



STATE OF NEW MEXICO **EXECUTIVE OFFICE** SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

Proclamation

***WHEREAS**, men from the Navajo Nation answered the call when the United States Marine Corps sought their service to America during World War II; and*

***WHEREAS**, these Navajo warriors were specifically recruited to help America and its allies in the war against Japan by quickly developing a new communications code based on their native language to help military planning and operations in the Pacific Theater; and*

***WHEREAS**, in addition to creating an unbreakable code, these Navajo Marines were also pressed into combat duty, seeing some of the fiercest fighting of the war, drawing upon their proud warrior tradition to survive the dense jungles and rugged terrain of Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima and numerous other locations in Asia; and*

***WHEREAS**, using this new communications code, the U.S. was able to form battle plans and communicate without fear of plans being deciphered by Japanese code-breakers, as such, historians today credit this unbreakable code with playing a pivotal role in saving countless lives, hastening the war's end and assuring success for the United States; and*

***WHEREAS**, these Navajo warriors were sworn to secrecy about their historic role long after Japan's formal surrender on September 2, 1945. The men were not able to discuss their duties with family, friends and loved ones. It was not until 23-years later, in 1968, that their work was finally declassified. These Navajo Marines were collectively given the name Navajo Code Talkers, and the scope of their truly remarkable role in World War II was finally able to be made public; and*

***WHEREAS**, a Presidential Proclamation in 1982 designated August 14th as National Navajo Code Talkers' Day to begin the process of properly recognizing the Navajo Code Talkers for their historic role in World War II, and expressing appreciation for all Native Americans who have served the United States in times of war.*

***NOW THEREFORE**, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim August 14, 2021 as:*

“Navajo Code Talkers’ Day”

throughout the state of New Mexico.

Attest:

*Maggie Toulouse Oliver
Secretary of State*

*Done at the Executive Office this
19th day of July 2021.*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the State of New Mexico.*

*Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor*

