



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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 28, 2020

## Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of Navajo veteran Sophie Yazzie

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation in honor and remembrance of Sophie Yazzie, the longest-living veteran in the state of Arizona who passed on Jan. 25 at the age of 105. The proclamation orders all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory of Sophie Yazzie on Jan. 29, 2020.

Yazzie was a member of the Navajo Nation, born in 1914 in Canyon de Chelly, Ariz. At the age of 28 she enlisted with the U.S. Army Air Corps and served during World War II until she was honorably discharged. She had four children, five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren with her late husband Jordan B. Yazzie.

“It is our honor to issue this proclamation to recognize the legacy of the late Sophie Yazzie, a matriarch for her family and a warrior for our Navajo people who served our country with great honor and dignity,” said President Nez.

Following her military service, Yazzie returned home and worked at Wingate Boarding School while raising her children with her husband before retiring.



**PHOTO:** The longest-living veteran in the state of Arizona, Sophie Yazzie of Canyon de Chelly, Arizona.

“She was a loving and compassionate mother, grandmother, and veteran who served her people throughout her life in several different capacities. We will always be grateful for her contributions and we give thanks for her life and we pray for her family and friends during this time,” Vice President Lizer stated.

The funeral service for Sophie Yazzie is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Michael Catholic Mission Church in St. Michaels, Ariz. The burial will be at Fort Defiance Veterans Memorial Cemetery in Fort Defiance, Ariz. following the funeral service.

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**THE NAVAJO NATION**

*Proclamation*

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE  
OF NAVAJO VETERAN SOPHIE YAZZIE**

**THE NAVAJO NATION** is greatly saddened by the loss of the State of Arizona's longest-living Navajo Veteran and matriarch Sophie Yazzie; and

**WHEREAS**, Sophie Yazzie served our country with great honor in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II; and

**WHEREAS**, she returned to the Navajo Nation following her honorable discharge from the U.S. Army Air Corps and served her community with Wingate Boarding School for many years; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation honors the late Sophie Yazzie for her service to the Navajo Nation and the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to her 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 on January 29, 2020 to honor the memory and service of the late Sophie Yazzie

**ORDERED THIS 28<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2020**

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**