



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council partners with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to offer benefits for Navajo veterans

WINDOW ROCK – Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) announced that the Navajo Nation is partnering with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs’ Office of Tribal Government Relations to offer the opportunity for Navajo veterans to apply for benefits during two upcoming events at the Many Farms Chapter house on March 20, and Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter house on March 21. The two events will be from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 a.m. each day.

The two events mark the start of the “Your Service. Our Mission: Bringing Benefits Home” nationwide campaign sponsored by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which focuses on identifying and assisting veterans who may have presumptive disabilities and may be eligible for a VA pension claim. A presumptive disability is a condition that the VA presumes are related to military service, although the condition may first appear after discharge from the military. These conditions may qualify for VA compensation payments.

“Our goal is to get as many Navajo veterans from the local communities to attend either of the two events to become more informed about these benefit claims, and hopefully it will lead to many of our veterans receiving compensation for issues related to their military service,” stated Delegate Begay, who represents both the Many Farms and Tselani/Cottonwood Chapters.

According to the VA’s Office, spouses of veterans may also be eligible for Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) when a veteran dies as a result of presumptive disabilities.

During the event, health information and other benefits will be available. The VA will have staff on hand to review claims, with the goal of completing the claim the same day.

“With the focus on veterans with presumptive disabilities and those who are pension eligible, VA is hopeful we can help Indian Country veterans access the full range of benefits they have courageously earned through their service,” said Stephanie Birdwell, director, VA’s Office of Tribal Government Relations.

Delegate Begay also extends his appreciation to the local veterans organizations, chapter officials, NTUA Choice Wireless, Apache County Sheriff's Office, and many others for assisting in coordinating the events.

To learn more about the available benefits and how to qualify, please visit the following website: <https://benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/factsheets.asp>. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Lorae Homana Pawiki with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Office of Tribal Government Relations at (928) 776-5306.

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