



**Contact: Erny Zah**  
**Director of Communications**  
**Cell: (928) 380-0771**

[navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:navajonationpress@navajo-nsn.gov)

For Immediate Release  
December 27, 2012

---

## **President Shelly Congratulates Navajo Nation Band on Selection of Inaugural Parade Participation**



**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.-** Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly congratulates the Navajo Nation Band on their selection to march in the Jan. 21 Inaugural Parade in Washington, D.C.

Following the Swearing-in Ceremony of President Barack Obama and Vice-President Joe Biden and an inaugural luncheon, the parade will commence down Pennsylvania Avenue to the White House.

“I am very proud of the Navajo Nation Band on their selection to the Inaugural Parade. Our Navajo people hold many talents and to play their musical instruments, before the President of the United States, is a honor and privilege,” President Shelly stated.

The Navajo Nation Band was once known as the Navajo Tribal Band participated in the inaugural parades for President John F. Kennedy on January 20, 1961 and President Richard M. Nixon on January 20, 1973. The Navajo Nation Band will be making an appearance after 39 years.

Between April and November, the Navajo Nation Band has participated in three large events, The Red Earth Festival in Oklahoma City, Okla., America's Freedom Festival in Provo, Utah and the Sun Bowl Parade in El Paso, Texas.

Band members voluntarily join and are required to provide their own instruments and uniforms. However, funding is provided for reimbursement.

"The dedication of the Navajo Nation Band members is outstanding. They have a lot of discipline to practice on their own, provide their own instruments and travel. Their presence in parades is always noticed and enjoyed. We are glad the people of the United States will get to see the talents of the Navajo Nation," President Shelly stated.

The Navajo Nation Band has 70 active members this year but 85 participants, including a drum major, musicians, banner carriers, honor guard, flag and support team, will be traveling via coach bus to the inaugural parade. Tentative departure is set for Jan. 18 and a return on Jan. 24.

"We have several rehearsals set up before we leave on our journey to Washington, D.C. The members will be practicing more than ever so they can be ready to go and perform their best. Expectations are high. Mostly because it may be the closest any one of us will get to see the President of the United States," Valerie T. Harrison, administrative coordinator for the Navajo Nation Band stated.

The Navajo Nation Band is seeking sponsorship for travel and lodging expenses. Expense assistance may contact the Executive Director of Navajo Human Resources Division here in Window Rock, Ariz. as soon as possible at (928) 871-6377 or email at [navajonationband\\_wr@yahoo.com](mailto:navajonationband_wr@yahoo.com).

###