For Immediate Release
June 9, 2014

President Shelly orders flags at half-staff in honor of Sidney Bedoni

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—The Navajo Nation is in mourning.

On June 8, the Navajo Nation lost another American hero when Sidney Bedoni, a former Navajo Code Talker, passed at the age of 91 due to complications from influenza and pneumonia.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly ordered flags at half-staff in his honor from sunrise on June 10 through sunset on June 13.

“(The recruiters) handed him a form for his father to sign. He hitchhiked from Tuba City to Navajo Mountain to get permission to serve his country,” Mantanona said.

After enlisting for service, Bedoni served in the 2nd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions during World War II.

He fought in the Battles of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, Bougainville, Tinian, Guam, Hawaiian Islands, Saipan, Japan, Solomon Islands, Vella Lavella Island, New Caledonia, and Okinawa.

He was also the last surviving Navajo Code Talker paratrooper and served in the 1st Parachute Regiment.

Bedoni leaves behind his wife Lena, four children, seven grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services will take place on June 16 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in Winslow, Ariz. at 11 a.m. Bedoni will be buried at the Arizona National Cemetery in Cave Creek.

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