



PRESS RELEASE

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**NAVAJO MAN FROM ARIZONA PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL
INVOLUNTARY MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE**

ALBUQUERQUE – Andy Ray Denny, 27, an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation who resides in Pinon, Ariz., plead guilty to an involuntary manslaughter charge in federal court this morning. The guilty plea was entered under a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

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.

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. Denny 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. Over five hours after the crash, Denny's blood alcohol concentration was at the legal limit of .08.

At sentencing, Denny faces a maximum eight years of imprisonment and three years of supervised release. Denny remains on conditions of release pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

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

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