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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Begaye-Nez Administration to Celebrate First Year in Office

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.—Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez are observing their first year in office on May 12 with a celebration at Window Rock Veterans Memorial Park.

The one-year anniversary celebration will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., featuring a 5K walk and run, zumba, presidential keynote address, presentations by division directors, and entertainment courtesy of Miss Navajo Nation Alyson Shirley.

“We invite our tribal employees, colleagues at the other branches of government and the general public to join us for this great occasion,” said President Begaye. “Our administration has achieved many historic accomplishments for our Navajo Nation in this first year in office.

“We have plenty more to come,” he added.

Commemorating the first year in office was the launch of Hozhooji Nahata Baa Hane’, the official publication of the Office of the President and Vice President, in addition to the launch of [www.nnopvp.org](http://www.nnopvp.org), the official website for the Begaye-Nez administration.

The Begaye-Nez administration is celebrating the myriad of accomplishments that have been achieved in the first



*Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Nez spent their first year in office by accomplishing significant achievements on behalf of the Navajo people. These include enacting the Navajo Nation Veterans Act and Permanent Trust Fund Five-Year Expenditure Plan, and holding the U.S. EPA accountable for the Gold King Mine spill in August 2015.*

year, including passage of the Navajo Nation Veterans Act, the passage of the Permanent Trust Fund Five-Year Expenditure Plan, and immediate and unwavering response to the devastation from the Gold King Mine spill.

“The Begaye-Nez administration is about working together and helping one another to achieve the goals we have set in the four pillars. The Navajo people mandated that Navajo veterans, elders and youth, infrastructure development, and job creation be our priority areas for the duration of our term of office,” said Vice President Nez.

On May 12, 2015, the Window Rock Fighting Scouts Event Center in Ft. Defiance, Ariz. was a beehive of activity as

President Begaye and Vice President Nez took the oath of office at noon. Chief Justice Herb Yazzie administered the oath, which witnessed by thousands.

Throughout their campaign, election into office, transition, and administration, President Begaye and Vice President Nez plunged headlong into their duties and responsibilities with minimal preparation time.

The contentious 2014 tribal presidential election and subsequent decision to extend the term of office for the previous administration was the cause.

The awakening of a new dawn began with a new location for the inauguration, which was previously held at the fairgrounds in Window Rock. The new

dawn metaphor was quite appropriate and the Navajo Nation was enthusiastic with the transfer of power from old to new, which was amplified by the new vision for the Navajo people.

The four pillars of the administration became the new foundation for the tribal government and President Begaye and Vice President Nez immediately began working for the Navajo people in earnest.

President Begaye and Vice President Nez have also worked closely with their colleagues in the Judicial Branch and Legislative Branch, through the One Nation, One Voice agreement that was signed in July 2015.

Currently, the Begaye-Nez administration is working on development of the Former Bennett Freeze Area, unification of all tribal enterprises, and drilling down on economic development for the Navajo Nation through selection of projects such as hotels, shopping centers, laundromats, convenience stores and other economically-driven opportunities for funding.

Free lunch will be provided during the celebration and KTNN AM 660 will be onsite for a live remote broadcast.