



The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 18, 2021

Flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of Diné Korean War veteran Bennie Harvey James

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, 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 Friday, Nov. 19, 2021 in honor and remembrance of Diné Korean War veteran Bennie Harvey James, who passed away on Nov. 15 at the age of 93. He is Tótsohnii (Big Water Clan) and born for Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House Clan). James was born on May 23, 1928 and was originally from Jeddito, Ariz., located on the Navajo Nation.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we offer our condolences and prayers to the family of our Diné warrior, U.S. Army Pvt. Bennie Harvey James. My words are not enough to honor and thank him, his wife Selena, and their children for the sacrifices they made for our country. As a Korean War veteran, he served and protected our people. We will never forget his great contributions and honorable service. We pray for strength and comfort for his family, comrades, and his community,” said President Nez.



Pvt. James served in the U.S. Army from 1950 to 1952 and during the Korean War conflict. Upon his honorable discharge, he returned to the Navajo Nation to support his family as a construction worker for the Santa Fe Railroad and as a carpenter building homes for Navajo families in his hometown community of Jeddito.

“Our country was truly blessed with the courage and service of Army Pvt. James and the sacrifices of his wife, Selena, and their family. Flags will be lowered to half-staff on Friday, to honor him and to offer our appreciation. Together, we offer prayers for his loved ones and his community during this difficult time,” said Vice President Lizer.

Council Delegate Vince James, who represents the Jeddito community as a member of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, also paid tribute and offered his condolences to the family.

“Mr. Bennie Harvey James served his country with strength and sacrifice. His service is greatly respected and honored. Condolences to his family. Please keep the family in your thoughts and prayers,” said Delegate James.

Survivors include his wife, Selena Begay James, their 12 children, and grandchildren. The funeral service for U.S. Army Pvt. Bennie Harvey James will be held on Friday, Nov. 19.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND REMEMBRANCE OF NAVAJO KOREAN WAR VETERAN BENNIE HARVEY JAMES

THE NAVAJO NATION honors the life of our Diné Warrior, U.S. Army Pvt. Bennie Harvey James, who served with great honor and courage in the Korean War. 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 Harvey James of Jeddito, Arizona, who was Tótsohnii (Big Water Clan) and born for Kinyaa'áanii (Towering House Clan). He was born on May 23, 1928, and passed at the age of 93; and

WHEREAS, Pvt. Bennie Harvey James served our country in the United States Army from 1950 to 1952 and during the Korean War; and

WHEREAS, he returned to the Navajo Nation following his service to support his family as a construction worker for the Santa Fe Railroad and as a carpenter building homes for Navajo families in his hometown community for Jeddito Chapter; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation offers its prayers and condolences to his wife, Selena Begay James, his children, and grandchildren, comrades, and the community of Jeddito, Arizona.

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 19, 2021, to honor the memory and service of the late U.S. Army Pvt. Bennie Harvey James.

PROCLAIMED THIS 18th DAY OF NOVEMBER 2021

Handwritten signature of Jonathan Nez in black ink.

Jonathan Nez, *President*
THE NAVAJO NATION

Handwritten signature of Myron Lizer in black ink.

Myron Lizer, *Vice President*
THE NAVAJO NATION