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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: Monday, January 23, 2006

Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council Lawrence T. Morgan released the following statement today:

It is with deep regret that we have now learned of the latest fallen Navajo soldier, Sergeant Clifton Yazzie, who had been serving on his second tour of Iraq with the U.S. Army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

We only have preliminary information; however, we respect the family and grieve with them through this loss of their loved one. Sergeant Yazzie leaves behind his parents Clifford and Jeanete Yazzie, his wife Michelle and two children ages 1 and 3.

The Navajo Nation is once again in a state of mourning the loss of a fallen hero. We have much to understand from the daily sacrifices of all our soldiers as they perform their duties in defense of our great country, as well as our own Navajo Nation. Let us remain vigilant in our prayers of our men and women in uniform and for their families.

I send condolences to the family of Sergeant Yazzie, who was a member of a specially-trained elite team of the United States Army. Despite the loss, I personally am very proud of his achievements and his interest to be the best of the best. Indeed he is our hero to be long remembered.

I ask the Navajo people to please pray for his family and loved ones during this most difficult time.

As official information is obtained, we remain respectful on behalf of the family and their home community of Nenahnezad, New Mexico. I understand a tentative date for the memorial service is Saturday, January 28, 2006.

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