FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 15, 2019

Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and remembrance of Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr.

WINDOW ROCK – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a proclamation ordering all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on May 17 in honor and remembrance of Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr., who passed away on May 10 at the age of 97 in Chinle, Arizona.

“The Navajo Nation is saddened by the passing of another brave and selfless Diné warrior. The Nation is truly grateful for Code Talker Begaye’s sacrifices and those of his family, to defend the freedom and liberty of our country,” said President Nez. “May the Creator bless his family, friends, and community with strength and comfort.”

Begaye was Tódíchʼiíʼnii (Bitter Water Clan) and born for Kinlchiʼiʼnii (Red House People Clan). He was born on Aug. 26, 1921, in the community of Red Valley, Arizona and resided in Chinle, Arizona at the time of his passing. He had three children with his late wife, Helen M. Begaye, who passed away in 2008.

Begaye served as a Navajo Code Talker in the Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945, and fought in the Battle of Tarawa and the Battle of Tinian during World War II, and was later awarded the Congressional Silver Medal of Honor.

Following his service, Begaye returned to the Navajo Nation where he owned and operated “Begaye’s Corner” trading post in the community of Chinle, where he also lived with his wife and children.
“We ask all of our people throughout the Navajo Nation and beyond to join us on May 17 in saying a prayer for our beloved Code Talker and to honor his life by lowering all flags across Navajo land,” said Vice President Lizer.

The funeral service for Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr. is scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Potter’s House Christian Center in Chinle, Arizona.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
NAVajo CODE TALKER FLEMMING BEGAYE, SR.

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of Fleming Begaye, Sr., a Navajo Code Talker and National Hero; and

WHEREAS, Begaye served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II from 1943-1945 and fought in the Battle of Tarawa and Battle of Tinian and was later awarded the Congressional Silver Medal of Honor; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Begaye returned to the Navajo Nation and owned and operated "Begaye's Corner" trading post in the community of Chinle

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation honors the late Fleming Begaye, Sr. for his service to the Navajo Nation and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his children, grandchildren, friends, and community.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ, President of the Navajo Nation, and I, Myron Lizer, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all flags on the Navajo Nation shall be flown at half-staff on May 17, 2019 to honor the memory and service of the late Fleming Begaye, Sr.

ORDERED THIS 15th DAY OF MAY 2019

Jonathan Nez, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

Myron Lizer, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION