



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation honors the life of Korean War veteran and retired Navajo Police Officer Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr.

GANADO, Ariz. – Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer presented the Navajo Nation flag and proclamation to the family of Korean War veteran and retired Navajo Police Officer Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr. during a funeral service held on Wednesday, at the All Saints Mission Church in Ganado, Ariz. Kirk passed away on Nov. 28 at the age of 88. Kirk was originally from Ganado, Arizona, where he resided at the time of his passing.

His wife, Maggie Jane Kirk, their children, grandchildren, and other family members were seated front row as Vice President Lizer, Navajo police officers, comrades, community members, and friends of Kirk paid tribute and shared personal stories and memories of their loved one.

On Monday, President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Lizer issued a proclamation in honor of Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr. The proclamation also ordered all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of Kirk.

“On behalf of the Navajo people, we offer our condolences to the family of the late Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr. who served our Nation and our country with great honor and dignity. To his family, we pray for comfort and strength for all of you. Your faith, prayers, and love for one another will carry you forward,” said Vice President Lizer.

Kirk was an active member of the U.S. Army from March 1953 to April 1955 and also served in the Korean War, where he was wounded in battle and awarded several service medals for his courageous service. Following his honorable discharge, he returned to Ganado and served as a Navajo Police Officer for 34 years.

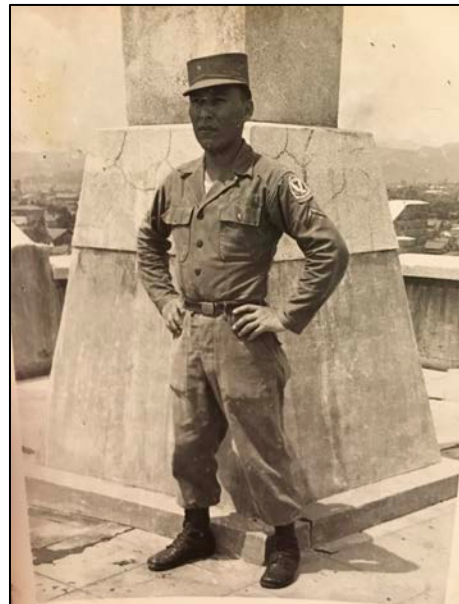


PHOTO: Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr. during his service with the U.S. Army in the Korean War.

“Mr. Kirk leaves behind a great legacy for his family, the Navajo Nation, and our entire country. He was a protector and warrior of our people and our communities. I am certain he saved many lives during his time with us. He will be remembered in our hearts forever. May his family take comfort in knowing that he is in the hands of God now,” said President Nez.

The Tséhootsooí Twin Warrior Society conducted the flag-folding ceremony of the American flag to pay tribute to the service and life of Kirk. Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr. was laid to rest at his family’s plot in Ganado, Ariz.

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PHOTO: Vice President Myron Lizer presents the Navajo Nation flag to the family of the late Oliver Leo Kirk, Sr. on Dec. 4, 2019 at the All Saints Mission Church in Ganado, Ariz.