



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Nez-Lizer order flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of Navajo Code Talker and New Mexico State Senator John Pinto

WINDOW ROCK – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Tuesday, honoring and recognizing the late Navajo Code Talker and New Mexico State Sen. Dr. John Pinto, who passed away on May 24 at the age of 94. The proclamation orders all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on May 29 to 30, in honor and remembrance of his service to the Navajo people and the State of New Mexico.

Sen. Pinto was Díbétzhíni (Black Sheep Clan) and born for the Táchii'nii (Red Running into the Water People Clan). He was born on December 15, 1924, and was originally from Lupton, Ariz.

“On behalf of the Navajo people, we continue to offer our condolences and prayers for his children, grandchildren, friends, and colleagues. Senator Pinto devoted his life to public service and helping our communities. There is no doubt that he changed the lives of so many people for the better. We will miss his smile, his humor, and his love and compassion that he shared with us all,” said President Nez.

Sen. Pinto served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II. He was a national hero, veteran, and a great Diné leader who made tremendous sacrifices and contributions for the Navajo people.

Following his military service, Senator Pinto returned home and began his duties as a public servant for 42 years as a member of the New Mexico State Senate beginning in 1977, making him the longest-serving legislator in state history. Navajo Technical University honored Sen. Pinto with its very first honorary doctoral degree for public service during a commencement ceremony held on May 17.

“Senator Pinto’s sacrifices to protect and serve the Navajo Nation and the United States will forever be cherished and remembered. We are truly thankful to his family for sharing his life with us and the entire country,” said Vice President Lizer.

Sen. Pinto will be escorted by the Navajo Police Department, New Mexico State Police, and the Navajo Hopi Honor Riders from Gallup to Santa Fe, where he will lay in state at the New Mexico

State Capitol Rotunda beginning at 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 29. A funeral service is scheduled for Thursday, May 30, beginning at 11:00 a.m. at the Sacred Heart Cathedral, 415 E. Green Ave., in Gallup, N.M. A reception will follow at Red Rock State Park in Gallup N.M.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF NAVAJO CODE TALKER
AND NEW MEXICO STATE SENATOR, DR. JOHN PINTO**

THE NAVAJO NATION honors John Pinto who was born December 15, 1924 and passed on May 24, 2019 at the age of 94; born to the Díbélzhíni (Black Sheep Clan) and for the Táchii'nii (Red Running into the Water People Clan), from Lupton, Arizona, we remember his contribution to the Navajo People and to the State of New Mexico and give this special recognition:

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the Honorable Dr. John Pinto – a Navajo Code Talker, Veteran, National Hero, a Doctor of Public Service, and a great Diné Leader for the Navajo People and the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Senator Pinto served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Navajo Code Talker during World War II; and

WHEREAS, following his military service, Senator Pinto returned home and began his duty as a public servant as a member of the New Mexico State Senate in 1977 making him the longest serving legislator in state history; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Technical University bestowed upon Senator Pinto its very first honorary doctoral degree for Public Service on May 17, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his children, grandchildren, friends, colleagues, 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 from May 29, 2019 thru May 30, 2019 to honor the memory and service of the late Senator John Pinto.

ORDERED THIS 28th DAY OF MAY 2019


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION