WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the late Thomas Claw; and

WHEREAS, The late Thomas Claw was a renowned Navajo Code Talker who served the United States of America, the U.S. Marine Corps, and the Navajo Nation during World War II with courage, honor and distinction; and

WHEREAS, The late Thomas Claw served in the Asiatic Pacific Areas of New Caledonia, Australia, New Britain, the Solomon Islands, Palau Islands, and Ryukyu Islands in Japan; and

WHEREAS, The late Thomas Claw endured the horrors of combat and received two presidential unit citations for his heroic service against the enemy at Peleliu and Ngesebus from Sept 15-29, 1944, and during the invasion and capture of Okinawa, April 1 to June 21, 1945, and he received the Navy Unit Commendation Ribbon for service with the 11th Marine Regiment for service against the enemy; and

WHEREAS, The late Thomas Claw was wounded during combat on Okinawa and received a Purple Heart as a result of enemy action on June 24, 1945; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of his honorable service to our country, he was awarded the Congressional Silver Medal in 2001; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation unites and offers prayers and deepest condolences to his family during this time of grief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED: In honor of the late Navajo Code Talker Thomas Claw, all flags on the Navajo Nation shall be flown at half-staff from May 28, 2009, through May 30, 2009.

PROCLAIMED THIS 28th DAY OF MAY 2009

DR. JOE SHIRLEY, JR., PRESIDENT
THE NAVAJO NATION