

Navajo Nation Police officer succumbs to gunshot injury

Written by gallupsun

Monday, 13 March 2017 10:36

One suspect in custody

Staff Reports

The FBI Albuquerque Division issued a media update stating that Officer Houston James Largo, 27, has passed away Sunday from critical injuries incurred from being shot earlier that morning near Prewitt, N.M.

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The officer was taken to the University of New Mexico Hospital in Albuquerque where he passed away at about 3 pm

Largo was a decorated officer who had served with the Navajo Nation Police Department for four years and six months. He was from Thoreau, N.M. and served with the Crownpoint District.

Suspect Kirby Cleveland was arrested; details about the suspect are still pending.

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The case remains under investigation.

“One of the most trying times I have in serving as President of the Navajo Nation is when I get word that one of our police officers has had their life taken needlessly,” Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said. “It brings to mind the situations our officers face every day in responding to calls, getting in their unit and putting their lives on the line. It must be difficult for family members to know their loved ones might not return.”

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Vice President Jonathan Nez said that police officers deserve respect for serving at the utmost in their line of duty.

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"We need to re-instill teaching respect for authority throughout our tribal community," Nez said. "Our Navajo Nation police officers risk their lives everyday to protect our communities. Officer Largo is a great example of an officer who paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect the life of another. We salute Largo and his service to the Navajo Nation."

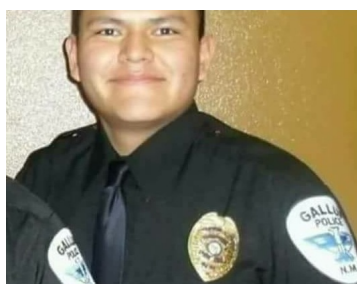
Begaye also called for continued support of police officers who are protecting the Navajo Nation.

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“We give our condolences to the family of Officer Largo and we will hold them up in prayer. We will support you. Our nation mourns for you as does the country,”



Begaye said. “Our officer’s lives are precious. They are the ones who stand guard over our nation and protect us.”

Story last updated at 7:06 pm.

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