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CHURCHROCK, N.M. – On Dec. 1, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) participated in the grand opening and ribbon cutting celebration for the Churchrock Senior Center, located approximately nine miles east of Gallup.

The newly constructed 5,500-square foot center features an administrative office, two activity areas, a dining room, two bathrooms with showers, a fully equipped kitchen with two pantries, craft storage, and a fireplace. The new center was constructed using the New Mexico capital outlay projects funding.

During the event, Yazzie commended the community of Churchrock, tribal and New Mexico leadership, and the construction team for successfully completing the senior center.

“The senior center was successfully completed due to the strong and continuous community

and leadership efforts. Our elders are the foundation of the Nation and they deserve the best facilities and services," said Yazzie, who represents the community of Churchrock.

Senior center supervisor Jerry Frank expressed his appreciation for the continuous support from tribal leadership and stated that the new facility will provide services to over 65 Navajo elders within Churchrock and surrounding communities.

Throughout the opening ceremony, numerous Navajo elders reflected on the progress achieved by their community and shared their appreciation for the new facility.

"Churchrock Chapter is one of the most outgoing and productive local governments in the Nation. Each chapter meeting would be packed with community members, who express their concerns and motivate each other to complete projects. They worked hard to advocate and finish the senior center," said Yazzie.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begay, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Churchrock Chapter officials were also in attendance at the celebration. The Churchrock Senior Center is currently in full operation.