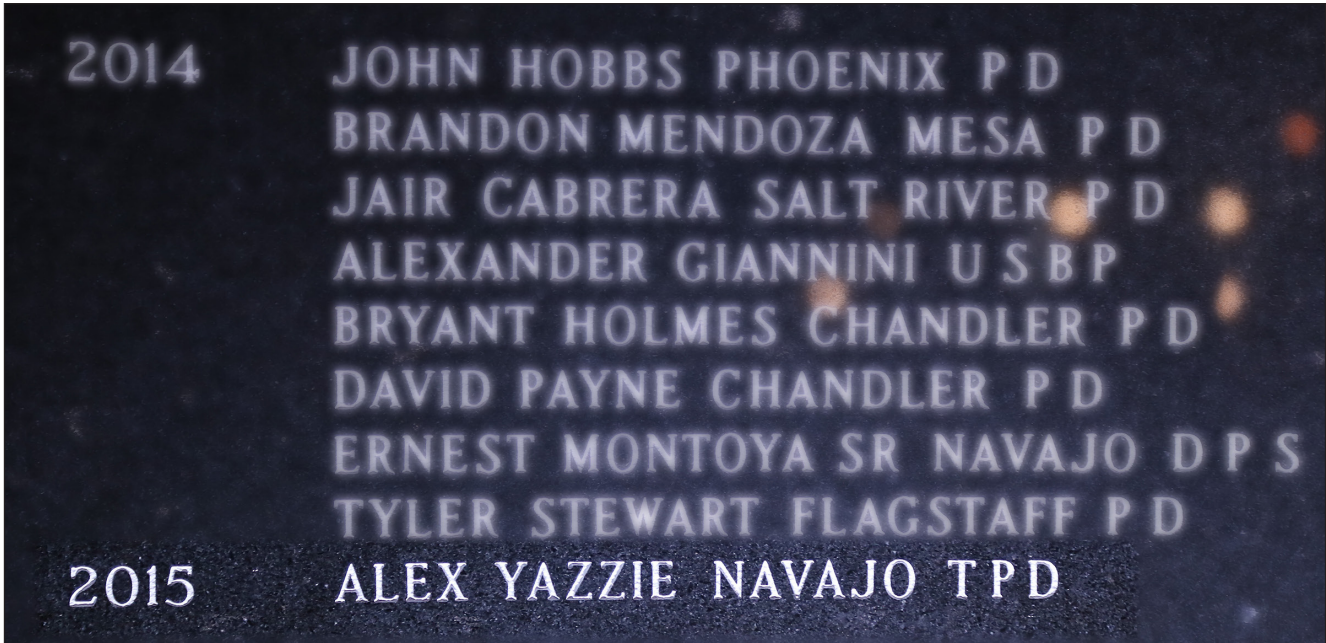




FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MAY 16, 2016

Communications Office
Office of the President and Vice President
Michele J. Crank
Mihio Manus
928.871.7000

PRESIDENT BEGAYE SAYS OFFICER ALEX YAZZIE WAS DISTINGUISHED IN HIS SERVICE



Fallen Navajo Nation Officer, Alex Yazzie's name was inscribed on the Arizona Peace Officer Memorial wall at Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix, Ariz on Monday, May 2.

WASHINGTON D.C.-As a part of National Police Week, four New Mexico police officers were honored at a memorial service for fallen officers in Washington, D.C. on Sunday, May 15.

The 35th Annual National Peace Officers' Memorial Service was held on the west front of the U.S. Capitol.

This year the name of Navajo Nation Police Officer Alex Yazzie was added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial wall.

Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye said Officer Yazzie was known throughout the Shiprock District as an officer who protected the community by patrolling the streets and dealing with criminals.

"He served distinguishably and many people trusted him," President Begaye said. "It was unfortunate for the Nation to have lost Officer Yazzie when he was pursuing a criminal in the Red Valley area."

Officer Yazzie was also honored on May, 2, at the 43rd Annual Arizona Peace Officers Memorial Service held at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza in Phoenix, Ariz. Officer Yazzie was the

only officer in Arizona killed in the line of duty during 2015. His name was added to the list of fallen officers on the Arizona Peace Officer Memorial wall.

During the Arizona Peace Officers Memorial, Yazzie's wife Marendra and their four children were in attendance. Marendra Yazzie said the memorials reminded her of the incident but she has learned to deal with these emotions as a healing process.

"I was able to feel honor. It was an honor knowing that he meant a lot to so many people. It surprised me to know that he was the only officer killed in the state of Arizona in 2015. I didn't know that until tonight," she said.

President Begaye extends condolences to the family on behalf of the Office of the President and Vice President and said he prays the Lord will protect and watch over them.

"We are grateful to have had Officer Yazzie serve for the length of time he did with the Navajo Nation. In his memory, we ask that he rest in peace," President Begaye said.

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