



The Navajo Nation Council - Office of the Speaker

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Navajo Nation to welcome Pony Express to the Nation's capitol

National veterans' advocacy group helps to raise money for children of soldiers killed in action

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — The Navajo Nation will welcome the Pony Express to the Nation's capitol at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 20, at the Navajo Nation Veterans' Park.

The Pony Express is an advocacy group that was organized nearly three years ago to raise money for the children of soldiers who have been killed in action. A trust fund was created by the group for the college-age children to help with college expenses.

The organization has raised nearly \$1.5 million for these children and their efforts continue to grow each day. The group has seen a gradual increase of more businesses contributing to this effort.

In the process, the Pony Express organization also pays tribute to fallen soldiers when requested. One of the group's trademark is a replica of the liberty bell, which they ring in honor of fallen soldiers.

The group often coordinates with other veterans' advocacy groups to bring attention to issues affecting veterans and active-duty military personnel.

The group travels in coordination with the Run for the Wall — a national veterans advocacy organization.

"The 21st Navajo Nation Council has actively reached out in partnership in the month of May 2008 requesting attention for Navajo veterans' needs," said Leila Help-Tulley, legislative staff assistant with the Office of the Speaker. "This opportunity comes forth as we have worked closely with the Run for the Wall advocacy group."

The Navajo Nation welcoming ceremony will involve a Navajo Nation police escort onto the Navajo Nation and an honor ride escort from the Arizona-New Mexico state line to the Navajo Nation Veterans' Park.

The Pony Express will depart Window Rock and continue on their journey to Phoenix, Ariz.

"This will be a good event to attend, because it contributes to the importance of the establishment of our partnership advocacy with other Navajo Nation efforts in Washington, D.C.," Help-Tulley said. "We need to nurture this future relationship for the interest of our young Navajo children that have been left fatherless from the war."

