



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 10, 2014

President Shelly orders Navajo Nation flags at half-staff

In honor and respect for the late Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr.



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly ordered flags across the Nation to be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. Hubbard was a former Navajo Code Talker and Arizona State Senator. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK—Today, the Navajo Nation mourns the loss of a living treasure, an American hero and a role model for young kids across the Nation. Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. has passed and is no longer with us.

Hubbard stepped forward and volunteered to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Navajo Code Talker as World War II plunged man against man and country against country from 1939 to 1945.

Beyond his military volunteerism, Hubbard also served in the Arizona Legislature from 1972 to 1984 as a senator and again worked for the Navajo people.

On Feb. 7, 2014, Hubbard

passed at the age of 102.

In honor and respect of his passing, Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly ordered the Navajo Nation Flags across the Nation to be flown at half-staff.

“The Navajo Code Talkers are living treasures of the Navajo Nation. With the passing of Arthur Hubbard, Sr., we have lost a true American hero. The Nation offers our heartfelt condolences to the family during this time,” President Shelly said.

He noted that Hubbard lived a full life at 102 years and undoubtedly saw the growth of the Navajo Nation over the past century. President said Hubbard also witnessed the strength and

power of the Navajo language firsthand.

“Dine’ bizaad (the Navajo language) saved the world from tyranny and oppression. It is our language that will carry us forward into the next century and beyond,” President Shelly said. “We thank Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. for his faithful military service and all other Code Talkers that protected our sovereignty and way of life.

“May the Holy People continue to look upon you and your families,” he added.

From 1942 to 1945, over 400 Navajo Code Talkers from the U.S. Marine Corps were trained as radiomen for service in the Pacific Theater during World War II. Their mission was not

declassified until 1968 and the enemy was never able to break the code of the Navajo Code Talkers.

In 2001, the original 29 Code Talkers were awarded Gold Congressional Medals and the remaining 225 Navajo Code Talkers received Silver Congressional Medals.

The flag of the Navajo Nation shall be flown at half-staff from sunrise on Feb. 10 until sunset on Feb. 14, 2014 at all public buildings and grounds across the Nation.



THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE LATE NAVAJO CODE TALKER
AND ARIZONA STATE SENATOR ARTHUR J. HUBBARD, SR.

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the late Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr., who served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, The late Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. was a Navajo Code Talker who served the United States of America, the Navajo Nation, and U.S. Marine Corps with courage, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, The late Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. served as a Private in the U.S. Marine Corps and was stationed in Camp Pendleton as one of four instructors for the Navajo Code Talkers from March to November 1945; and

WHEREAS, The late Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr. also served the Navajo people as a Senator in the Arizona Legislature from 1972 to 1984, contributing to the welfare, health and education of many Native American Tribes; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation unites and offers prayers for his family and friends during this time of grief;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all Navajo Nation flags shall be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Navajo Code Talker Arthur J. Hubbard, Sr., from sunrise on February 10 to sunset on February 14, 2014.

ORDERED THIS 10TH DAY OF FEBRUARY 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ben Shelly", is written over a horizontal line.

Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION