



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 30, 2014

Vice President Jim returns home from hospitalization, begins recovery



Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim was hospitalized for more than four weeks after suffering from a spider bite. He is now on the road to recovery. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation Vice President Rex Lee Jim is back home.

On August 28, Vice President Jim was admitted to Tsehootsooi Medical Center and was eventually transferred to the University of New Mexico Hospital on August 30, where he would be hospitalized for more than four weeks.

“I was bit by a brown recluse spider and its venom spread like wildfire through my lower left leg,” Vice President Jim said. “I also found out that after a lifestyle of healthy

activities and eating and resting well I still ended up being diabetic.”

The diabetes affected his immune system in combatting the venom. Vice President Jim was told that if the infection went above his knees it would have spread to his heart and lungs and took his life.

News of his diabetic status has only redoubled his efforts to fight the disease and encourage the Navajo people to do the same.

“Please continue to eat healthy and live healthy lifestyles. You must ensure you visit the hospital for your yearly checkups,” he said.

News of the vice president’s hospitalization was not released due to privacy considerations and safety concerns with visitors at the hospital, especially given the severity of infection to his leg.

Vice President Jim had to consent to have his leg amputated, if it became necessary. Thankfully, that was not the case and he is now on the road to recovery.

“They did a few surgeries to remove the infection, dead tissue, ligaments and muscles. In the end, they saved my leg and life,” he said.

He is working with physical therapists and is beginning to walk again. Vice President Jim will be at the Northern Navajo Nation Fair this weekend and the State of the Navajo Nation address later in the month.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 29, 2014

MEDIA CONTACTS

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Naize steps down from the Navajo Nation Council

WINDOW ROCK – In a written letter, Johnny Naize today resigned from his position as speaker and council delegate of the Navajo Nation Council.

“I have been privileged to represent the communities of Tselani/Cottonwood, Nazlini, Many Farms, Tachee/Blue Gap, Low Mountain,” stated Naize. “The progress made in my sixteen years of service as an elected official fills me with the utmost thanks for the projects and improvements made for my communities.”

Naize, who began serving in 1999 as a member of the 19th Navajo Nation Council, also thanked members of the Council, legislative staff, and President Ben Shelly for their service and assistance in helping the Navajo people.

“I wish him and his family the best as they move forward,” said Speaker Pro Tem LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

According to 11 N.N.C. §140, upon written notice to the Navajo Election Administration, the resignation shall be effective and the Navajo Election Administration shall be authorized to declare a vacancy.

Edison Wauneka, executive director of the Navajo Election Administration, said a vacancy declaration is expected to be issued today. Following the declaration, each of the impacted chapters will have 45 days to recommend an individual to fulfill the vacant position.

Appointment of an individual to fill the vacancy will be at the discretion of the speaker or speaker pro tem of the Council, in accordance with Navajo Nation law.

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For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org

RDC approves FY 2015 Tribal Transportation Improvement Program



The Navajo Transportation Complex in Tse Bonito, N.M. is the headquarters for Navajo Division of Transportation. The approval of the five-year TTIP will allow NDOT to move forward with more than \$277 million in projects. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK—The Resources and Development Committee of the 22nd Navajo Nation Council approved the Navajo Nation FY 2015 Tribal Transportation Improvement Program on Sept. 2, 2014.

Navajo Division of Transportation submitted a 60-page document to RDC for review and detailed the five-year project listing, which includes preliminary studies, construction administration and roadway improvements.

Roads are a major concern for many Navajo chapters.

NDOT is charged to perform critical functions related to transportation road improvements in collaboration with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, local, state and federal agencies for development of a tribal transportation priority listing.

The projects are mandated by 25 CFR Part 170, Subpart D under the Tribal Transportation Program.

Paulson Chaco, director of NDOT, said the FY 2015 TTIP now moves forward to the Federal Highway Administration for final approval. If approved,

the project listing for the Nation will be included in the national transportation improvement program.

He said progress has been swift during this administration, but additional road improvement needs arise during monsoon flooding and the winter season.

“Projects in the five-year TTIP include cultural and environmental impact studies, right-of-ways, centerline surveys and designs,” Chaco said.

Other program funds include safety projects, planning, operation and maintenance. Additionally, two percent of planning funds are used to provide technical assistance to chapters for transportation planning, mapping, roadway data collection and long range transportation plans.

A total of \$277,500,000 has been programmed into the TTIP through FY 2019. The Navajo Nation receives \$55,500,000 annually in funding from the FHWA for transportation projects. NDOT receives \$10 million of that amount, after it entered into a direct funding agreement with the FHWA in

2013.

“The direct funding agreement changed the dynamics of transportation on the Navajo Nation,” Chaco said. “The BIA is now partners with Navajo DOT. They are no longer our oversight. This has strengthened our tribal sovereignty.”

Execution of the direct funding agreement was only one of the directives made to Chaco by Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly when the administration took office in 2011. Early on in the administration, Navajo Nation Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Church Rock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau) approached NDOT with the need to repair N7054, a dirt road located in Pinedale, N.M.

The N7054 project is on the five-year TTIP for grade, drain and gravel construction for 3.5 miles of road. This safety project is at a cost of \$3,125,000. Preliminary engineering will be from 2015 through 2017, at a cost of \$325,000. The following two years will be construction engineering and construction, at a cost of \$2,800,000.

However, immediate needs exist for local residents in Pinedale that travel on the road to get to school, work, medical services and other basic needs.

Chaco said the Pinedale project is a two-fold initiative, with efforts to address the immediate need for safety of the traveling public and the other to provide a long-term solution to the roadway.

Yazzie was in attendance for the RDC meeting on Tuesday and stressed the importance of improving the road in Pinedale. In 2012, he requested that the project be placed on the priority listing and staunchly advocated

for its improvement since.

Chaco said, “This road project, like many across the Navajo Nation, has been discussed for years, but actual progress rarely occurs due to many factors, including lack of funding.”

He said the immediate need was to improve the road, which was often impassable because of mud during inclement weather. Because of this overwhelming need to provide residents with a usable road during adverse conditions, Chaco said NDOT has earmarked Fuel Excise Tax fund to purchase gravel for the road in the interim until the long-term project is completed.

A total of 1.4 miles of road will be graveled on N7054. This will require a purchase of 2,651 tons of gravel to complete the road.

We will utilize NDOT equipment and operators to place the gravel, Chaco said. He said the Pinedale project was just one of hundreds across the Nation that require immediate attention.

For now, NDOT continues to assist the Navajo people through FHWA and FET funding, combined with ingenuity and adaptability.

Information: www.navajodot.org

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 22, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO : President Ben Shelly
THE NAVAJO NATION

Sally Jewell, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior

Sam Hirsch, Acting Assistant Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice

Kevin Washburn, U.S. Assistant Secretary
Bureau of Indian Affairs

WHAT : Announcement of Multi-Million Trust Settlement

WHERE : Window Rock Tribal Park
100 Parkway Drive
Window Rock, Arizona 86515

WHEN : Friday, Sept. 26, 2014
10:00 a.m.

CONTACT : *Rick Abasta, Communications Director
Office of the President and Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION
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Fax: 928-871-4025
Email: rickyabasta@navajo-nsn.gov*

* There will be a press conference immediately following the event.





President Shelly meets with U.S. EPA to discuss carbon dioxide ruling



President Shelly met with federal officials from the U.S. EPA to discuss the upcoming rulemaking decision for carbon dioxide. (Photo by Michele Morris)

SANTA FE—The U.S. EPA is expected to release their proposed carbon dioxide air quality supplemental ruling for Indian Country in mid-October.

Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly met with Janet McCabe, acting assistant administrator for the Office of Air and Radiation, along with Jane Nishida, acting assistant administrator for the Office of International and Tribal Affairs and Jared Blumenfeld, regional administrator for U.S. EPA Region 9 on Sept. 15 in Santa Fe.

Joining the president were Navajo Nation representatives from Department of Justice, Navajo EPA, Division of Natural Resources and NTUA. The Navajo Nation delegation shared statistics demonstrating the economic disparities that exist on tribal lands.

Statistics from the Navajo Nation included the unemployment rate of 52 percent versus 6.3 percent for the U.S. More than 60 percent of Navajos

do not have telephone service; 32 percent don't have electricity; and 38 percent do not have running water.

The relevance of the statistics was to demonstrate the disadvantages facing Navajo tribal members with regard to basic necessities and economic development. Those figures were contrasted against the Nation's abundance of coal, more than 100 years worth, which is an economic boon and necessity for the tribe.

Recent air quality decisions by the U.S. EPA to limit the use of coal-fired power plants as an energy source have a negative impact on the tribal economy.

President Shelly said consultation with the U.S. EPA was absolutely critical for the proposed carbon dioxide ruling because the power plants located on the Navajo Nation provide tribal self-sufficiency.

"We just wrapped up the final BART decision for Navajo Generating Station

and completed a very complex rulemaking," President Shelly said. "Now we have the proposed carbon dioxide rulemaking before us."

He explained that the economy of the Navajo Nation is dependent upon the coal power plants, not only for employment but also for revenue streams from taxes, lease payments and other royalties that support the direct services to the Navajo people.

Despite the push for restrictions on coal-fired plants across the country, the tribal air quality has always passed standards set by the federal government.

President Shelly said, "Ever since such data started being recorded, the Navajo Nation air quality has always been good. Today, there is significantly less air pollution coming in from power plants on and near the Nation."

Blumenfeld commended President Shelly for his "hard work for the Navajo Nation" and said he will leave a lasting legacy for his work to protect public health and the environment.

McCabe echoed similar sentiments and said, "You are the most active tribal leader to advocate and conduct government-to-government discussions for every ruling.

"On behalf of the Obama administration, we are committed to working with the Navajo Nation as a sovereign entity and consider your comments before issuing a supplemental ruling," she added.

In Nov. 1984, the U.S. EPA enacted a policy for the administration of environmental programs on Indian reservations.

The policy was in accordance with the Federal Indian Policy that was enacted on Jan. 24, 1983.

The main themes of the policy stated "that the Federal Government will pursue the principle of Indian 'self-government' and that it will work directly with Tribal Governments on a 'government-to-government' basis."

Because of this, President Shelly said the U.S. EPA must carefully consider the tribal concerns and recommendations and make regulatory decisions that uphold trust responsibilities and obligations as a trustee.

His said the U.S. EPA needs to find a balance between economic development, progress and environmental protection that will allow the Navajo Nation to thrive in the years to come.

"We want to request for a public comment period extension from 30 to 45 days," President Shelly said. "Don't treat us similar to states, we are different and deserve to be treated as a sovereign."

Sixty years ago, the initial agreements for the power plants was negotiated by the federal government and power plant owners for long term sweetheart deals. Today, the Navajo Nation stands poised to realize the benefits of renewed leases that it has negotiated directly with the power plant owners, which are lessees to the Nation.





THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE LATE NAVAJO CODE TALKER WILFORD BUCK

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the late Wilford Buck, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, The late Wilford Buck was a Navajo Code Talker who served the United States of America, the Navajo Nation, and U.S. Marine Corps with courage, honor and distinction; serving from 1944 to 1947, when he was honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, The late Wilford Buck served as a Navajo Code Talker and was stationed in Pearl Harbor, Saigon and Japan; and

WHEREAS, The late Wilford Buck also was a Navajo Code Talker and a beloved member of the Navajo Code Talker Association, traveling to many states to participate in book signings and share the story of the Navajo Code Talkers; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation unites and offers prayers for his family and friends during this time of grief;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all Navajo Nation flags shall be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Navajo Code Talker Wilford Buck, from sunrise on September 18 to sunset on September 21, 2014.

ORDERED THIS 18th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Shelly", written over a horizontal line.

Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE LATE NAVAJO CODE TALKER CPL. DAVID JORDAN

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the late David Jordan, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, The late David Jordan was a Navajo Code Talker who served the United States of America, the Navajo Nation, and U.S. Marine Corps with courage, honor and distinction; serving from March 26, 1943 to December 30, 1945, when he was honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, The late David Jordan served as a Navajo Code Talker and was stationed in the Asiatic-Pacific Theater from September 21, 1943 to December 4, 1945, fighting in the Battles of Bougainville, Solomon Islands, Iwo Jima, New Caledonia, Mariana Islands, Volcano Islands and Hawaiian Islands; and

WHEREAS, The late David Jordan also was a Navajo Code Talker who was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign and the Congressional Silver Medal; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation unites and offers prayers for his family and friends during this time of grief;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all Navajo Nation flags shall be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Navajo Code Talker Cpl. David Jordan, from sunrise on September 18 to sunset on September 21, 2014.

ORDERED THIS 18th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Shelly", written over a horizontal line.

**Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 16, 2014

President Shelly executes line item veto of FY 2015 comprehensive budget



President Shelly reviews his line item veto of portions of the FY 2015 comprehensive budget. (Photo by Rick Abasta)

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—On Sept. 15, after the requisite 10-day review period, President Shelly signed Legislation No. CS-46-14.

President Shelly executed his line item veto authority for the Navajo Nation FY 2015 Comprehensive Budget.

During the FY 2015

budget process, Council raised concerns about the many politically appointed positions in the budget and that funding for those employees would be best used for direct services.

President Shelly agreed with Council and vetoed almost \$2 million earmarked for legislative district assistants in the FY

2015 budget.

The legislative district assistants were budgeted for \$395,343 for personnel expenses, \$1,342,306 for travel expenses, \$31,680 for communications and utilities, and \$474 for special transactions. The total amount vetoed was \$1,769,803.

The president’s memorandum detailing the veto decision was clear on trimming nearly \$2 million off the budget to provide direct services for the Navajo people.

“The Navajo people reduced the Council from 88 to 24 with the perception the Navajo Nation government would see cost savings within the legislative budget,” President Shelly stated. “However, this has not been the case and the legislative budget has increased.”

He also vetoed the in the amount of \$500,008 from the excess indirect cost recovery, which was slated for the decentralization initiative.

The amount in question was woven into the budget of the Division of Community Development and the line item veto was necessary to ensure compliance with 2 CFR

Part 225.

President Shelly stated that the IDC excess recovery fund is projected to be less in FY 2015 and that the funds need to be budgeted prudently to cover any potential shortfalls.

President Shelly also vetoed the budget for the Department of Youth Development because the intended legislative purpose as adopted by Council in CS-46-14 was not met by the proposed budget.

The funding of \$2,000,000 for the department was intended for youth employment and development. However, the budget that was submitted utilized a portion of the department funds for building repairs and maintenance.

President Shelly said, Office of Management and Budget and the program must correct the budget to reflect the intended legislative use as adopted by Council before Oct. 1.

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THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE LATE NAVAJO CODE TALKER PFC GUY CLAUSCHEE

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the late Guy Clauschee, who served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, The late Guy Clauschee was a Navajo Code Talker who served the United States of America, the Navajo Nation, and U.S. Marine Corps with courage, honor and distinction; serving from March 24, 1945 to October 24, 1946, when he was honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, The late Guy Clauschee served in the 1st Marine Division and was stationed in the Pacific Theater and the Occupation of China; and

WHEREAS, The late Guy Clauschee also was a Navajo Code Talker who was awarded the Good Conduct Medal and the Congressional Silver Medal; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation unites and offers prayers for his family and friends during this time of grief;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all Navajo Nation flags shall be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Navajo Code Talker Guy Clauschee, from sunrise on September 12 to sunset on September 15, 2014.

ORDERED THIS 12th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Shelly", is written over a horizontal line.

Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION



THE NAVAJO NATION

Proclamation

IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THE LATE
NAVAJO CODE TALKER PFC ROBERT WALLEY SR.

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation is greatly saddened by the loss of the late Robert Walley Sr., who served in the U.S. Marine Corps; and

WHEREAS, The late Robert Walley Sr. was a Navajo Code Talker who served the United States of America, the Navajo Nation, and U.S. Marine Corps with courage, honor and distinction; serving from 1943 to 1945; when he was honorably discharged; and

WHEREAS, The late Robert Walley Sr. served in the 6th Marine Division and was a Marine Raider that fought in the Battles of Bougainville, Guam, Okinawa and the occupation of the Emirau Islands; and

WHEREAS, The late Robert Walley Sr. also was a Navajo Code Talker who was awarded the Purple Heart and the Congressional Silver Medal; and

WHEREAS, The Navajo Nation unites and offers prayers for his family and friends during this time of grief;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BEN SHELLY, President of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim that all Navajo Nation flags shall be flown at half-staff in honor of the late Navajo Code Talker PFC Robert Walley Sr. from sunrise on September 12 to sunset on September 15, 2014.

ORDERED THIS 12th DAY OF SEPTEMBER 2014

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ben Shelly", is written over a horizontal line.

**Ben Shelly, President
THE NAVAJO NATION**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 2, 2014

MEDIA ADVISORY

WHO : President Ben Shelly
THE NAVAJO NATION

Geneva Tsoularakis, Fair Manager
Navajo Parks and Recreation Dept.

Cyndy Taylor, Opening Ceremony Coordinator
Navajo Nation Fair

WHAT : 68th Annual Navajo Nation Fair
Ribbon Cutting and Opening Ceremony

WHERE : Navajo Nation Fairgrounds
Window Rock, Ariz.

WHEN : Sept. 3, 2014
10:00 a.m.

CONTACT : *Rick Abasta, Communications Director*
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