



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

Contact: Christian Bigwater, Sr. Public Information Officer

Phone: (928) 871-6371

Cell: (928) 255-2942

Fax: (928) 871-7255

clbigwater@navajo.org

speaker_pio@yahoo.com

www.navajonationcouncil.org

June 4, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan sends condolences to the family of Navajo Code Talker Willie Kescoli Begay

The Navajo Nation is deeply saddened by the loss of another treasured Navajo Code Talker who sacrificed so much for his people and his country.

- Lawrence T. Morgan, Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. - Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan offers his sincere condolences on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council to the family of Navajo Code Talker, Willie Kescoli Begay, of Forest Lake, AZ.

"The Navajo Nation is deeply saddened by the loss of another treasured Navajo Code Talker who sacrificed so much for his people and his country," Speaker Morgan said. "I ask that we all take a moment to reflect on the significance of Mr. Begay's, and all other Navajo Code Talkers', contributions to the liberty and freedom that we all enjoy today."

"Our Navajo Code Talkers remind us that our Diné language has always been our strength and key to survival. I ask that you support and pray for the family of Willie Kescoli Begay."

Begay passed away Monday morning, June 1, 2009 at the Polacca IHS Hospital at the age of 88. He was born March 21, 1921 in Forest Lake. Begay is survived by his wife Alice Natonie Begay and his children Kristy K. Begay, Nelson K. Begay, and Dennison K. Begay. Willie Kescoli Begay was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal for his service as a Code Talker.

Funeral services for Begay are scheduled for 10 a.m. on Friday, June 5, 2009 at the Forest Lake Bible Church. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Tse Bonito Mortuary.

Willie Kescoli Begay is the third Navajo Code Talker to pass away in the past two weeks. Navajo Code Talkers John Brown, Jr. and Thomas Claw passed away on May 20, 2009 and May 26, 2009, respectively.

###