



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:
Jared Touchin, Communications Director
(928) 274-4275

Crystalyne Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer
(928) 274-2758

nnopvp.communications@gmail.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Navajo Nation honors fallen warriors on Memorial Day



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer pay tribute to fallen military men and women at the Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz. on May 27, 2019.

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer paid tribute to fallen warriors on Monday, as they laid wreaths at a memorial wall at Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, which lists the names of Navajo men and women who gave the ultimate sacrifice serving in the Armed Forces and those who are still missing in action.

“We have lived here between our four sacred mountains since time immemorial and we’ve had many great warriors who have fought and given their lives to protect our homelands, our language, and our culture. Today, we honor and remember them as well as their families and loved ones,” said President Nez.

He also paid special tribute to Fleming Begaye, Sr., and New Mexico Sen. John Pinto, two Navajo Code Talkers that recently passed away, and the Navajo Hopi Honor Riders who concluded their annual motorcycle ride across the Navajo Nation on Sunday in honor of Gold Star families.

“Let us pray together today for the families to help them heal so they may be strong for themselves and their families. Let’s also remember those who are currently serving overseas and across this country,” added President Nez.

Vice President Lizer was joined by Second Lady Dottie Lizer, as he spoke about the importance of remembering and commemorating the sacrifices that past and previous warriors offered for our country and to preserve our freedom.

“We thank the Creator for blessing our Nation with so many great warriors and for giving us our sacred language that helped us in times of conflict,” Vice President Lizer stated.

Church Rock Chapter President Johnny Henry provided the opening and closing prayers, while Navajo Veterans Administration Executive Director John I. King served as the master of ceremony for the event. Navajo veterans and brothers, Ramone and Paul Bemore, also sang an honor song to remember the sacrifices of those in the Armed Forces.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer give special thanks to Shawwon Jackson, U.S. Marine Corps, and Eugene Marshall, U.S. Army, for raising the flags at the start of the event. Following the laying of the wreaths, the flags were then lowered to half-staff in honor of the many who gave their lives in service to our country.

Following the ceremony, President Nez will lead a run from Canyon de Chelly to Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, in honor of our Nation’s fallen warriors. Vice President Lizer will participate in the opening ceremony for the new Gallup State Veterans Cemetery at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, hosted by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services.



PHOTO: Flags lowered to half-staff at Veterans Memorial Park in honor of Memorial Day in Window Rock, Ariz. on May, 27, 2019.

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