



Navajo Code Talkers Museum, Inc.  
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## **Public event at Tse Bonito, NM on National Navajo Code Talkers Day, August 14**

FLAGSTAFF, AZ - The National Navajo Code Talkers Day in Tse Bonito, NM comes together with a ground-breaking ceremony to bless the future site of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum, on Sunday, August 14, 2022. A public event is being planned to honor and remember the 400 Navajo Code Talkers who served in WWII who helped win the war in the Pacific, using the Navajo language creating the unbreakable code for radio communication.

This year marks the 80th Anniversary of Navajo Code Talkers first being created by the US Marine Corps at Camp Pendleton. The young Navajo Marines were recruited specifically for their proficiency in the unwritten language and trained to learn the code, then they continued to Fleet Marine Force Training Center at Camp Elliott in San Diego to advance in radio operations and messaging.

Today, we have three remaining Navajo Code Talkers: Thomas H. Begay, John Kinsel Sr. and Peter MacDonald Sr. As the nation mourned for Samuel F. Sandoval on July 29, 2022, he was the vice president of the non-profit Navajo Code Talkers Museum, Inc. His vision was to see the museum and he strived to make it possible.

NCTM board members, volunteers and sponsors have planned to make August 14th very special. The current schedule includes guest speakers: Lt. General David Bellon, US Marine Corps, AZ Governor Doug Doucey, Former Secretary of Defense James N. Mattis, AZ Congressman Tom O'Halleran and NM Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Speaker Seth Damon will also welcome the community and all visitors.

An Honor Run by Navajo YES will be coordinated. The course is a 2 mile fun run starting at 7am. The parade will begin at 8:15am. Staging is at 7am. There will be a designated space for all descendants of Navajo Code Talkers. Families who would like to set up a table or display 'Sharing our Legacy,' reserve your space by email: [navajocodetalkersmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:navajocodetalkersmuseum@gmail.com)

Opening Ceremonies, the welcome address, posting of colors and pledge of allegiance will begin at 9:30am. Opening address from Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, with guest speakers following. At 11:20am, keynote speaker, Lt. General David Bellon who serves as the Commander of the United States Marine Corps Reserve and Marine Corps Forces South. All times are Daylight Savings Time (DST).

The ground-breaking ceremony with shovels and key individuals to commemorate the future site of the Navajo Code Talkers Museum will conclude the agenda and a gourd dance thereafter which will end at 6pm. The public is welcome to be a part of this special day, bring your own chairs and umbrellas.



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The Marine Helicopter Transport Squadron 764, a part of the USMC Reserves (not active duty), from California, Naval Air Station, will be flying a MV-22 Osprey into Window Rock airport on Sunday. The public is welcome to come over to the hanger to see the aircraft up close and take photos after 12:30pm shortly after it lands.

For visitors who have not attended a gourd dance, it is a traditional dance, to honor warriors, veterans or men of wisdom. The opening song, usually everyone sits until it is complete, then they will follow the main gourd dancers. The men dance inside the arena as the women gather behind the dancers and gently move to the beat of drum while wearing a shawl. The men will have a sash, a gourd and a fan. Visitors remain under the canopy, outer ring, until they are invited to dance by a tribal member offering a gourd or a fan that they can use during the dance.

“It’s a warriors dance, all veterans are invited to dance,” said Davis Filfred, coordinator for the gourd dance. As the gourd dance concludes, usually there is a traveling song, no shaking of the gourd, just vocals.

Throughout the Unites States, many Americans will remember the Navajo Code Talkers and mission that they accomplished by speaking Navajo in WWII. On Navajo Nation, we celebrate and honor what our warriors have done to keep our homeland free, to protect our relatives and Diné Bikéyah where the Navajo language is still spoken fluently today.

For information about National Navajo Code Talkers Day on August 14, 2022 at Tse Bonito, NM, near the Navajo Nation’s capital in Window Rock, visit [www.NationalNavajoCodeTalkersDay.com](http://www.NationalNavajoCodeTalkersDay.com) or email [Navajocodetalkersmuseum@gmail.com](mailto:Navajocodetalkersmuseum@gmail.com)

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