



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

November 5, 2021

Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of Diné World War II veteran Bennie S. Cowboy

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Friday, 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 Nov. 10, 2021 in honor and remembrance of Diné World War II veteran Bennie S. Cowboy, who passed away on Nov. 2 at the age of 95.

“As we mourn the loss of our Diné warrior, Bennie S. Cowboy, we also honor and remember all his great sacrifices for our Navajo people and the United States. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Rita, his children and grandchildren, and the Mariano Lake community. He was a loving and devoted husband, father, and grandfather who cherished his family. We pray that his family takes comfort in knowing that he is now with God at this time,” said President Nez.

Bennie S. Cowboy is Tó'aheedlíinii (Two Waters Flowing Together) and born for Bit'ahnii (His Sheaves under His Cover Clan), and he was born in Naalini, located northwest of Pinedale, N.M.

Cowboy served in the U.S. Marine Corps with the 6th Marine Division, 22nd Marines, 3rd Platoon, C-Battery, during the World War II South Pacific Campaign as an accomplished Marksman. He was wounded in Okinawa in March 1945, and honorably discharged. He returned to the Navajo Nation following his honorable discharge to support his family.

“We thank God for the life of Bennie S. Cowboy. In every aspect of his life, he was a loving and compassionate person who cared greatly for his family. We ask all of our Navajo people to keep his spirit and his family in your prayers,” said Vice President Lizer.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie with World War II veteran Bennie S. Cowboy at the St. Bonaventure gymnasium opening ceremony in Thoreau, N.M. on Aug. 15, 2019.

Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie, who represents Cowboy's home community, as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council also paid tribute and offered his condolences.

"We honor and give thanks for the life of Bennie S. Cowboy. Despite being wounded in battle, he persevered and built a legacy for his family while giving back to his community. I had the honor of knowing Mr. Cowboy for many years. To his family, we offer our condolences as we pray for strength for his loved ones," said Delegate Yazzie.

Survivors include his wife, Rita J. Cowboy, his children Gailene Morgan, Lorraine Cowboy, and Judy A. Cowboy, 14 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren, and five great-great grandchildren.

The funeral service for Bennie S. Cowboy will take place on Wednesday, Nov. 10, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (MST) at Cope Memorial Chapel in Gallup, N.M.

#

For the latest news from the Office of the President and Vice President, please visit <http://www.opvp.navajo-nsn.gov/> or find us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.



THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF WORLD WAR II VETERAN BENNIE S. COWBOY

THE NAVAJO NATION honors the life of our Diné Warrior, Bennie S. Cowboy, of Mariano Lake, N.M., who served with great honor and courage in World War II. We are very grateful for his contributions to the Navajo Nation and the United States and offer this special recognition:

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of Bennie S. Cowboy, who was Tó'aheedlínii (Two Waters Flowing Together) and born for Bit'ahnii (His Sheaves under His Cover Clan). Cowboy was originally from Naalini, northwest of Pinedale, New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Cowboy served our country in the U.S. Marine Corps with the 6th Marine Division, 22nd Marines, 3rd Platoon, C-Battery, during World War II - South Pacific Campaign as an accomplished Marksman. He was wounded in Okinawa in March 1945 and honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, Bennie S. Cowboy provided a valuable contribution to carry on the history and culture of the Diné people; his knowledge and teachings are irreplaceable and will be sorely missed; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his wife of 75 years, Rita J. Cowboy, his children and grandchildren, comrades, and the community of Mariano Lake.

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 November 10, 2021, in honor and memory of the late Bennie S. Cowboy.

PROCLAIMED THIS 5th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021


Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION


Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION