

Foxwoods Resort Casino Welcomes Louis Rosa as Vice President of Slot Operations for the Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Enterprises



Louis Rosa

Foxwoods Resort Casino announces the appointment of Louis Rosa to the position of Vice President of Slot Operations for the Mashantucket Pequot Gaming Enterprises (MPGE).

Louis Rosa is a seasoned gaming and hospitality executive with over sixteen years of executive and operational gaming experience. Rosa has operated and managed slot and casino

operations for multi-property casino, entertainment and resort destinations including Harrah's, The Venetian, Players Island Casino, and President Casino.

River Spirit Casino Appoints Shawn S. Smyth as General Manager

River Spirit Casino, owned and operated by the Muscogee (Creek) Nation, has announced Shawn S. Smyth as the new General Manager.

With the opening of the new River Spirit Casino, South Tulsa's upscale gaming facility, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation is excited to bring new leadership on board. Smyth is a veteran casino/hotel/resort executive with a proven record of success in both tribal and non-tribal properties. Smyth's leadership experience and track record of positively impacting properties, as well as his success in resort master planning, design, construction, staffing, training, and openings are the exact qualities that River Spirit Casino was looking for to launch them into the future.

"The Board looks forward to a seamless transition in management and is confident that River Spirit Casino will continue to succeed under the leadership of Shawn Smyth," said Brant Beaver, Chairman of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Gaming Operations Authority Board.

Before joining the team at River Spirit Casino, Smyth most recently made a positive impact in Geyserville, California as the CEO of the River Rock Entertainment Authority and the General Manager of the River Rock Casino. Prior to his leadership role at River Rock, Smyth served as the General Manager at the Paradise Casinos located in Yuma, Arizona and Seven Feathers Hotel Casino Resort in Southern Oregon.

Commenting on his appointment, Smyth said, "I am very enthusiastic about joining the River Spirit Casino team and also working with the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. I believe that I will be a great fit at this property and look forward to contributing to its success and growth."



Shawn S. Smyth

Navajo Code Talker Willie K. Begay Passes Away

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., offered condolences to family of the late Navajo Code Talker Willie K. Begay of Pinon, Ariz. Willie K. Begay, who was ill with cancer, died June 3rd, said his daughter Kristy Kescoli Begay. He was 88.

"It is with great sadness that we bid farewell to our honored Code Talkers," President Shirley said. "It is with deep regret that we learned of the passing of Navajo Code Talker Willie K. Begay, yet another of our distinguished warriors from World War II who passed away. As a young man, he answered the call of the country, joined the Marines and left his home to defend the United States at great personal risk."

Mr. Begay was born on March 21, 1921, in Forest Lake, Ariz. He attended Keams Canyon Boarding School and Fort Wingate High School through the 11th grade. From there, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps on Aug. 10, 1944, in Santa Fe, N.M. He was discharged on July 5, 1946.

He was sent to Camp Pendleton for special military qualification and training as a Code Talker. He served with the 3rd Marine Division and was overseas for 11 months. In 2001, he received a Congressional Silver Medal in recognition of his service as a Navajo Code Talker.

After his military service, Mr. Begay worked for the Pinon Trading Post from 1946 until his retirement in 1984.

Navajo Code Talker Matthew Martin Passes Away

Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., conveyed his condolences to the family of the fourth Navajo Code Talker to pass away within five weeks. Matthew Martin of Crownpoint, N.M., who suffered a lengthy illness, died June 22 at his home, said his daughter Patricia Begay. He was 84.

"On behalf of the Navajo Nation, I offer our deepest condolences to the family of the late Matthew Martin, another of our distinguished Code Talkers, and we thank him and them for the service he rendered to the Navajo Nation and United States during World War II."

Mr. Martin was born on May 3, 1925, at Star Lake, N.M. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps at Santa Fe, N.M., on Oct. 12, 1943, was qualified as a marksman and a Code Talker, and attained the rank of corporal.

He saw combat at Iwo Jima and the Volcano Islands from Feb. 19 to March 16, 1945, and during the occupation of Japan from Sept. 23, 1945, to April 20, 1946.

He was honorably discharged from the First Separation Company MGB, USMC, on May 13, 1946, received the good conduct medal, the Navajo Code Talker Congressional Silver Medal in 2001, and his service and outstanding contributions were recognized by Arizona Governor Jane Hull on May 9, 2002, and by the 45th Arizona State Legislature on May 13, 2002.

After his military service, Mr. Martin worked for the BNSF Railway, retiring in 1988. Since his retirement, he worked at home in Crownpoint, N.M., raising livestock and farming. ♣