

**2014 -- H 8286**

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LC005873  
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**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2014**

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**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE HONORABLE LINCOLN CHAFEE TO LOWER ALL  
STATE FLAGS AS A VISIBLE PUBLIC REMINDER TO ALL RHODE ISLANDERS OF  
THE SACRIFICES AND HEROIC ACTIONS OF CHESTER NEZ AND THE ORIGINAL  
TWENTY-NINE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS**

Introduced By: Representatives Abney, McLaughlin, DeSimone, Shekarchi, and  
Corvese

Date Introduced: June 05, 2014

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, As many young men did during World War II, Chester Nez lied about his  
2 age in order to enlist in the Marines. He was only in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Filled with pride for his  
3 heritage and an abiding love for his country, Chester Nez became one of the twenty-nine Navajo  
4 men who became the original code talkers; and

5           WHEREAS, During World War II, men from the Navajo Nation were recruited to  
6 develop a "code" that could be used to transmit sensitive and secretive military messages that the  
7 Japanese would not be able to understand; and

8           WHEREAS, The men spent thirteen weeks creating a glossary of words that utilized the  
9 Navajo language as the basis for the military's confidential transmissions. Their code was never  
10 broken; and

11           WHEREAS, In addition to successfully creating an unbreakable code, the Navajo Code  
12 Talkers took part in every assault the United States Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to  
13 1945, and served in all six Marine divisions; and

14           WHEREAS, Sadly, at the age of ninety-three, Chester Nez passed away in June of  
15 2014. He was the last surviving member of the twenty-nine original and heroic Navajo Code  
16 Talkers; now, therefore be it

17           RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
18 Providence Plantations hereby extends our deepest sympathy on the passing of Chester Nez. We

1 furthermore honor and applaud the contributions of all the Navajo Code Talkers and respectfully  
2 request the Honorable Lincoln Chafee to lower all state flags as a visible public reminder to all  
3 Rhode Islanders of the sacrifices and heroic actions of these brave men; and be it further

4           RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
5 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Honorable Lincoln Chafee.

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