



## The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 15, 2019

## Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and remembrance of Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr.

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Wednesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer signed a proclamation ordering all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on May 17 in honor and remembrance of Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr., who passed away on May 10 at the age of 97 in Chinle, Arizona.

“The Navajo Nation is saddened by the passing of another brave and selfless Diné warrior. The Nation is truly grateful for Code Talker Begaye’s sacrifices and those of his family, to defend the freedom and liberty of our country,” said President Nez. “May the Creator bless his family, friends, and community with strength and comfort.”

Begaye was Tódich’íí’nii (Bitter Water Clan) and born for Kint’ichii’nii (Red House People Clan). He was born on Aug. 26, 1921, in the community of Red Valley, Arizona and resided in Chinle, Arizona at the time of his passing. He had three children with his late wife, Helen M. Begaye, who passed away in 2008.

Begaye served as a Navajo Code Talker in the Marine Corps from 1943 to 1945, and fought in the Battle of Tarawa and the Battle of Tinian during World War II, and was later awarded the Congressional Silver Medal of Honor.

Following his service, Begaye returned to the Navajo Nation where he owned and operated “Begaye’s Corner” trading post in the community of Chinle, where he also lived with his wife and children.



**PHOTO:** The late Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr. with his Congressional Silver Medal of Honor.

“We ask all of our people throughout the Navajo Nation and beyond to join us on May 17 in saying a prayer for our beloved Code Talker and to honor his life by lowering all flags across Navajo land,” said Vice President Lizer.

The funeral service for Navajo Code Talker Fleming Begaye, Sr. is scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the Potter’s House Christian Center in Chinle, Arizona.

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**THE NAVAJO NATION**

*Proclamation*

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF  
NAVAJO CODE TALKER FLEMING BEGAYE, SR.**

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of Fleming Begaye, Sr., a Navajo Code Talker and National Hero; and

**WHEREAS**, Begaye served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II from 1943-1945 and fought in the Battle of Tarawa and Battle of Tinian and was later awarded the Congressional Silver Medal of Honor; and

**WHEREAS**, following his military service, Begaye returned to the Navajo Nation and owned and operated "Begaye's Corner" trading post in the community of Chinle

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation honors the late Fleming Begaye, Sr. for his service to the Navajo Nation and the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his children, grandchildren, friends, and community.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ**, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, Myron Lizer**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all flags on the Navajo Nation shall be flown at half-staff on May 17, 2019 to honor the memory and service of the late Fleming Begaye, Sr.

**ORDERED THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2019**

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

Handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**