



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2014

President Shelly orders flags at half-staff in honor of Edward B. Anderson Jr.



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly sends condolences and prayers to the family of Edward B. Anderson Jr., a former Navajo Code Talker. Anderson passed on July 20 in Phoenix, Ariz. at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center. (Courtesy photo)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—The Navajo Nation mourns the loss of another warrior.

On July 20, former Navajo Nation Code Talker Edward B. Anderson passed at Banner Good Samaritan Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz. He was 89 years old.

“The Navajo Nation sends our deepest condolences and prayers to the family during this time of mourning,” said Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly.

“We lost a true role model to our Navajo people. The Navajo Code Talkers saved our country from war through the use of our language and demonstrated the power of Dine’ bizaad in the process. He will truly be missed,” he said.

Anderson was born and raised on the Navajo Nation and was a lifelong Ariz. resident.

Born in St. Michaels to Josephine Gatewood and Edward B. Anderson Sr. of Sawmill, he was of the Honaghaahnii (One Who Walks Around) Clan and born to the Todich’ii’nii (Bitter Water) Clan.

Anderson enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at the age

of 18 and served from 1942 to 1945, when he was honorably discharged.

A member of the 1st Marine Division, Anderson was stationed in the South Pacific and Australia. He saw combat at Guadalcanal, New Guinea and New Britain.

He was wounded in battle and was a recipient of the Purple Heart, South Pacific Ribbons and the Congressional Silver Medal.

He lived in Cornfields and St. Michaels for most of his life and was married to Ione Hillis Anderson, who preceded him in death. They had five children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

The funeral for Anderson will be on July 25 beginning at 10 a.m. at the Ganado Presbyterian Church. He will be buried at the Veterans Cemetery in Ft. Defiance, Ariz., with a reception to follow.

The family will have two gatherings, the first of which will be held on July 23 at Cornfields Chapter House at 6 p.m. The second will be at St. Michaels Chapter House on July 24 at 6 p.m.

A Wells Fargo Bank account has been setup for contributions. It is under the name Edward B. Anderson Jr. and the routing number is 122105278 and the account number is 2261100214. You may also call 1-800-869-3557.

The family sends thanks and appreciation for any contributions made.

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