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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**DATE: Wednesday, March 2, 2022**

**JUDICIAL BRANCH EXPRESSES CONDOLENCES TO FRIENDS AND FAMILY OF  
RETIRED JUDGE CAROL PERRY**



The Judicial Branch offers condolences to the family, friends and relatives of Navajo Nation District Court Judge Carol K. Perry. Judge Perry passed away on March 1, 2022, in Albuquerque, N.M. Funeral arrangements are pending and will be announced by the family when confirmed.

Perry was born in October 1951 in San Francisco, Calif., into Ta'neeszahnii (Tangle Clan) and born for 'Áshjìhi (Salt People Clan).

She was appointed probationary District Court Judge by President Joe Shirley and confirmed probationary District Court Judge by the Navajo Nation Council on April 21, 2005. She was confirmed a permanent District Court Judge on December 19, 2007. During her time on the bench, Perry served as a presiding judge at Tuba City District Court, Ramah District Court and Window Rock District Court. She was at Window Rock Court for nine years before retiring on October 19, 2018.

“Judge Perry was a dedicated jurist who had a caring heart and was a compassionate and hard-working individual. She spent countless hours presiding over cases, helping litigants and people in the community. She was dedicated to protecting the sovereignty of the Navajo Nation and she contributed significantly to the Navajo Nation justice system in deciding many complex cases that came through the Window Rock Court. The many qualities she had in her dedication to improving our justice system will be missed,” Associate Justice Eleanor Shirley said.

According to her family, after graduating from St. Michaels High School as valedictorian, she earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from the University of Arizona. She went on to earn her juris doctorate degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

Her family said that Perry started her career as an aide to U.S. Senator Dennis DeConcini from Arizona which allowed her to work in both his Phoenix and Washington D.C. offices. Her family also said she started the extension campus for Prescott College in Window Rock and assisted many to complete their teaching credentials on the Navajo Nation.

Judge Perry was known as a proponent of Navajo culture, tradition and language and for applying it in her life and relations with people. According to her family, she enjoyed spiritual healing and was a member of the Diné Medicine Men’s Association.

She also loved writing, watching movies and was an avid reader and researcher.

Perry is survived by her partner-in-life, Stanley Perry; cousin-brothers Virgil Kirk, Jr. (Shiprock, NM), Kenneth Kirk (Napa, CA); cousin-sisters Gloria M. Moore (Kirk) (Oklahoma), Joan Kirk Gilmore (Flagstaff, AZ), and Geraldine Binettnee-Kirk (Window Rock, AZ).

Perry is preceded in death by her sister Sharon (Kirk) Manuelito; adopted parents Kenneth Kirk and Betty Marie (Cook) Kirk; birth parents Nora Cleveland and Mike Ford; and uncles George H. Kirk, Navajo Code Talker, and Navajo Nation Chief Justice Virgil Kirk, Sr.

“The family of Carol K. Perry thanks you for your kind words and thoughts during this most difficult time,” Joan Kirk Gilmore said on behalf of the family. Monetary donations can be made via Zelle at [joankirkgilmore@yahoo.com](mailto:joankirkgilmore@yahoo.com). Call (928) 607-3711 or email to set up other arrangements.

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