



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAY 24, 2007

CONTACT: GEORGE HARDEEN
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
OFFICE – 928-871-7917
CELL – 928-309-8532
pressoffice@opvp.org

Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano honors Sgt. Christopher Gonzalez by ordering flags to be flown at half-staff on Friday, May 25

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., said Thursday he greatly appreciates Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano for recognizing the ultimate sacrifice of the late U.S. Army Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez by ordering flags in Arizona to be flown at half-staff on Friday.

Services for Sgt. Gonzalez will be held at 11 a.m. on Friday, May 25, at the Birdsprings Gospel Church, Birdsprings, Ariz.

The U.S. Department of Defense reported that Sgt. Gonzalez, 25, was one of two soldiers killed May 14 in Salman Pak, Iraq, of wounds suffered when their unit came in contact with enemy forces using an improvised explosive device and small arms fire.

He was the eighth Navajo Nation soldier to be killed in the War On Terror.

“Sgt. Gonzalez died valiantly fighting to protect the American and Navajo ways of life,” President Shirley said. “I appreciate our Governor for honoring his sacrifice by lowering flags on this day he returns home and is laid to rest. He leaves behind a young wife, a young son, a mother, grandparents, and many grieving relatives and friends in his community and his unit. All Navajos mourn his loss. It is another sad day.”



The late Sgt. Christopher Neil Gonzalez

Sgt. Gonzales and Sgt. Allen J. Dunckley, 25, of Yardley, Pa., were assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart, Ga.

###