



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Speaker Naize and 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council express condolences over the passing of Navajo Code Talker George Smith**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) and members of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Navajo Nation Council send their heartfelt condolences to the family of the late George Smith, a Navajo Code Talker, who died on Oct. 30 at the age of 90 in Gallup, N.M.

“It is never easy for us, as Diné citizens and as a Nation, to accept the news that one of our most highly respected and distinguished warriors, a Navajo Code Talker, has made his departure from this world,” said Speaker Naize.

At the young age of 17, noble Navajo Code Talker George Smith bravely answered the call to enlist as a Marine. His honorable legacy as a protector and defender of freedom is held in great esteem. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family as we all mourn the loss of a dedicated warrior.”

Code Talker Smith was born in Mariano Lake, N.M. on June 15, 1922. From 1943-1946, he served in the United States Marine Corps with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Marine Division during World War II. His duties as a Navajo Code Talker led him to battles in Saipan, Tinian, Okinawa, the Ryukyu Islands, Eniwetok Atoll, and the Marianas Islands.

Remembering Smith as a “great warrior” from one of his represented communities, Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) wished to express his sincere condolences to the late Code Talker’s family.

“My sincerest sympathies go out to the family of Code Talker George Smith, an honorable warrior whose selfless duties did not go unappreciated,” Delegate Yazzie said.

We are truly grateful for his service to this country, the United States of America, but more importantly, we cherish the heroism he exhibited in his actions to protect our people and the great Navajo Nation.”

At the announcement of Code Talker Smith’s passing, President Ben Shelly had ordered the Navajo Nation flag to be flown at half-staff from Oct. 31 through sundown Nov. 4.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 3 at Rollie Mortuary in Gallup, N.M. Internment will occur at the Rehobeth Mission Cemetary in Rehobeth, N.M.

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