

Navajo Nation mourns the loss of 101-year-old Diné World War II veteran Steven Harrison

Written by gallupsun
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WINDOW ROCK, ARIZ. — Navajo Nation leaders pay tribute to the life and military service of the late Steven Harrison, a member of the Navajo Nation and World War II veteran, who passed away on May 10 at the age of 101. Harrison is originally from Kimbeto, New Mexico, located within the Nageezi Chapter. He is Bit'ahnii and born for Tsenabahi ł nii.

“We cherish our Diné warrior’s service to our people and country. We are saddened by the loss of Mr. Harrison, but we recognize that he leaves behind a lasting legacy based on his honorable military service in World War II. On behalf of the Navajo Nation Council, we honor his life and offer prayers for strength and comfort for his family and loved ones as they lay him to rest,” Speaker Crystalyne Curley said.

Harrison enlisted with the U.S. Navy in May 1944 and was honorably discharged in May 1946. He earned several honors for his service in World War II including the American Area Ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific Ribbon with two bronze stars, the victory medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. He also served on the USS Texas battleship during his time with the Navy.

“The First Lady and I deeply respect and appreciate the sacrifices made by our veterans. We extend our condolences to Mr. Harrison’s family during this difficult time. Losing a veteran is a loss not just for the family but for the entire Navajo Nation,” Navajo Nation President Buu Nygren said.

Nygren commended Harrison for his service.

"His invaluable service to our great country will live on forever in memory. The countless lives he’s touched and the freedom he helped to protect. May his legacy endure, and his service to our country always be remembered with gratitude and respect,” Nygren said.

Following his military service, Harrison worked for Union Pacific, Santa Fe Railroad, Southern Union Gas Co., and built homes in the Farmington, New Mexico area. He is survived by his five daughters and one son.

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Funeral services for Harrison will be announced by the family. Desert View Funeral Home in Shiprock, New Mexico is working with the family on the funeral arrangements. The public may contact Arlene M. Johnson at (505) 444-1551 to make donations to the family.

