Additionally, he testified in Congress with others for the creation of the American Indian Higher Education Consortium (AIHEC).

AIHEC was crucial component for the creation of tribally owned and operated institutions in the country. The consortium cleared the way for the creation of Diné College, formerly Navajo Community College, as the first tribal college in the country. Gorman is known as one of the founding fathers of tribal colleges. Diné College subsequently bestowed an honorary doctorate upon Gorman for his service to higher education.

Earlier in the same week, the Navajo Nation lost another influential leader and statesman who stood up to the federal government and protected the Navajo Nation. Former Navajo Nation Council Delegate Harry Tome passed on Nov. 30.

Tome served on the Navajo Nation Council for 16 years, from 1971 to 1987, representing the Red Valley (formerly Red Rock) and Cove Chapters. He served on the Advisory Committee and Resources Committee.

“The Navajo Nation is indebted to Mr. Tome, whose leadership a generation ago remains a part of us today,” President Shelly said. “His contributions to the Navajo Nation Council were given in an era of unprecedented growth.

“For 16 years, he gave to the growth and development of the Navajo Nation in the beginning years of a new U.S. Indian policy

brother Marshall Tome, worked with the National Academy of Science and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to bring awareness to the reclamation of uranium mines in Cove and Red Valley.

Subsequently, these efforts unspooled a string of mine clean ups on the Navajo Nation, eventually leading to the creation

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period of self-determination,” he added.

A man of integrity, Tome, a Native American Church Roadman, labored in prayer for the people, their wellness and advancement, sacrificing and always putting others first. He was a former uranium miner and shed light on the plight of Navajo uranium miners and brought these issues to the national stage. His work resulted in changes to national policy regarding compensation for miners and families exposed to the harmful impacts of radium and uranium.

Tome, working along with the late Dr. Fred Begay and his late

of the Radiation Exposure and Compensation Act, which began compensating miners and their families suffering from the effects of radiation exposure.

“Both of these distinguished leaders’ spirit shall forever endure through their children and grandchildren, and their names added to the annals of history of the Navajo Nation, and for future generations to come,” President Shelly said. “The First Lady and I, along with Vice President Rex Lee Jim, bestow the honor of the Navajo Nation upon these great leaders – Naat’áaniis.”

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