



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council celebrates Navajo Code Talker Day

WINDOW ROCK – Speaking on behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council on Tuesday, Council Delegate Davis Filfred (Mexican Water, Aneth, Teecnospos, Tólikan, Red Mesa) expressed his gratitude to all Navajo Code Talkers as the Navajo Nation celebrated Navajo Code Talker Day at the Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Arizona.

Delegate Filfred, a Marine Corps veteran who served the United States in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm during the Gulf War, offered his appreciation to the Navajo Code Talkers, and also to the family members seated in the audience. He highlighted the Marine Corps long legacy of defending the United States in many battles.

“We are honored to have the Navajo Code Talkers with us today, and we also take this time to remember those who have passed on and their families who continue to honor them on this special day,” Delegate Filfred stated.

Delegate Filfred also introduced several of the Navajo Code Talkers, which included John Kinsel, Sr., Alfred K. Newman, Thomas H. Begay, Peter MacDonald, William T. Brown, Fleming Begaye, Sr., and Joe Vandever, Sr. He also welcomed his Council colleagues in attendance including Council Delegates Raymond Smith, Jr., Otto Tso, and Alton Joe Shepherd.



PHOTO: (left to right) Navajo Code Talker Peter MacDonald, Council Delegate Davis Filfred, and Navajo Code Talker Thomas Begay during the annual Navajo Code Talker Day event at the Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz. on Aug. 14, 2018.

Also in attendance were Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and former Navajo Nation Chairman and President of the Navajo Code Talkers Association Peter MacDonald, Sr., and New Mexico State Sen. John Pinto (D-Dist. 3).

Peter MacDonald recalled the historic proclamation signed by former U.S. President Ronald Reagan that designated August 14 as the National Navajo Code Talkers Day. In his proclamation, Reagan described it as a day dedicated to all members of the Navajo Nation and to all Native Americans who gave of their special talents and their lives so that others might live.

“I ask the American people to join me in this tribute, and I call upon Federal, State and local officials to commemorate this day with appropriate activities,” states the Reagan proclamation.

The event included a 21-gun salute by the Ira Hayes American Legion Post 84 and the U.S. Marine Corps also laid a wreath at the Veterans Memorial Park. Many of the families of the late Code Talkers were also present and shared photos and stories of their loved ones with the public.

August 14 of each year became an official Navajo Nation holiday in 2007, when the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution designating the day as Navajo Code Talker Day in honor all of Navajo Code Talkers.

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