



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

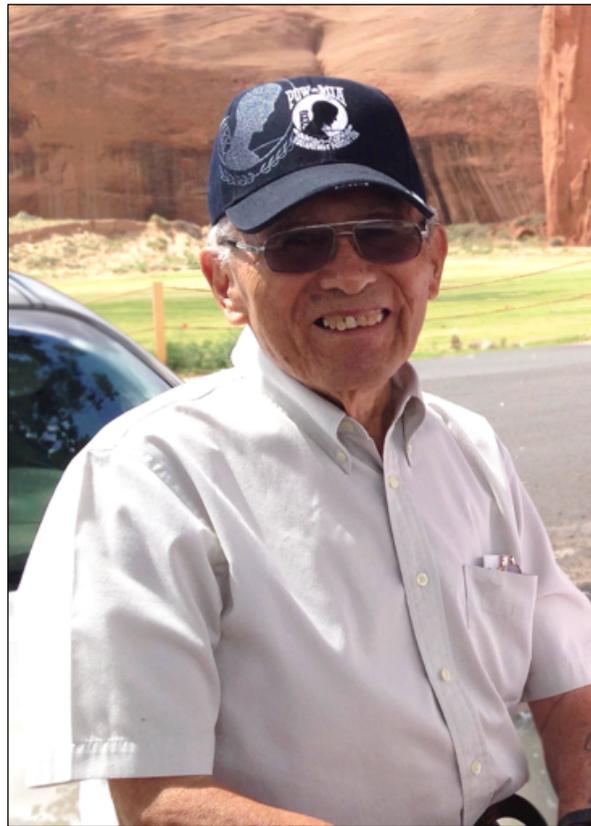
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2021

**Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor and memory
of World War II Army and POW veteran Thomas Lynch, Jr.**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Monday, calling for all flags on the Navajo Nation to be flown at half-staff on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, in honor and memory of World War II U.S. Army veteran and POW Thomas Lynch, Jr., who passed away on July 27, 2021 at the age of 98. He is Ashjiihi and born for Kintichííinii and was born in Wide Ruins, Ariz. and lived in Window Rock, Ariz. at the time of his passing.

“We honor and give thanks to our Diné warrior, Thomas Lynch, Jr., who served our country with great honor in World War II and experienced the very worst of conflict as a Prisoner of War. Despite the harsh treatment inflicted on him during the war, he persevered and built a good life for his family while giving back to his communities. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his family day after day. To his family, we offer our condolences as we pray for strength for his loved ones. We hope that his family takes comfort in knowing that he is now with God at this time,” said President Nez.



Lynch served with the U.S. Army from May 1943 to December 1945 with the 42nd Rainbow Division. During World War II, he was captured in the Battle of the Bulge and incarcerated as a German Prisoner of War for nearly four months until his release in April 1945. He was honorably discharged at the rank of corporal with four medals including the Good Conduct Medal, World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, and European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign

Medal with two Bronze Stars. In addition, he was awarded the Navajo Nation Veterans Medal in recognition of his “service in defense of our land and our people.”

Following his military service, Cpl. Lynch served as a realty specialist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for 35 years, in Window Rock, Ariz. He was a devoted husband of 69 years to Helen (Oliver) Lynch, father to two daughters Veronica (Lynch) Montoya and Karen Lynch, and grandfather to Teresa Montoya. He is survived by siblings John Lynch, Maryeona Watman, and Grace Monarco. He joins his siblings Robert (Bobby) Lynch, Edward (Ed) Lynch, Freddy Lynch, Patrick (Pat) Lynch, Steve Lynch, and William (Bill) Lynch in the afterlife.

“We thank God for the life of Cpl. Thomas Lynch and the many blessings that he bestowed upon his family, our community, and our country. As a World War II veteran, he witnessed and experienced many atrocities, but he devoted his life to the love he had for his family. He will be greatly missed, but we take comfort in knowing that his spirit lives on and that he is with our Creator at this very moment,” said Vice President Lizer.

Funeral services for U.S. Army Cpl. Thomas Lynch, Jr. will be held on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. (MDT) at the Fort Defiance Veterans Cemetery in Fort Defiance, Ariz. His family has also established a GoFundMe account at: <https://gofundme.com/f/remembering-thomas-lynch>.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

**IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF
WORLD WAR II VETERAN THOMAS LYNCH, JR.**

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

WHEREAS, Cpl. Lynch served honorably in the United States Army from May 1943 to December 1945 with the 42nd Rainbow Division and became a Prisoner of War in Germany during World War II; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation honors the late Cpl. Lynch, 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 Thomas Lynch, Jr. on August 4, 2021.

PROCLAIMED THIS 2nd DAY OF AUGUST 2021

Jonathan Nez

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Myron Lizer

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION