President Shelly orders flags at half-mast in honor of Tom Jones, Jr.

Jones passed on May 12 at San Juan Regional Medical Center in Farmington, N.M. after a battle with pneumonia and other medical conditions. He was 89 years old.

His service in the U.S. Marine Corps began on Nov. 16, 1943 and he was honorably discharged on Dec. 30, 1945.

Jones was a messenger for U.S. Marine Corps 3rd Division, Unit 297 Navajo Code Talkers 767 and Navajo Code Talkers 642 Platoons at Camp Pendleton.

“Our father was a private, humble, simple, caring and giving father, grandfather, brother, friend and comrade,” said daughter Carmelita Nelson. “His heart was caring, his mind was strict, his life was blessed and his soul was graceful.”

Funeral services will take place on May 17 at the Diné Christian Center in Shiprock, N.M., beginning at 10 a.m.

An account with Wells Fargo Bank has been established for donations under account number 2221454164.

Jones leaves behind three children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.