



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Law and Order Committee supports the family of late Navajo police officer Houston J. Largo at the National Peace Officers' Memorial Service**



**PHOTO:** Law and Order Committee members Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. and Delegate Edmund Yazzie, late Officer Houston J. Largo's parents Maggie Charley and Albert Largo, family members, and the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety attend the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service in Washington, D.C. on May 15, 2018.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – In honor of National Police Week, members of the Law and Order Committee attended two memorial services including the U.S. Department of the Interior Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony on Monday, and the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual National Peace Officers'

Memorial Service on Tuesday at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., to support the family of the late Navajo Nation police officer Houston J. Largo.

Officer Largo was one of 199 police officers recognized during the national memorial service. In March 2017, Officer Largo lost his life in the line of duty while responding to a domestic violent call.

LOC chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) expressed his condolences to the family and shared memories of Officer Largo, who attended Delegate Yazzie's D.A.R.E. presentations at St. Bonaventure Indian Mission School while he served as a sheriff deputy for McKinley County.

"I knew Officer Largo since he was in fifth grade and it saddened me when I heard of his passing. He was a bright, courageous, and loving individual. At a young age, he wanted to be a police officer to protect his family, community, and the Navajo Nation. He paid the ultimate sacrifice for all of us," said Delegate Yazzie. "This is a very emotional time for the family and I can't imagine the pain they feel everyday."

Officer Largo was Áshjįhíí (Salt People Clan) and born for Kiyaa'áanii (The Towering House Clan). He was originally from Mariano Lake, N.M. His parents, two brothers, and a sister survived him.

Prior to his death, he served with the Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety for five years where he received the "Lifesaving Award" and was recognized as the "2016 Indian Country Officer of the Year." He also served with the Gallup Police Department where he received the "2011 City Officer of the Year" award.

Thousands of people including 24 family members of Officer Largo gathered at the memorial service as his name was read while his parents, Maggie Charley and Albert Largo, placed a flower into a memorial wreath in his memory.

The family members were escorted by Navajo Nation police officer Ferrell Begay, Custer Bryant, and Christopher Sloan who worked closely with Officer Largo at the Crownpoint Police District.

LOC vice chair Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins), stated that the committee would continue to assist the family of fallen officers and strive to provide the best services for Navajo police officers.

"We need to continue to support the families of our fallen officers. The Largo family sacrificed their loved one to protect our families, community, and people. As police makers, we must do whatever we can to avoid tragic incidents such as this and provide the best resources to protect our Navajo police officers," said Delegate Smith.

Following the memorial service, Maggie Charley, expressed, "National Police Week has been emotional for each of us, but we shared the same emotions with hundreds of family members who lost their loved ones. We felt comfort knowing that my son didn't die in vain. We will continue to move forward knowing that he will forever be our hero."

“Officer Largo was a brave, humble, and selfless individual who dedicated his life to protect our families and communities. We honor and thank the family of Officer Largo. We need to provide comfort and prayers for the family during this difficult time,” said LOC member Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood).

The committee also attended meetings with U.S. Department of the Interior secretary Ryan Zinke, U.S. Department of Justice Office of Justice Programs, White House Executive Office staff members, and others to address public safety issues on the Navajo Nation.

“The committee will continue to work aggressively with NNDPS to improve public safety on the Nation. The memorial service is a step toward healing for both the Navajo Nation Police Department and the family,” said Delegate Yazzie.

Officer Houston J. Largo’s name is now carved into the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial along with over 20,000 other fallen officers near the U.S. Capitol.

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