



## 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](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 10, 2021

## Navajo Nation recognizes Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week to honor active and fallen Navajo Police Officers

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer issued a proclamation on Monday, recognizing May 9-16, 2021 as "Navajo Nation Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week" to honor and thank all men and women law enforcement officers, including those who have given the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. The Navajo Nation also observes May 14, 2021 as "Navajo Nation Police Officer Day."

"We call upon our Diné citizens to join our Nation's leaders in giving thanks and honoring all of our law enforcement officers and their families for their sacrifices to protect and serve our people, including those who have lost their lives in the line of duty. Law enforcement officers of every rank have chosen a profession that puts their life on the line every day to ensure our protection and safety. They accept the call to public service that is demanding and often unappreciated. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, they have been our frontline warriors while placing themselves at extraordinary risks. We honor them and offer our prayers for their physical and mental well-being," said President Nez.

Navajo Nation Police Officer Day, on Friday, May 14, is recognized as an observed holiday, in accordance with the Navajo Nation Council's resolution, CJY-53-20. However, the resolution provides up to four hours of administrative leave to Navajo Nation employees to attend Navajo Nation Police Officer Day events held on the Navajo Nation.

"Over the years, the Navajo Nation has lost many brave and selfless warriors. On Navajo Nation Police Officer Day, we honor and remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. We pray for them and their loved ones on this special day. We also extend our appreciation to Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety Executive Director Jesse Delmar, Police Chief Phillip Francisco, the Law and Order Committee, and all of the hard working staff and personnel," said Vice President Lizer.

The Navajo Nation honors and remembers the following 17 fallen Navajo Police Officers:

- Esther Charley
- Lamar Martin

- Michael Lee
- Houston James Largo
- LeAnder Frank
- Alex K. Yazzie
- Ernest Jesus Montoya, Sr.
- Darrell Cervandez Curley
- Winsonfred A. Filfred
- Esther Todecheene
- Samuel Anthony Redhouse
- Hoskie Allen Gene
- Andy Begay
- Roy Lee Stanley
- Loren Whitehat
- Burton Begay
- Gordon C. James
- Hoska Thompson

"Navajo Nation Police Officer Day" is observed in conjunction with Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week.

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## THE NAVAJO NATION

# Proclamation

### RECOGNIZING MAY 9 - 16, 2021 AS “NAVAJO NATION PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK”

**WE**, the Navajo People, honor and recognize the contributions and sacrifices of all law enforcement officers and personnel who serve under the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety facilities across the Navajo Nation. Navajo Police Officers are our frontline warriors who go above and beyond the call of duty, putting themselves at risk, to ensure that our Navajo People are protected and our communities are made safer.

**WHEREAS**, U.S. President John F. Kennedy signed the first proclamation in 1962, recognizing Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week to honor and remember law enforcement officers for their service and sacrifices and to pay tribute to those who have been lost in the line of duty; and

**WHEREAS**, law enforcement officers respond to many incidents in our communities involving domestic violence, substance abuse, disorderly conduct, violent crimes, and many other crime situations in order to protect our people and make our communities safer; and

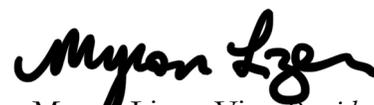
**WHEREAS**, in 2017, the Navajo Nation Council passed Resolution CO-64-17, declaring the second Friday of May to be observed as “Navajo Nation Police Officer Day” to honor and recognize fallen officers and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation honors all law enforcement officers who continue to persevere and report for duty to protect and serve our communities while taking extraordinary risks throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ**, President of the Navajo Nation, and **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim May 9 – 16, 2021 as “Navajo Nation Peace Officers Memorial Day and Police Week” throughout the Navajo Nation.

PROCLAIMED THIS 10<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MAY 2021

  
Jonathan Nez, *President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION

  
Myron Lizer, *Vice President*  
THE NAVAJO NATION