



THE NAVAJO NATION

RUSSELL BEGAYE PRESIDENT
JONATHAN NEZ VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MARCH 13, 2017

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PRESIDENT BEGAYE AND VICE PRESIDENT NEZ SIGN PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF JOHN CLAW, JR.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez in honor and recognition of John Claw, Jr., the creator of the Navajo Nation seal proclaim that all flags shall be flown at half-staff on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

“John Claw, Jr.’s masterful design encompasses the very essence of the Navajo Nation and his legacy will be remembered forever,” said President Begaye.

The Great Seal of the Navajo Nation has 50 arrowheads symbolizing the Navajo Nation’s protection within the 50 states. The opening at the top represents the eastern direction. The circular rainbow represents Navajo Nation’s sovereignty and as such, the rainbow never closes on the nation’s sovereignty. The sun is portrayed to shine from the east onto the four sacred mountains; Tsisnaasjini’ – Mt. Blanca, Tsoodzil – Mt. Taylor, Doko’oosliid – San Francisco Peak, and Dibé Nitsaa – Mt. Hesperus.

“The ideology that Claw incorporated into the seal conveys strength, dignity and above all, sovereignty. The Navajo Nation Seal holds great power as does the tribe,” said Vice President Nez.

The Office of the President and Vice President extend their sincerest condolences to the family of Claw at this time.

The memorial for Claw will take place on March 14, 2017 from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM at the Navajo Nation Museum. Burial Services for Claw will take place on March 15, 2017 at the family plot in Many Farms, Ariz.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF JOHN CLAW, JR. CREATOR OF THE NAVAJO NATION SEAL

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is deeply saddened by the loss of John Claw, Jr., the creator of the Navajo Nation Seal; and

WHEREAS, Claw was Bit'ahnii (Folded Arms People) born for Naakaii Diné (Mexican Clan) born in 1935 to Lula and John C. Claw, Sr.; and

WHEREAS, in 1952, while attending Ganado High School, Claw entered into a competition to design the Navajo Nation Seal, his design incorporated arrowheads, a rainbow, cornstalks, the Four Sacred Mountains and livestock. He won the competition; and

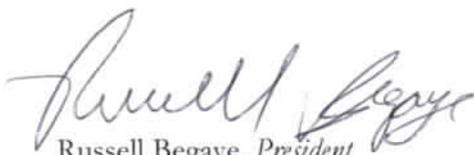
WHEREAS, the Great Seal of the Navajo Nation has fifty arrowheads symbolizing the Navajo Nation's protection within the fifty states. The opening at the top represents the easterly direction. The circular rainbow represents Navajo Nation's sovereignty and as such the rainbow never closes on the Nation's sovereignty. The sun is portrayed to shine from the east onto the four sacred mountains; Tsisnaasjini' – Mt. Blanca, Tsoodzil – Mt. Taylor, Doko'ooslid – San Francisco Peak, and Dibé Nitsaa – Mt. Hesperus; and

WHEREAS, Claw is survived by 11 children, 33 grandchildren, and 16 great grandchildren and one surviving sister, Katherine Bia; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers our prayers and condolences to his family and friends.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, RUSSELL BEGAYE, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, JONATHAN M. NEZ** Vice President of the Navajo Nation do hereby proclaim that all flags shall be flown at half-staff in honor and in memory of the late John Claw, Jr. on Tuesday, March 14, 2017.

ORDERED THIS 13th DAY OF March 2017


Russell Begaye, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Jonathan M. Nez, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION