

PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT: Elizabeth M. Martinez Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney Public Affairs Officer <u>elizabeth.martinez@usdoj.gov</u> 505.224.1469

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NAVAJO MAN FROM ARIZONA TO SERVE THIRTY MONTHS IN PRISON FOR FEDERAL INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CONVICTION

ALBUQUERQUE – Andy Ray Denny, 24, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Pinon, Ariz., was sentenced in federal court this morning to a 30-month term of imprisonment for his involuntary manslaughter conviction. Denny will be on supervised release for two years after he completes his prison sentence.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Denny pled guilty to killing Marcellino Morris, Jr., a 60-year-old Navajo man, on Dec. 30, 2011, while driving under the influence of alcohol on the Navajo Indian Reservation in McKinley County, N.M. In entering his guilty plea, Denny admitted that, on the morning of Dec. 30, 2011, he drove his vehicle after he had been drinking alcohol on and off for the previous nine hours. He further admitted that he had not slept for nearly 24-hours when he fell to sleep at the wheel, crossed into the lane of incoming traffic, and struck the victim's car head on. The victim, who was driving the car, died on impact. More than five hours after the crash, Denny's blood alcohol concentration was at the legal limit of .08.

Denny is required to surrender to a federal correctional institution to be designated by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons within 60 days to begin serving his prison sentence.

The case was investigated by the Shiprock Division of the Navajo Nation Department of Public Safety, and was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kyle T. Nayback.

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