



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Navajo Nation Council to welcome horse trail riders at the start of the 2018 Summer Council Session**

**WINDOW ROCK** – The 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council is scheduled to convene on the opening day of the 2018 Summer Council Session on Monday, July 16, in the Council Chamber in Window Rock.

Prior to the opening day, horse riders will travel many miles through several Navajo communities this week as they make their way to the capital of the Navajo Nation. The horse ride is an annual tradition that honors past leaders who rode on horse back or in horse-drawn wagons from their home areas to Council sessions. Along the way, they would visit with community members to hear their issues and concerns so they could advocate for them at the Council sessions.

This year, Council Delegate Walter Phelps (Cameron, Coalmine Canyon, Leupp, Tolani Lake, Tside To ii) will lead a horse trail ride in remembrance of the late Allen Jones, who served as the grazing official for the Leupp Chapter. The ride will begin on Friday morning from Cameron Chapter. Council Delegate Steven Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a') will also lead a horse ride beginning from Tohatchi Chapter on Sunday morning.

On Monday, the horse riders will ride to the Council Chamber from the fairgrounds in Window Rock for the start of the session. Beginning at 9:00 a.m. outside of the Council Chamber, the Council will honor and recognize various individuals and groups for their recent achievements, including the family of Anthony Seigler, New York Yankees' No. 1 draft pick in the 2018 MLB Draft, Sally N. Pete, CEO of Winslow Health Care Center, Navajo Council on Aging, Taylor Fowler of Blue Gap, and several others.

Upon the official start of the Summer Council Session, Navajo veterans Kim Silentwalker, Candice Pioche-Zunie, Katrina Yazzie, and Inann Johns, will post the colors. Leanore Pete of Shiprock will sing the National Anthem, 2017-2018 Miss Inter-Tribal Ceremonial Queen Zunneh-bah Martin will lead the Pledge of Allegiance, and Navajo practitioner Kenneth A. Joe will provide the opening prayer.

The Council's first order of business on Monday will be to receive the State of the Nation Address from the President of the Navajo Nation, followed by receiving reports from Speaker LoRenzo Bates, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, Office of the Controller, Office of the Attorney General, and the Office of the Chief Justice.

On Tuesday, the Council will begin considering legislations. The proposed agenda will be available on the Council's website at: [www.navajonationcouncil.org](http://www.navajonationcouncil.org).

In partnership with the Office of Broadcast Services, the Navajo Nation Council will live-stream the Summer Council Session on the Council's designated Ustream channel. To view live-proceedings, please visit [ustream.tv](http://ustream.tv) and search for 'Navajo Nation Council' in the search box.

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