



Navajo Nation Council grieves fallen Navajo Nation Police Officer Michael Lee

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 23, 2020



PHOTO: Navajo Nation Police Officer Michael Lee wearing the Navajo police uniform.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — During Friday’s special session of the 24th Navajo Nation Council, Navajo legislators honored the life and sacrifice of Navajo Nation Police Officer Michael Lee. The Council held a moment of silence for Officer Lee, who passed away early Friday morning from the coronavirus (COVID-19).

The funeral service for Officer Lee will be held Thursday, Jun. 25, 2020 at 10 a.m. at The Potter’s House Christian Center in Chinle, Arizona and will be open to immediate family members. The Navajo Nation Police Department will work to ensure all public health orders are adhered to for others wishing to pay their last respects to Officer Lee.

“We, the Council, keep Officer Lee’s family in our prayers and strength,” said Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie. “Our first responders are in constant contact with individuals within our chapters and so we have to keep up with our prayers.”

Navajo leaders were notified that Officer Lee served the within the Chinle Police District, the Toyei Police Department and the Window Rock Police District as a patrol and Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act officer.

Speaker Seth Damon stated, "It's sad to know we lost an individual who was a first responder battling COVID-19 and protecting our people on the front lines."

Before Friday, the Navajo Nation Police Department reported no COVID-19 related fatalities among the police force. Officer Lee's passing is remembered by council delegates as a solemn moment in the Navajo Nation's continuing battle against the spread of COVID-19.

Council Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton said, "This virus, an enemy that can't be seen, took an officer who dedicated his life to protecting our most vulnerable. It is heartbreaking that this invisible enemy has taken so many of our people. Officer Lee is a hero that will be remembered."

The Navajo Nation Council was notified by members of Officer Lee's immediate family Thursday night of his condition. The Navajo Nation Division of Public Safety also worked to ensure information was shared with Navajo leaders, who are providing necessary support in coordination with the family.

Lee leaves behind his wife and children.

Electronic donations to the memorial account for Officer Lee can be done at Wells Fargo using the following information: "Memorial Account for Officer Michael Lee", Wells Fargo Bank, Account Number 5341652773. Anyone wishing to utilize the Zelle fund transfer service may use the following information: Account Number 5341652773, Phone Number (928) 551-3225, Name: Erica Jake.

More information may be found on the Navajo Nation Police Department Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NavajoPoliceDepartment/>.

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MEDIA CONTACTS: nnlb.communications@gmail.com, (928) 287-2085
Byron C. Shorty, INT Communications Director
Timothy E. Benally, Public Information Officer
Isabella S. Robbins, Staff Writer