



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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25th Navajo Nation Council pays homage to the life of U.S. Army veteran Benjamin H. Benally



Photo of Sgt. Benjamin H. Benally provided by his family.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – The 25th Navajo Nation Council extends their condolences to the family of Sgt. Benjamin H. Benally, who passed away on Dec. 26, 2023, at the age of 44.

Benally was Deeshchii'nii and born for Tódich'íi'nii. His maternal grandfather is Naakai Dine'é and his paternal grandfather is Kinłichíi'nii.

“On behalf of my colleagues in the 25th Navajo Nation Council, we send our prayers and condolences to the family of Sgt. Benjamin H. Benally,” said Speaker Crystalyn Curley (Tachee/Blue Gap, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tselani/Cottonwood, Low Mountain). “We thank Sgt. Benally and his family for his service in defending our nation and sacred homeland.”

Benally enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2006 and was deployed to Afghanistan in December 2008. In July 2010, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant Benally with the 2-87th Infantry Regiment at Fort Drum, New York.

In 2014, he received the Purple Heart for wounds received in action while in Afghanistan during the Operation Enduring Freedom Campaign.

After being honorably discharged, Benally used his GI Bill to attend Niagara University in Niagara Falls, NY, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in communication studies in 2013. In 2022, he received a Culinary Arts Certificate and a Pastry and Baking Certificate from the Park City Culinary Institute.

According to his family, Benally was an avid reader, music collector, and Simpsons trivia buff.

The funeral service for Sgt. Benjamin H. Benally will be held Wednesday, Jan. 3 at 10 a.m., at the McDougal Funeral Home in Taylorsville, Utah. Following the service, his Military Funeral Honors burial will be held at the Utah Veterans Cemetery and Memorial Park in Bluffdale, Utah.

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