



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Delegates attend signing ceremony for legislation that
will provide funding to construct homes for Navajo Veterans**



Photo: From left to right, Council Delegate Danny Simpson, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale, Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd, President Ben Shelly, and Speaker Johnny Naize

WINDOW ROCK – On Friday afternoon, several Council Delegates including Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) attended a signing ceremony at President Ben Shelly’s office for resolution CS-48-13, amending 12 N.N.C. §1171, the Navajo Nation Veterans Trust Fund to provide funding for the construction of 15 homes and to provide minor repairs and renovations for Navajo Veterans in each of the Nation’s five agencies, over the course of four years.

Legislation prime sponsor Council Delegate Alton Joe Shepherd (Jeddito, Cornfields, Ganado, Kin Dah Lichíí, Steamboat) expressed appreciation for each of the entities involved in developing and approving the legislation.

“I’m very thankful that the President saw the importance of this legislation,” said Delegate Shepherd. “I also want to thank the Vice President [Rex Lee Jim], who was instrumental in the beginning along with the Department of Veterans Affairs and above all, we want to thank the Veterans who have given their input and helped us reach this point.”

Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) who co-sponsored the legislation, thanked previous and current delegates for helping Navajo Veterans and urged all parties to continue to work together to make the project a success.

“Today, we’ve taken a major step toward bringing homes to our Navajo Veterans,” said Speaker Naize. “This signifies years of work and progress by various parties on behalf of Veterans who served and protected our Diné People.”

The legislation will divert two-percent of the Trust Fund’s set-aside to the Department of Navajo Veterans Affairs to fund the construction of the homes.

Army Veteran and legislation co-sponsor, Council Delegate Danny Simpson (Becenti, Crownpoint, Huerfano, Lake Valley, Nageezi, Nahodishgish, Tse’ii’ahi, Whiterock) said the legislation was made possible by 20th Navajo Nation Council, which established the Nation’s Veterans Trust Fund.

“I want to thank members of the 20th Council for establishing the Trust Fund,” said Delegate Simpson. “Bringing homes to our Veterans would not be possible without their efforts.”

Following the signing ceremony, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) expressed his appreciation for the passage of the legislation and said he will continue to advocate for Navajo Veterans.

“It’s a long time coming to build homes for our warriors,” Delegate Hale said.

The legislation was approved by the Navajo Nation Council during a special session held on Monday, with a vote of 13-2.

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