



The Navajo Nation  
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**Vice President Lizer pays tribute to the late Senator John Pinto  
and Navajo Code Talkers during New Mexico's "American Indian Day"**



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer addresses the New Mexico House of Representatives during the 54<sup>th</sup> New Mexico Legislature's American Indian Day on Feb. 7, 2020 at the New Mexico State Capitol in Santa Fe, N.M.

**SANTA FE, N.M.** – On Friday, Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer paid special recognition to the late New Mexico State Sen. John Pinto and the Navajo Code Talkers as part of his address to the New Mexico House of Representatives during the 54th New Mexico Legislature's American Indian Day at the New Mexico State Capitol.

Prior to the House session, Vice President Lizer was invited to speak in the Capitol rotunda where he spoke about this year's theme, "Honoring and Protecting Mother Earth for Future Generations."

“Within the first three months of our administration, President Jonathan Nez and I established a new vision for energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo people. In April 2019, President Jonathan Nez and I issued a historic proclamation stating that the Navajo Nation will pursue and prioritize renewable energy development,” said Vice President Lizer.

The proclamation is known as the Navajo Háyoółkááł, or Navajo Sunrise. It states that the energy market is changing, and the Navajo people want to change to focus on renewable energy development for the long-term benefit of the Navajo Nation.

Vice President Lizer also spoke about the importance of continuing the Navajo language and protecting cultural sites such as Chaco Canyon through “The Chaco Cultural Heritage Area Protection Act of 2019” sponsored by U.S. House Asst. Speaker Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) and cosponsored by Congresswoman Deb Haaland (D-N.M.).

"Working together as tribal leaders, we can help protect our beautiful sacred lands and artifacts. It is time to begin the healing process of our lands and people so that our future generations will continue to flourish through our teachings and our way of life for many generations to come," added Vice President Lizer.

On the House floor, Vice President Lizer advocated for several issues, including full funding for Impact Aid for schools, support for House Bill 225 that seeks to allocate \$25 million to establish the Kiki Saavedra Senior Dignity Fund to provide services for the elderly and adults with disabilities, and support for economic development, and many others.

Vice President closed his remarks by paying tribute to the late Navajo Code Talker Joe Vandever, Sr., and the late Sen. John Pinto, who also served the Navajo people and the country as Navajo Code Talkers in World War II.

"We could not have been here making history if it wasn't for our strong Navajo warriors. Our Navajo Code Talkers are fearless leaders, and we honor and recognize their service and sacrifice today. Their leadership, guidance, and protection moved our tribal nations forward," said Vice President Lizer.

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