



The Navajo Nation Council — Office of the Speaker

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May 28, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Morgan sends condolences to families of Navajo Code Talkers John Brown Jr., Thomas Claw

These brave men had an unbridled commitment to serve their people and their country."
— Lawrence T. Morgan, speaker of the Navajo Nation Council

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan offered his sincere condolences on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council to the families of Navajo Code Talkers John Brown Jr. of Crystal, N.M. who passed on May 20 and to Thomas Claw of Parker, Ariz. who passed on May 26.

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley Jr. ordered flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half staff in honor of the fallen warriors on May 21 for Brown and again today, May 28, for Claw.

Brown Jr., one of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers, passed away at the age of 88. He was born Dec. 24, 1921 in Chinle, Ariz. and he received the Congressional Gold Medal by U.S. President George W. Bush, 56-years after World War II. He is survived by his wife Loncie Polacca Brown and his children Dorothy Whilden, Preston Brown, Everett Brown, Virgil Brown, Frank Brown, the late Dale Brown and the late Ruth Ann McComb,

Navajo Code Talker Thomas Claw passed on May 26 at the age of 87. He was born on Feb. 23, 1922 in Chinle, Ariz. He received the Congressional Silver Medal in 2001. He is survived by his wife Barbara Claw and his children Carolyn Hammond, Reynold Claw, Pauline James, Harold Claw and Gloria Claw.

Funeral services for Claw will be held at 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 30, at the Poston Community Baptist Church in Poston, Ariz. Funeral arrangements are being organized by the Parker Funeral Home in Parker, Ariz.

The passing of two more Navajo Code Talkers saddened tribal leaders.

"Today, we have lost another living treasurer, a Navajo Code Talker," Speaker Morgan said. "The Navajo Nation is saddened by another loss."

"These brave men had an unbridled commitment to serve their people and their country," he added. "They offered their expertise in speaking the Navajo language to help win a war, which allowed citizens of this country to continue to enjoy the freedoms that some take for granted. I ask that you support and pray for the families of our late Navajo Code Talkers."

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