



The Navajo Nation
Office of the President and Vice President

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**New Mexico Department of Transportation
renames Iyanbito bridge after late Diné veteran John I. King**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Monday, Navajo Nation Vice President Myron Lizer, Second Lady Dottie Lizer, and Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie joined the New Mexico Department of Transportation, New Mexico State Representatives, and community members in Iyanbito, N.M., for a dedication ceremony to rename a bridge along Interstate-40 in honor and memory of the late Diné veteran, John I. King, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1972 to 1975. The bridge is now known as the “John I. King Memorial Bridge.”

King served as the Commander for the Iyanbito Veterans Organization, providing leadership and guidance for veterans residing in the community. He offered extensive knowledge and experience at the federal government level working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the U.S.

Department of the Interior – Bureau of Indian Affairs in several management positions. He previously served under the Nez-Lizer Administration as the Director of Navajo Veterans Administration.



PHOTO: U.S. Navy veteran and former Navajo Veterans Administration Director John I. King.

“Today’s recognition for the late John I. King was remarkable for the family and community, and it will forever be honored. Mr. King was a tremendous man, and this dedication of ‘The John I. King Memorial Bridge’ is one way we can honor his legacy as a staunch supporter of his veteran brothers and sisters who served in the world’s finest military. His community is still seeing the

impact of his work every day, and this bridge dedication is a powerful example of that legacy,” said Vice President Lizer.

The John I. King Memorial Bridge is located on Interstate 40, Exit 33. King’s family proposed the memorial under John’s name after his passing in January 2021.

“It’s an honor to be in attendance with family, friends and community members today to help dedicate this memorial bridge for the late John I. King. As a former cabinet member under the Nez-Lizer Administration, he served with a purpose to help other Navajo veterans to receive benefits and support from the federal and state governments. We are happy to see the joy that this brings to his family and his community and as we honor his life and the service of all veterans,” stated Second Lady Lizer.

Delegate Yazzie, who worked closely with state legislators, including New Mexico State Rep. Harry Garcia (D-Dist. 69), to formally rename the bridge, remembers King as a friend and a person who dedicated his life to helping and serving others. “We honor his life and his commitment to helping our Navajo veterans. Thanks to his service, more veterans have homes and a better quality of life for their families. We will forever be grateful for his life and service.”

Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez also offers his appreciation to King’s family for their contributions and sacrifices for the Navajo people and veterans. When considering King for the position of the Director of the Navajo Veterans Administration, President Nez recalled his passion and strong stance on veterans’ issues, including veterans housing.

“Mr. King was a warrior on many fronts. His legacy and contributions to our country and the Navajo Nation will be cherished and remembered by many. We pray for strength and comfort for his family, his fellow veterans, and his community,” said President Nez.

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