



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

## 25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Navajo Nation Council calls for continued recognition of Code Talkers' contributions**



**The Navajo Code Talker statue located at Veteran's Memorial Park in Window Rock, Ariz.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** – The 25th Navajo Nation Council expresses strong disappointment in the recent White House decision to remove articles acknowledging the Navajo Code Talkers military contributions from U.S. military websites. This action stems from recent White House Executive Orders aimed at terminating 'diversity, equity, and inclusion' (DEI) policies across all federally funded agencies.

"The service of the Navajo Code Talkers secured victory in the Battle of Iwo Jima and in World War II. The Navajo Code Talkers earned their place in history through their courage and sacrifice, giving their lives in defense of this nation," said Speaker Crystalayne Curley. "Erasing their extraordinary contributions from formal military history is not only disrespectful, it is dishonorable."

The Navajo Code Talkers saved countless lives by developing an unbreakable code, ensuring the secure transmission of vital military communications. Their bravery and ingenuity were instrumental in securing the United States' future.

On the implementation of the White House's DEI Executive Order, Speaker Curley emphasized that the Navajo Nation is not a racial group, but a distinct political entity. The

Nation's relationship with the federal government is grounded in treaties and federal trust responsibilities, not in racial categorization.

"The Navajo Nation Council is deeply concerned by being conflated into DEI initiatives that fail to recognize our unique political status," said Speaker Curley.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council is actively engaging with the administration to seek clarity on the reasoning behind the removal of articles recognizing the Code Talkers and other Indigenous military contributions.

"The United States would not be the nation it is today without the bravery and service of the Navajo Nation Code Talkers. Their legacy is a cornerstone of American history, and it is essential that their contributions be honored and recognized, not just in military history, but as an enduring symbol of sacrifice and service that shaped the very future of this country," said Speaker Curley.

The Navajo Nation Council will continue to honor the Navajo Code Talkers' vital role in shaping the outcome of World War II.

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