



The 21st Navajo Nation Council

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Speaker Morgan thanks veterans for courageous efforts, encourages people to acknowledge the sacrifice for freedom

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Nov. 11, citizens of the United States, including the Navajo Nation, will observe Veterans Day to honor the sacrifice and courageous efforts of men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces for defending the democracy, freedom and liberty of the American and Navajo people.

On behalf of the Navajo Nation, the Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan thanks all veterans and active duty military personnel for their service to the United States of America and he encourages all Americans to take a moment of their day to reflect on some of the freedoms we enjoy today.

“Please take a moment to acknowledge the courageous efforts and sacrifice of our men and women who served in the United States military,” Speaker Morgan said. “On Veterans Day, we will have the privilege of honoring those individuals who sacrificed their lives for our freedom. Our veterans fought and faced the enemy fearlessly, all to protect our Nation’s democracy and freedom, along with our Navajo way of life – we honor them for their courage and for their bravery. Let us pray for their safety and for their quick return home.”

“The Navajo Nation also takes this time to remember our past warriors, many who fought courageously for the protection of our homeland within our Four Sacred Mountains, protecting Diné Bikéyah – Navajoland. It is our past Navajo chiefs, such as Manuelito, Barboncito, Narbona, Ganado Mucho and Mariano who helped sustain us as a Navajo people,” Speaker Morgan said. “Let us also remember our Navajo Code Talkers who proudly served during WWII, as well as veterans who served in the jungles of Vietnam, to the hills in Europe and in the Pacific, to the deserts of Iraq and the Middle East, in the rugged mountains of Afghanistan and to the American shores protecting our freedom – their legacy and valor is remembered.”

“I encourage everyone to commemorate all veterans, not just today, but every day,” Morgan added. “Take time to visit a veteran, greet them, visit with them and thank them for their unselfish military service. I also ask everyone to support our current military personnel, they have a job to do and it is my hope they return home safely and quickly – we think about them every day. Thank you for your service to our great Nation.”

On Oct. 19, the 21st Navajo Nation Council unanimously passed legislation officially recognizing Navajo Veterans in the Navajo Nation Code in an effort to respect and appreciate the sacrifice of Navajo servicemen and women of the U.S. Armed Forces.

The amendment to Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code authorizes the Navajo Department of Veteran’s Affairs to develop and implement veterans programs according to the newly adopted “veterans” definition: “A Navajo veteran is an individual who is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and has been discharged under honorable conditions from the United States military service with a DD-214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty.”

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