

9 July 2017

Dear First Twenty-Nine family members,

This year marks the **75th anniversary** of when the First Twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers were recruited by the US Marine Corps and created the initial Navajo Code used during World War II. Because this year is a significant anniversary, we, the Gorman family, asked the Navajo Code Talker Day Committee to recognize this group this year at Navajo Code Talker Day.

As you may know, Navajo Code Talker Day is celebrated annually on August 14th in Window Rock, AZ at the Navajo Veteran's Park. This event has continued to grow since its inception in 2005, and this year, Navajo Code Talkers Day will be a two-day celebration, August 13, & 14th, 2017.

In honor of the 75th anniversary, we are organizing an informational booth that will highlight the story of the First Twenty-Nine Navajo Code Talkers. So far, the Gorman and Crawford families are participating. We plan to incorporate information about the recruitment and the development of the initial Navajo code, and we want to encourage ways to highlight each of the individual men and their service. Therefore, **we are asking First Twenty-nine families to participate and create an individual binder, or provide us with a copy of a personal photograph or two that we can include in a montage display.** Space is limited, but please be creative!

This booth is communal and will specifically highlight all the First twenty-nine story this year. You can also have your own booth space, too. If you would like to have your own booth space, please contact Michael Smith, head of the Navajo Code Talker Day Committee at snuffy@gmail.com. Be aware that spaces are very limited and, for an individual space, you will have to contact Michael directly.

Secondly, there will be a parade on Monday, August 14th. Code Talker families are encouraged to participate in honor of their loved one. **We are encouraging First twenty-nine families to also consider doing a float or marching in the parade.** To see examples of past parade floats or other examples, we suggest visiting *Our Navajo Code Talkers FaceBook* page and click on "Photos."

To help us plan accordingly for this booth space or to ask any additional questions, **please contact Anthony Gorman at 505-409-4490 or thefirsttwentynine@gmail.com to let us know if you want to participate or have further questions.**

Whether you decide to do a float or request your own booth space, we hope you will share something in memory of your First Twenty-nine Navajo Code Talker at the informational booth. We look forward to hearing from you! We imagine this as the beginning of future get-togethers of the First Twenty-nine families to share our stories, our memories, and get to know each other better!

Sincerely,

Carl N. Gorman and Eugene R. Crawford Families