



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

October 19, 2022

Navajo Nation honors the life and memory of Vietnam War veteran Andrew Kelly, Jr.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Wednesday, 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, October 21, 2022, in honor and remembrance of Vietnam War veteran Andrew Kelly, Jr., of Tuba City, Ariz., who passed away on Monday at the age of 72.

He is Honágháahnii (One-Walks-Around clan) and born for Tsé deeshgizhnii (Rock Gap People). His maternal grandfather is Naakai dine'é (The Mexican Clan) and his paternal grandfather is Tł'ízi lání (Manygoats Clan).

Kelly enlisted with the U.S. Army in 1969 and served with the 1st Air Cavalry Division as an Army Medic with the rank of SPC4. He was awarded several medals for his service in the Vietnam War including the Silver Star, Purple Heart, Bronze Star, 2 Air Medals, Vietnam Service Medal, Vietnam Commendation Medal, and Combat Infantry Badge. The Silver Star is the third highest military decoration for valor in combat.



PHOTO: Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez with U.S. Army veteran Andrew Kelly, Jr. in Tuba City, Ariz. on June 7, 2022.

“On behalf of the Navajo Nation, we offer our condolences to the family and community of our beloved veteran, Andrew Kelly, Jr., who gave of himself throughout his life to help and serve others. I, along with several of his fellow comrades, had the honor of presenting a new home

through the Navajo Veterans Housing Program to Mr. Kelly. He was a great warrior and defender of freedom. We honor and remember his life of service for our country and we give thanks to his children and grandchildren for sharing his life with us. We pray that his family takes comfort in knowing that he is now with God at this time. We also thank the Navajo Hopi Honor Riders for offering their support to Mr. Kelly's family and loved ones," said President Nez.

He is the son of Andrew Kelly, Sr., who served in the United States Army in World War II and his grandfather, Charles Kelly, served the United States in World War I.

"Mr. Kelly was loved and respected by many veterans, family, friends, and community members. We will never know the full extent of his sacrifices for our country and our people because he was such a humble person. We honor and remember him for everything he gave and for the love and support he offered to many throughout his lifetime. His legacy lives on in our hearts and memories," said Vice President Lizer.

Kelly has five daughters and two sons, 17 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. The Navajo Hopi Honor Riders will provide a funeral escort beginning at the Summit Funeral Home in St. Michaels, Ariz. at 10:00 a.m. MDT on Friday, October 21, 2022, followed by a gravesite service for Andrew Kelly, Jr. at a family plot in Sanders, Ariz.

###

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.