

Navajo Nation Mourns Loss of Senior Police Officer Nelson Martin

Written by Staff Reports
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Office of the President and Vice President

KAYENTA, Ariz. – The Navajo Nation mourns the passing of Senior Police Officer Nelson Martin who died in an off-duty automobile accident on Aug. 21. Martin was a valued member of the Kayenta Police Department and his loss is a shock to the community and the Navajo Nation as a whole.

“For one to lose his life in the way Officer Nelson Martin did is tragic and something we want to avoid as much as possible,” President Russell Begaye said. “We offer our condolences to the family and we know that not only you, but the community and the Nation will miss him greatly.”

As a member of the strategic reaction team and as a school resource officer, Martin worked in collaboration with the Kayenta Unified School District to provide security, prevent crime, and create a safe environment for our schoolchildren.

“The brave group of men and women in law enforcement undertake the tremendous challenge of serving and protecting the public,” Vice President Jonathan Nez said. “Thank you to all of our police officers for their service. Thank you, Officer Martin.”

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Martin will be remembered as a kind and thoughtful man with a wonderful sense of humor. He was well-respected in the community and within his department where he worked since 2002. His presence will surely be missed.

Funeral services were held on the evening of Aug. 22 at the Monument Valley Welcome Center in Goulding, Utah.

In speaking to the family, friends and loved ones of Officer Martin, Navajo Nation Chief of Police Phillip Francisco said, "During the time of mourning, know that we are with you. The upcoming future will test Officer Martin's family and our Department. We ask for your prayers and support as we navigate this difficult time."