



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Navajo Nation Council resolution becomes law to provide over \$1 million for Veterans Agency Organizations

WINDOW ROCK – On Thursday, Council resolution CMY-50-18 became law after the President took no action on the resolution within the 10-day timeframe required by Navajo law. The result of the President’s inaction means that the resolution becomes effective and will provide \$1,094,784 for the five Veterans Agency Organizations.

Title 2, Section 1005, of the Navajo Nation Code states, “The President’s authority to sign into law or veto legislation shall be deemed to be waived if not exercised within ten calendar days after certification of the legislation by the Speaker or Speaker Pro Tem and the legislation shall be deemed enacted and become effective pursuant to 2 N.N.C. § 221.”

On May 17, the 23rd Navajo Nation Council approved the supplemental funding request through legislation that was sponsored by Council Delegate Seth Damon (Bááháálí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Tsé Lichíí’, Rock Springs, Tsayatoh) to help provide services for Navajo veterans in each of the five Navajo agencies across the Nation.

When the bill came before the Council for consideration, Northern Agency Veterans Organization Commander Vern R. Lee and Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization Vice Commander Ryan Sandoval joined delegate Damon, in requesting the support of the Council to provide the funding for services for Navajo veterans that include burial assistance, emergency assistance, energy assistance, weatherization assistance, and other public assistance.

Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins), a strong advocate for Navajo veterans, voted in support of the bill and said it will benefit many veterans who are in great need of assistance.

The resolution provides \$1,094,784 from the Veterans Trust Fund income and distributed to the Navajo Nation Veterans Agencies for the 110 chapters using the 50/50 formula. The 50/50 formula requires that half of the total amount be distributed evenly among the 110 chapters, the other half would be distributed to the chapters based on the number of registered voters in each of the 110 chapters.

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