



## Navajo Nation Council – Office of the Speaker

Contact: Jerome Clark

Phone: (928) 871-7160

Cell: (928) 637-5603

[nnlb.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnlb.communications@gmail.com)

[www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org)

May 10, 2012

### NEWS RELEASE:

---

### **Speaker Johnny Naize and Navajo Nation Council members express condolences over the passing of Samuel Tso**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Members of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council expressed their sincere condolences to the family, friends, and fellow code talkers of Samuel Tso.

Tso, who was 89 years old, served as code talker with the United States Marine Corps from 1943 to 1946. Tso passed away on the evening of May 9.

“The passing of Samuel Tso is a great loss for our nation,” Speaker Johnny Naize stated. “We should always remember the honor code talkers have brought to our nation.”

It was during World War II that the idea of a Navajo code arose and as a result an initial 29 code talkers were recruited to develop a code using the Navajo language.

After the initial developers of the code, approximately 400 other Navajo code talkers, which included Tso, were recruited and served in the United States military.

“The courage and intellect in developing the code is an example of the character of our nation and it displays for the world the power of Diné people,” Speaker Naize added. “Through our remembrance of Samuel and other code talkers during this time of sorrow will honor their contribution and solidify their place in history.”

Funeral arrangements are not finalized. To offer assistance to the family or for further information contact Ronald Tso at (360) 393-2646.

###