



## The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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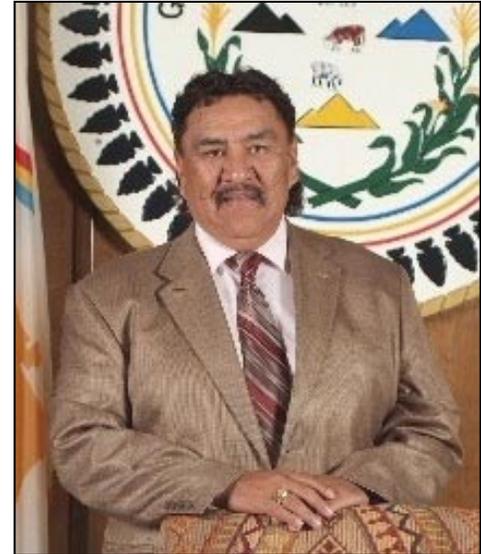
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Speaker Morgan urges Navajo people to reflect on sacrifices of past, present Navajo military personnel on June 1 in observance of Navajo Nation Memorial Day**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan announced the Legislative Branch of the Navajo Nation will observe Navajo Nation Memorial Day 2009 — a tribal holiday — on Monday, June 1.

Accordingly, all Legislative Branch offices will be closed and normal business hours will resume promptly at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, June 2.

"Please take a moment during this special day to reflect on the enormous sacrifices made by past and present military personnel of the Navajo Nation," Speaker Morgan said. "Let us pause to honor and acknowledge the dedicated service of the thousands of servicemen and women who selflessly gave their lives in battle. Let us also pause to remember our Navajo warriors from 1868 and beyond. Our Navajo warriors, many who died protecting Diné Bikéyah, Navajoland, and our past Navajo chiefs, such as Manuelito, Barboncito, Narbona, Ganado Mucho and Mariano helped sustain us as a Navajo people."



On May 18, 1978, the Navajo Tribal Council passed a resolution declaring June 1 to be known as Navajo Nation Memorial Day within the Navajo Nation.

The resolution states, "June 1<sup>st</sup> is a day of unusual significance to all Navajo people due to the fact that the Treaty between the United States and the Navajo Tribe of Indians was concluded on June 1, 1868; and in recent years, the Navajo Nation has lost, through untimely deaths, the services of many of its most beloved leaders who must be remembered by later generations for the total dedication and their unrelenting efforts to insure the development of the Navajo Nation."

"The Navajo Nation has also lost many of its young people in the service of the United States during the course of the World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam conflict. And, it would be appropriate for the Navajo people to set aside a day during which memorial services or ceremonies could be conducted paying tribute to our departed and beloved leaders," states the resolution signed by Wilson C. Skeet, former vice chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council in 1978.

Speaker Morgan explained the resolution was signed nearly 31-years ago and the recent and current conflicts are included as well, such as the Persian Gulf War in 1990, the Invasion of Afghanistan in Operation "Enduring Freedom" in 2001 and the Invasion of Iraq with Operation "Iraqi Freedom" in 2003.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we respect and show honor for the countless Navajo men and women who sacrificed their time and many, their lives, in the name of freedom for our great Navajo Nation," he added. "Lastly, I urge my Navajo people to always remember our active servicemen and women in our daily prayers as well, because they continue to provide for our protection and freedom, and may they all return home safely."

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