



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

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 14, 2020

## Navajo Nation call for flags to be lowered to half-staff in honor and remembrance of U.S. Army PFC Corlton Chee and Spc. Miguel Yazzie

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – On Monday, Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation calling for all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020, in honor and remembrance of U.S. Army PFC Corlton L. Chee and U.S. Army Spc. Miguel D. Yazzie, who each passed away recently while stationed at the Fort Hood Army Base in Texas.

“Flags on the Navajo Nation will be flown at half-staff to honor and remember the lives of PFC Corlton Chee and Spc. Miguel Yazzie, who sacrificed and dedicated their lives to service and protecting the Navajo Nation and the entire country. We also recognize and thank their families for everything they have given as well, and we offer our condolences and prayers for them. We ask our Creator to bless them with strength and comfort as they seek answers and grieve for their loved ones. We will continue to support the families as we seek closure and answers in relation to their untimely passing,” said President Nez.

The leaders of the Navajo Nation have called for a congressional inquiry and investigation. The families stated that they suspect that foul play may have contributed to the deaths of PFC Chee and Spc. Yazzie, which are among 28 military men and women who have lost their lives while stationed at Fort Hood Army Base.



Navajo Nation, passed away on Sept. 2, 2020 while stationed at Fort Hood Army Base.

PFC Corlton L. Chee, a member of the Navajo Nation, collapsed during a training exercise on Aug. 28, 2020 and eventually passed away at Carl R. Darnall Medical Center on Sept. 2, 2020. His death marked the 28<sup>th</sup> casualty involving military personnel at Fort Hood this year. Army Spc. Miguel D. Yazzie, also a member of the Navajo Nation, lost his life on July 3, 2020 while stationed at the Fort Hood Army Base.

President Nez and Vice President Lizer spoke with officials from the Fort Hood Army Base about the families concerns and requests. Letters were also sent to several members of congress, U.S Sec. of Defense Dr. Mark T. Esper, Sec. of the Army Ryan D. McCarthy, and Major Gen. John Richardson IV, who oversees the Fort Hood Army Base.

“With this proclamation, we pay tribute to PFC Chee, Spc. Yazzie, and all of the military men and women who have lost their lives while stationed at Fort Hood Army Base. The families deserve answers and we have to hold the military accountable for what is happening at Fort Hood Army Base. We ask all of our Navajo people to join us in prayer for their families and friends,” stated Vice President Lizer.

A burial service for PFC Chee will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020 in Gallup, N.M. Guests are limited to close family members, due to risks associated with COVID-19. Spc. Yazzie’s service was held previously.

The proclamation calls for all flags on the Navajo Nation to be lowered to half-staff on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2020 in honor and remembrance of U.S. Army PFC Corlton Chee, U.S Army Spc. Miguel Yazzie, and all of the military men and women who have passed away while stationed at Fort Hood Army Base.

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**PHOTO: U.S. Army Spc. Miguel D. Yazzie, also a member of the Navajo Nation, passed away on July 3, 2020 while stationed at Fort Hood Army Base.**



**THE NAVAJO NATION**

*Proclamation*

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF U.S. ARMY  
PFC CORLTON CHEE AND U.S. ARMY SPC. MIGUEL YAZZIE**

**THE NAVAJO NATION** is greatly saddened by the loss of our Diné Warriors U.S. Army Private First Class Corlton Chee and U.S. Army Specialist Miguel Yazzie; and

**WHEREAS**, PFC Chee served with in the United States Army's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division and Spc. Yazzie served in the Army's 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 52<sup>nd</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment, 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Air Defense Artillery Regiment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation honors the late PFC Corlton Chee and Spc. Miguel Yazzie, and their families, for their sacrifice and dedicated service in defense of the Navajo Nation and the United States of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation also honors and remembers all of the military men and women who have lost their lives while serving at Fort Hood Army Base; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to the families, friends, and communities of our fallen warriors.

**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 U.S. Army PFC Corlton Chee and the late U.S. Army Spc. Miguel Yazzie on September 15, 2020.

**PROCLAIMED THIS 14<sup>th</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2020**

  
Jonathan Nez, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**

  
Myron Lizer, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**