



# THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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## President Joe Shirley, Jr., issues Veterans Day message, urges people to thank vets, asks vets to wear their medals

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., today acknowledged the dedicated service of thousands of Navajo men and women who served the United States and Navajo Nation through their military service.

In his 2006 Veterans Day Message, the President urged all Navajos to thank a veteran for the sacrifices they made to protect American freedoms and the Navajo way of life.

“They left their hogans, their families and relatives, and their homeland to join the Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force and other branches of the U.S. Armed Forces,” President Shirley said. “They honorably served stateside and on foreign soil to ensure that we continue to live free – to exercise our freedom of religion, freedom of speech, and freedom to go about our daily lives knowing that we are protected.”

He noted that there are 147 names of Navajo soldiers who were either killed in action or remain missing in action enshrined at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park here.

“Those that have come home, have come home as heroes,” he said. “Among our veteran population are former prisoners of war, the famous Navajo Code Talkers, and many women veterans.”

He also encouraged veterans to be proud of who they are and for their service, sacrifices and accomplishments.



*Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., poses with the Navajo Code Talkers during a recognition ceremony earlier this year.*

Like Secretary of U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, R.J. Nicholson, President Shirley has asked veterans to wear their medals and decorations on Veterans Day so every can recognize and acknowledge that they have done.

“We thank you for protecting our freedom which you have won by putting your lives on the line,” he said.

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