



Navajo Nation honors the life of Korean War Veteran Lee Cook

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 30, 2021

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Speaker Seth Damon and the 24th Navajo Nation Council offer their condolences to the family of Korean War veteran, Lee Cook, from Smoke Signals, Ariz.

Born in 1938, Cook is Bijh Bitoodnii (Deer Springs Clan) and born for the Kinyaa'aanii (Towering House People Clan). He was honorably discharged from the United States Army.

Last week, Delegate Begay presented a Navajo Nation Flag to the Cook family to honor Lee Cook's military service on behalf of the Navajo People.

"Mr. Cook is a loving husband, father, and grandfather who served our country with great distinction," said Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. "One of our fierce Navajo warriors, Mr. Cook is remembered as a humble man who deeply loved his family and community. Aside from his sense of humor, he leaves behind traditional teachings that give strength to his family today."

By the age of 16, while attending Keams Canyon Boarding School, he was drafted into the Army. Cook changed his birth date to serve in the military and specialized in the communications field.

"After the war, Mr. Cook returned home to raise his eight children and to live a simple life," said Speaker Seth Damon. "He was an avid Arizona Cardinals football fan who loved watching western films and taking care of his livestock. The Navajo Nation honors his life and offers our prayers to bring comfort to his family during this time."

Army veteran Lee Cook is survived by his wife of 65 years, Ella R. Cook, and eight children - Alta James, Tommy Nodestine, Nancy Brown, Christine Cook, Sylvia Sloan, Sandy Cook, Martina Cook Johnson, and Frankie Cook. He had twenty-two grandchildren, thirty-five great-grandchildren, and three great-great-great paternal grandchildren.

He will be laid to rest at the National Memorial Cemetery in Cave Creek, Ariz., on November 2, 2021.



PHOTO: Korean War Veteran, Lee Cook from Smoke Signals, Ariz.



**24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER**

October 25, 2021

To the family of Mr. Lee Cook,

It is with deep sadness that I write to you, the family of Lee Cook, of the United States Army, to express my deepest condolences on the passing of your husband, father, grandfather, and brother-in-arms on behalf of the 24th Navajo Nation Council.

Through his service as part of our esteemed United States Armed Forces, Mr. Lee Cook exemplified courageous Diné leadership in the dedication of his life to the service through his love of country and Diné People.

A Korean War warrior who showed great silent courage at home and abroad, we are saddened to learn of his passing. Nevertheless, we are abundantly proud of the decision he made to pursue this path in life, and we will continue to honor and celebrate his life by remembering the legacy he fought to build.

For his leadership in the United States Army, in his community and at home, we present this Navajo Nation flag in his honor.

Though he will be missed, we offer our prayers that his time among us will continue to shine on through his memory and through the example he set before us. Please know that during this time of grief, our most sincere condolences are with you and we pray for healing and for peace.

Sincerely,



Hon. Seth Damon, Speaker
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL



Hon. Kee Allen Begay, Jr., Delegate
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL