



# 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Navajo Nation Council honors the life of Navajo Code Talker David Earl Patterson, Sr.

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Monday, members of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council offered their condolences to the family of Navajo Code Talker David Earl Patterson, Sr., who passed away on Sunday in Rio Rancho, N.M. at the age of 94.

"The members of the Navajo Nation Council send their condolences and prayers to the family of Navajo Code Talker David Earl Patterson, Sr., who was a great example for all of the people of the Navajo Nation through his honorable service in the U.S. Marine Corps, and the entire Navajo Nation. We will miss his presence and service in our communities where he helped many of our Navajo people," stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland).



**PHOTO: Navajo Code Talker David Earl Patterson, Sr.**

Patterson served in World War II with the Marine Corps from 1943-1945. As a Code Talker, he developed coded messages that helped win the war for the United States. For his courageous service, he was awarded the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor on Nov. 24, 2001.

After his military service, Patterson went to college and became a social worker and was employed with the Navajo Division of Social Services until he retired in 1987.

Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) recalled Patterson as a hard working and humble person, as he got to know him when working together for several years.

"He never said 'I did this or I did that,' but I got to know of his great service through his family," stated Delegate Chee.

Details of services for Code Talker Patterson are pending.

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