



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly presents proclamation declaring ‘Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week’ in October

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., and Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly on Tuesday proclaimed the second week of October as “Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week.”

of 21 and 64, some 29 percent have a disability. But the largest group of disabled Navajos, at 70 percent, are those aged 64 and older, he said.

During a ceremony at the Navajo Education Center, Mr. Shelly presented a proclamation to Hoskie Benally, chairman of the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities.

“With your help and the advisory council, you need now to get stronger,” the Vice President said. “For too long you have been ignored, and the way to do it is through Mr. Benally’s leadership here. You’ve got to get stronger. You’ve got to get aggressive because you are recognized by the federal government.”

In June 2005, the Navajo Nation Council established the *Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities* to advocate for individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to employment, education, housing, public safety, communication, recreation, medical treatment, and socialization opportunities, the proclamation states.

Mr. Shelly said that there are approximately 25,000 Navajos with a disability. Among those between the ages



Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly presents a proclamation declaring the second week of October as “Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week” to Hoskie Benally, chairman of the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities.

“This proclamation provides a forum for a concerted effort throughout the Navajo Nation to educate Navajos on the successes and issues of Navajos with a disability,” the Vice President said.

The proclamation calls upon all Navajos to participate in events and activities during *Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week*.

The Vice President said the country is celebrating the 19th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 which has allowed disabled persons to

participate more fully in life, and has opened doors for countless Americans by removing barriers, improving employment opportunities, expanding government services, and regulating public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications.

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