For Immediate Release
Sept. 25, 2013

President Shelly Commemorates Fallen Code Talker and Orders Navajo Flag Lowered

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.— Navajo President Ben Shelly commemorated a fallen Navajo Code Talker Nelson Draper Sr., 96, who passed away early Sunday morning at his home in Barstow, Calif.

President Shelly also ordered the Navajo Nation flag be lowered in honor of Code Talker Draper beginning Thursday, Sept. 26 through Sept. 30.

“The Navajo Nation is saddened to learn about the passing of Code Talker Draper. We have lost another modern day hero whose deeds have brought great pride to the Navajo Nation because the Code Talkers used our language to help win World War II. Code Talker Draper's deeds will be remembered and that of all the other Navajo Code Talkers. The Navajo Nation will eternally be grateful for their service to our country and our people,” President Shelly said.

“I urge all Navajo people to join First Lady Martha Shelly, Vice President Rex Lee Jim and myself to join us in prayers for the family of Code Talker Draper during their time of need.”

In 2001, Draper was honored for his service as one of 228 Navajo Code Talkers to receive the Congressional Silver Medal.

Services for Code Talker Draper are scheduled to take place on Friday in Barstow, Calif. At 9 a.m., a rosary and mass is planned at St. Joseph's Catholic Church at 505 E. Mountain View Street. At 10 a.m., a memorial service is scheduled at High Desert Word Center, 30918 Soapmine Road.

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