



İŁ HODIYIN BIJÍ (PRAYER DAY)

Proclamation

In Observance of the Change of the Seasons
March 20, 2015

WHEREAS, *Hodeeyááddéé Diné* have used the laws of the *Diyin Dine'é* (Holy Deities) and the Natural laws of the universe to guide our survival and prosperity; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation enacted the *Dine' Bi Beenahaz'aani* (1 N.N.C. § 201-206) which uses the laws of *Diyin Dine'é* as the Foundation of *Diné Law*, which incorporates the continued use of Spiritual guidance to ensure the health and richness of the Navajo Nation; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation is an empathetic and compassionate nation. We understand the travails of all people including other nations, the United States, and the universe. We, the *Diné*, recognize and endure issues and problems created by *Bilá' Ashdla'ii* (Five Fingered People), and natural catastrophic events which we have no control over but are forced to address; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo nation has been plagued by numerous problems associated with various social ills, including substance abuse, which have been particularly damaging to our children, relatives, and communities, and which are contributing factors to the three leading causes of death: accidents, homicides and suicides; and

WHEREAS, there is *Siihasin* (Hope) in overcoming these social ills and bringing back prosperity to the *Diné*. The strength of *Diné* is rooted in *K'é* and Spirituality; hence we offer this proclamation to encourage all citizens of the Navajo Nation to offer *Sodizin* (prayers) for the health and well-being of all *Diné*, while addressing these issues through Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Aftercare activities; and

WHEREAS, the Navajo Nation encourages all residents of all Faiths of the Navajo Nation to participate in *İł Hodiyin Bijí* (Prayer Day) on the first day of each season of *Daan* (Spring), *Shí* (Summer), *Aak'ee* (Fall), and *Hai* (Winter). Furthermore, we encourage each of you to continue to pray on a daily basis.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, that the Navajo Nation, Office of the President and Vice President, Office of the Speaker, and the Office of the Chief Justice hereby designate the first day of *Daan* (Spring), *Shí* (Summer), *Aak'ee* (Fall), and *Hai* (Winter) as *İł Hodiyin Bijí*, and encourage all residents of the Navajo Nation to offer *Sodizin* (prayers) for a better **Quality of Life for all Diné**.

Attest:

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE THIS 20TH DAY OF MARCH 2015

Witness My Hand & Great Seal of the Navajo Nation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Shelly".

Ben Shelly, President

THE NAVAJO NATION