



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 5, 2017

MEDIA CONTACTS

Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nmb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council offers condolences to the family of Navajo Code Talker George B. Willie, Sr.

WINDOW ROCK – The 23rd Navajo Nation Council offers condolences to the family of Navajo Code Talker George B. Willie, Sr., who passed away on Tuesday at the age of 92. He was originally from Sawmill, and resided in the community of Leupp.

"The Navajo Nation Council offers our heartfelt condolences and prayers to the family of Navajo Code Talker George B. Willie, Sr. We remain grateful for his life and the service he provided for the Navajo Nation and our entire country," stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

Willie is Tó Dích'iínii (Bitter Water) and born for Tábaahá (Near The Water Edge). He served in the Marine Corps with the Second Marine Division from 1943-1946.

According to his family members, Willie served in the Battle of Okinawa, delivering and receiving coded messages using the Navajo language, which helped the United States win the battle and World War II. For his courageous service, he was awarded the Silver Congressional Medal of Honor in 2001.

Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tsidi To ii), who represents the community of Leupp on the Council, recalled Willie as a humble person who did not seek recognition for his service as a Code Talker.



PHOTO: Navajo Code Talker George B. Willie, Sr.
(Photo courtesy of the Navajo Code Talkers Association).

“Despite his tremendous service and sacrifice for our people, Mr. Willie never sought any type of recognition and that was a true reflection of the person he was,” said Delegate Phelps. “We will honor his life and we will keep his family and loved ones in our thoughts and prayers.”

Navajo Code Talker George B. Willie, Sr. is survived by his wife Emma Gean Willie. Together they have 10 children and several grandchildren.

The family will accept donations during a celebration of life event for Willie at the Presbyterian Church in Leupp, Ariz. at 6:00 p.m. on Dec. 8. Services for Willie are tentatively for Dec. 9. Details of the services are pending.

###

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council