



# 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Navajo Nation Council honors the life of Diné World War II veteran Lillian Lincheze Lujan

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The 25<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council honors and recognizes Lillian Licheze Lujan, a member of the Navajo Nation and highly-decorated World War II veteran, who passed away in Toas Pueblo, N.M. on March 6 at the age of 104 years old. The Navajo Nation Council's Naabik'íyáti' Committee paid tribute to Lujan with a moment of silence on Thursday. Lujan is Áshjǫ́hí (Salt People Clan) and born for Tábaahí (Edgewater Clan) and was born in Coalmine, Ariz. in 1918.

After graduating from New Mexico Highlands University, Lujan joined the Woman Army Corps in 1943 and served as a sergeant with Detachment 3809<sup>th</sup> Command Unit. She served during World War II and earned several honors including the Good Conduct Medal, Victory Ribbon, American Theater Campaign Medal, and the Woman Army Corp Ribbon. Lujan was honorable discharged in 1945.

"We cherish Sgt. Lujan's service to our people and country. We are saddened by the loss of our woman warrior, but we recognize that she leaves behind a lasting legacy based on her honorable military service and the love and compassion that she had for her people. On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, we offer prayers for strength and comfort for her family and loved ones as they lay her to rest," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain).

Following her military service, she married Jimmy K. Lujan, Sr., who is also a World War II veteran, and together they had four children. Lujan worked for the Navajo Nation with the Bureau of Indian Affairs in aiding in job placement, teaching home economics, and helping with 4-H Clubs.

"The Navajo Nation appreciates Mrs. Lillian Lujan, the oldest Woman Warrior who served in the United States Army during World War II. In 2022, the Navajo Nation passed CAP-24-22 which recognizes the first day of Spring as a day to honor Navajo Women Warriors. On March 20, 2023, Council will commemorate Navajo Women Warriors who currently are serving or who have served in the military. Ms. Lujan will be remembered at that time as she exemplifies a Woman Warrior. We send our condolences to her family and thank her for her courage and strength," said Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton (Shiprock).

On Navajo Nation Women Veterans Day on March 20, in honor of her distinguished service to the Navajo Nation, the Office of the President and Vice President and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration will make a posthumous award presentation to the family of Sgt. Lujan.

“The Navajo Nation and Navajo people are so proud of its veterans,” Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said. “But we are especially proud to honor and recognize those of the Greatest Generation like Lillian Lujan who selflessly left the safety of the remote Navajo Reservation of the 1940s, entered World War II and served to protect their homeland and the United States. Mrs. Lujan lived a full life to 104 years. We all regret her passing and the opportunity to meet one of the last veterans of an historic era. Yet we honor her today and will remember her.”

Lujan is survived by her son Jimmy K. Lujan, Jr. and his wife Lucy M. Lujan of Fruitland, N.M. and daughters Marilyn L. Atcitty of Flagstaff, Ariz. and Karilyn L. Haozous of Albuquerque, N.M. She was preceded in death by her husband Jimmy K. Lujan, Sr., parents Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Young, and son Jeffery E. Lujan.

Funeral services for Lillian Licheze Lujan were held on Thursday, March 9, 2023 at the Rivera’s Family Funeral Home in Taos, N.M. A military interment will be held on Friday, March 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. at the Santa Fe National Cemetery in Santa Fe, N.M.

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