



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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Vice President Lizer and Second Lady join Trump for signing of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives Awareness Day proclamation

PHOENIX – On Tuesday, Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer and Second Lady Dottie Lizer joined President Donald Trump, Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, and Gila River Indian Community Gov. Stephen Roe Lewis, in a roundtable discussion that focused on COVID-19 in Indian Country and the signing of the proclamation on “Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Native Awareness Day.”

“On behalf of the Navajo people, we commend President Trump and his administration for recognizing the traumatic epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous relatives along with tribal communities throughout the country, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. There is a need for great awareness to protect our sacred and precious relatives, and to honor survivors and victims who are impacted,” said Vice President Lizer.

The Nez-Lizer Administration calls for prayers and more focus on missing and murdered Diné relatives on National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Native Women and Girls, which spotlights the movement to end violence against Indigenous women and to express appreciation to all advocates, shelters, and programs who continue to support families and survivors during the COVID-19 pandemic.

"As we face new challenges during the coronavirus pandemic, we continue to pray and support efforts to heal our homes and communities. Violence continues to impact our families and communities during the pandemic, and we must be there for one another as a mother, father, brother, and sister. Today, let's remind ourselves to check on our families, neighbors, and all relatives. We can not lose another relative to violence," said Second Lady Lizer.

"This is not only a missing persons issue, everyone needs to be a part of the movement and solution to keep our families and relatives safe and protected," added Second Lady Lizer, who also continues to focus on community-based projects and tribal programs that help Navajo families and children to help prevent and offset the impacts of social issues with Navajo Nation First Lady Phefelia Nez.

The proclamation states, "The American Indian and Alaska Native people have endured generations of injustice. They experience domestic violence, homicide, sexual assault, and abuse far more frequently than other groups. These horrific acts, committed predominantly against women and girls, are egregious and unconscionable. During Missing and Murdered American Indians and Alaska Natives Awareness Day, we reaffirm our commitment to ending the disturbing violence against these American and to honoring those whose lives have been shattered and lost."

"This is a national issue, and we commend our local, state, and federal leaders, and most importantly, the many community-based groups and volunteers who contribute their time and resources to moving these efforts forward to reunite families. It is important for all of us to work together, and to pray for healing, restoration, and reunion," added Vice President Lizer.

The proclamation declares May 5, 2020 as The Missing and Murdered American Indian and Alaska Natives Awareness Day, and calls upon all Federal, State, tribal, and local governments to increase awareness of the crisis through appropriate programs and activities.

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