



TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION
OFFICE OF THE
CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN



EDWARD D. MANUEL
CHAIRMAN

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VICE CHAIRMAN

O'ODHAM HA-WE:HEJED
"For the People"

Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018

STATEMENT ON THE PASSING OF STANLEY R. LISTON

SELLS, Ariz. – The Tohono O'odham Nation was saddened to learn of the passing of Stanley R. Liston, the original "Shadow Man" and founder of the Shadow Wolves.

Stanley was born in Sells and grew up on his family's ranch in Mexico. Starting at a young age, he learned from his father how to read the signs left in the desert by straying livestock and other creatures. As a young man, he worked at a California steel mill and as a delivery truck driver in Tucson before joining the Tohono O'odham Police Department in 1964.

In 1972, Stanley and several other officers were recruited by the U.S. Customs Service to help track drug smugglers crossing into the Nation's lands. He put his wealth of tracking knowledge to good use in this new role, using traditional techniques to cut for sign and locate smugglers in the roughest terrain.

Stanley's unique tracking skills became legendary. Customs officers called him "the Shadow Man" and his fellow trackers became known as the "Shadow Wolves." Media from all over the world covered the unique skills he and other Shadow Wolves utilized, and law enforcement from multiple countries sought their training as trackers.

Those who were fortunate to work with Stanley consistently recognized him as one of the best trackers in the world, and an example to follow. As one U.S. Customs agent put it, "If one of my children were lost in the desert, I'd want Stanley to be the one to find my child."

It was difficult and dangerous work. Once, a fleeing suspect shot at Stanley and riddled his vehicle with holes. In 1986, after smugglers killed fellow Shadow Wolf Glenn Miles, Stanley tracked them all the way to the international border.

Stanley dedicated his life to protecting the people of the Tohono O'odham Nation and the United States. His legacy lives on in the organization he founded, the internationally-recognized Shadow Wolves, which remains the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's only Native American tracking unit. The traditional tracking techniques that Stanley put to use fighting smugglers in 1972 continue to guide the Shadow Wolves to this day.

On behalf of the Tohono O'odham Nation, we offer our deepest condolences to Stanley's family and friends. Please join us in keeping them in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

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