



## 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](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

November 8, 2019

## **New Mexico Military Institute honors Navajo Nation flag**



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez with members of the New Mexico Military Institute's Native American Club at Bate Halls in Roswell, N.M. on Nov. 7, 2019.

**ROSWELL, N.M.** — On Thursday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Navajo Nation Veterans Administration Executive Director James D. Zwierlein had the distinct honor of being part of a Navajo Nation flag posting ceremony at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M. President Nez joined Diné students, alumni, and school officials as they came together to raise the Navajo Nation flag on the school grounds for the very first time since the school was established in 1891.

The New Mexico Military Institute remains the only state-supported co-educational college preparatory high school and junior college in the United States — the school currently has 33 Native American students with the large majority from the Navajo Nation.

The school graduated the very first member of the Navajo Nation, Victor Begay, in 1975. Begay was honored at the ceremony as he posted the flag in Bates Hall, where the flags of many other

countries are currently posted, representing past and present students from countries around the world. President Nez was invited to the event by the school's Native American Club President Geraldlynn H. Notah.

With Veterans Day approaching, President Nez spoke about the long and proud history of Navajo people who have served in every branch of the military including the Navajo Code Talkers. He encouraged the students to remember the strength and resilience of their ancestors who overcame many adversities including The Long Walk.

"As you become older there will be hard times in life. It's in those times that I want you to remember the strength and resilience of your ancestors who overcame many adversities. Let's honor them by exemplifying that same resilience in our lives and practicing the teachings of our elders," said President Nez.

He also thanked alumni Dant "DJ" Tsosie and Dylan Begaye, Miss Indian New Mexico Teen Tehya Barber, Miss Indian New Mexico Shenoa Jones, the Native American Club members, and many others who were part of requesting the school to post the flag and coordinating the flag posting ceremony.



**PHOTO: (Left to right) New Mexico Military Institute graduate Victor Begay, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, and Dant "DJ" Tsosie at the New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M. on Nov. 8, 2019.**

The Nez-Lizer Administration appreciates the invitation to be a part of the historic event. President Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer wish all of the students the very best.

###

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.