



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Speaker Naize pays tribute to the Navajo Code Talkers



Photo: Speaker Johnny Naize addresses hundreds of spectators at an annual event to commemorate the Navajo Code Talkers in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK – Speaking before a crowd of approximately 300 people on Wednesday at Veteran’s Memorial Park, Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) honored and thanked the Navajo Code Talkers for their dedicated service and sacrifice during World War II.

“You have made us a proud people with your sacrifices and all that you achieved for Diné people, and you have gained us recognition through your courage and achievements,” said Speaker Naize.

Seated in the front row of the event were 20 Navajo Code Talkers, who traveled from various parts of the Navajo Nation to represent the distinguished group of veterans that developed the Navajo Code used to help the United States win World War II.

Speaker Naize also expressed appreciation for the Diné language and stressed the importance of teaching the language to young Navajo children.

“As mothers and fathers, we have to teach our children about the love, compassion, and power that characterize our language,” said Speaker Naize. “The power of our language cannot be expressed through English words, and that’s something we have to hold on to.”

Also in attendance were representatives from the State of New Mexico, Navajo County, the United States Marine Corp., and the Navajo Code Talkers Association.

Council Delegate Jonathan Nez (Shonto, Navajo Mountain, Oljato, Ts’ah Bii Kin) who also serves as chairman of the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, expressed his gratitude and presented an official proclamation on behalf of Navajo County, declaring the month of August as “Navajo Code Talkers Month.”

“On behalf of Navajo County, it is an honor to present to the Navajo Code Talkers Association with this proclamation,” said Delegate Nez.

Former Navajo Nation Chairman and current president of the Navajo Code Talkers Association, Peter MacDonald was also on hand and urged current Navajo leaders to advocate for the establishment of a museum to honor the Navajo Code Talkers.

On Aug. 12, New Mexico Gov. Susana Martinez signed an executive order, declaring Aug. 14 as “National Code Talkers Day” in the State of New Mexico.

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