



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

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Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., Vice President Ben Shelly, First Lady Vikki Shirley give Christmas turkeys to elderly, needy

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., Vice President Ben Shelly and First Lady Vikki Shirley are visiting elderly and needy individuals and families this week to leave them with a Christmas turkey and toys for children.

Patrick Byrne, CEO and President of Overstock.com, once again generously donated 1,500 turkeys, and this year Eddie Basha of Bashes' Diné Markets donated 500 turkeys.

“As Navajo people, we have to look after our elders, our veterans, our orphans,” President Shirley said. “I’m very grateful to Patrick Byrne and Eddie Basha for making these gifts to them possible, for showing the Navajo people that they have a heart, and for their selfless act of generosity at the Christmas season.”

“The people receiving this gift are so thankful for it they shed tears,” he said. “Many say they never thought anyone would give them something for Christmas. It’s an honor to be the bearer of good tidings.”

Among some 100 people who received turkeys on Monday was Kee Litsui of Chinle Valley. He told President and Mrs. Shirley that the gift was really going to make him feel better. He said he didn’t think anyone would bless him in this way, and he never expected to see the Navajo Nation President show up at his door.

Another was Louise Wagner who said she was at first nervous to see seven vehicles heading toward her home. She told the President it was a great surprise to see him and the First Lady, and was very pleased by the visit.



Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., and First Lady Vikki Shirley present a Christmas turkey to Kee Litsui of Chinle Valley. Mr. Litsui said he didn’t think he’d receive a gift from anyone this Christmas and was surprised to see the President of the Navajo Nation come to his house to deliver it.

Several of the people visited by the President and First Lady were found to be living by themselves. The President and First Lady were limited to visiting only 15 homes because of muddy road conditions following the snowfall early Monday morning.

Among their other stops were the Chinle Chapterhouse, the Chinle Department of Youth, the Navajo Nation Program for Self-Reliance and the Chinle Community Health Representative office.

At the chapterhouse, Mrs. Shirley said it was part of her job to be concerned about the needs of the people, the elderly, the grandmothers and grandfathers as a mother worries about her family.

Several of the people they visited Monday were in wheelchairs or were bedridden and needed a family member to be looking in on them regularly, she said.

Individuals and families without support or physically unable to get to the chapterhouse were selected to receive Christmas turkeys this year.

On Wednesday, Navajo Nation Vice President Ben Shelly visited homes in the Eastern Navajo Agency to distribute turkeys.

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Sarah Billy, left, visits with President Shirley and First Lady Vikki Shirley when they stopped by her home to deliver a Christmas turkey.

Louise Wagner, below, welcomes the President and First Lady when they stop by to visit her on Monday.

