



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Navajo Nation Council offers condolences to the family of Navajo Code Talker Teddy Draper, Sr.**

**WINDOW ROCK** – On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, Speaker LoRenzo Bates offers condolences to the family of Navajo Code Talker Teddy Draper, Sr., who passed away on Thursday in Prescott, Ariz. He resided in the community of Chinle, Arizona at the time of his death.

"With the loss of another of our Navajo Code Talkers, we grow even more grateful and appreciative of their lives and their brave service for the Navajo Nation and our country," stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland). "The Navajo Nation Council offers our prayers to the family and loved ones."

During his service with the 5<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, Draper delivered and received coded messages using the Navajo language during World War II, which included the Battle of Iwo Jima. For his honorable service, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor.

Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) also shared his thoughts and sympathy for Draper's family and said he hopes the United States will show appreciation and honor all of the Navajo Code Talkers and the Navajo people.

"The Navajo Nation salutes the service and sacrifices of all Code Talkers that have gone and for those who are still with us," said Delegate Hale. "Our language is resilient and powerful enough to move mountains and save lives, through our language we will carry on as a people."

Speaker Bates said he will offer a letter of condolence to the family of Draper and offer assistance to the family on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council.

Details of services for Draper are pending and will be announced at a later time.

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