



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 3, 2020

Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of World War II Army veteran Fred Johnson, Sr.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation that calls for flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, in honor and memory of World War II U.S. Army veteran Fred Johnson, Sr., who passed away on Tuesday at the age of 103. He was born in Pinon, Ariz. and attended school in Ft. Wingate, N.M. prior to his military service.

“As we mourn the loss of our Diné warrior, U.S. Army PFC Fred Johnson, we also honor and remember all his great sacrifices for our Navajo people and the entire country. During his lifetime, he helped many people through his military service and as a medicine person. He lived a long life full of love, memories, and service to our people. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and his community,” said President Nez.



PFC Johnson served honorably in the United States Army from October 1942 to December 1946 with the 132 Field Artillery during World War II in Italy, France, Germany, Holland, and Scotland. When he entered the Army, he was a fluent Navajo speaker and did not know the English language, but he later became fluent in English, Spanish, and French.

PFC Johnson’s family recalls his stories of seeing the concentration camps, human remains, and open burial sites during the war. He was also present in Berlin, Germany when the German military surrendered and witnessed the waiving of white flags by the German military forces.

Following his military service, PFC Johnson began working with the Santa Fe Railroad for over 25 years until he retired. The Santa Fe Railroad representatives visited him at his home in 2017, when he turned 100 years old. He was also a Native American Church roadman and a proud member of the Pinon Chapter Veterans Organization.

“We thank God for the life of Private First Class Johnson and all of the wonderful blessings he bestowed upon people around the world. In every aspect of his life, he was a loving and compassionate person who cared greatly for his people and his family. We ask all of our Navajo people to keep his spirit and his family in your prayers at this time,” said Vice President Lizer.

PFC Johnson was married to the late Glennie Johnson for 59 years, until the time of her passing in 2007. Together they had six children and also cared for several other children from other families. They also have 32 grandchildren, 59 great-grandchildren, and 14 great great-grandchildren.

“On behalf of the Navajo Veterans Administration, I offer my condolences and prayers for the family of Private First Class Johnson. We honor and remember his life and the legacy that will live on,” said Navajo Veterans Administration Executive Director James D. Zwierlein.

U.S. Army PFC Fred Johnson, Sr. will be laid to rest on Friday, Dec. 4, 2020, at a private gravesite service in Pinon, Ariz. The service will be conducted in accordance with CDC guidelines due to risks related to COVID-19.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
WORLD WAR II VETERAN FRED JOHNSON, SR.**

THE NAVAJO NATION is greatly saddened by the loss of our Diné Warrior Fred Johnson, Sr., a World War II Veteran who served our country with great courage; and

WHEREAS, Private First Class Johnson served honorably in the United States Army from October 1942 to December 1946 with the 132 Field Artillery during World War II in Italy, France, Germany, Holland, and Scotland; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation honors the late PFC Fred Johnson, Sr., and his family for their sacrifices and dedicated service in defense of the Navajo Nation and the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his family, 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 to honor the memory and service of the late Fred Johnson, Sr. on December 4, 2020.

ORDERED THIS 3rd DAY OF DECEMBER 2020

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jonathan Nez".

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Myron Lizer".

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION