



THE NAVAJO NATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT & VICE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUG. 29, 2006

CONTACT: GEORGE HARDEEN
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR
OFFICE – 928-871-7917
CELL – 928-309-8532
georgehardeen@opvp.org

Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr., proclaims Sept. 6 Commercial Tobacco Free Day on Navajo Nation

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., has proclaimed September 6 as Commercial Tobacco Free Day on the Navajo Nation.

exposed to secondhand smoke, they inhale many of the same cancer-causing chemicals that smokers inhale.

The President signed a proclamation on Aug. 25 to encourage Navajos to live healthy lives and to begin by giving up commercial cigarettes for at least one day if they are smokers.

“Commercially made cigarettes are especially addictive, very expensive, unpleasant to non-smokers, and no good comes from smoking them.”

“Exposure to secondhand commercial cigarette smoke causes disease and premature death in our children and adults who do not smoke,” President Shirley said. “Commercially made cigarettes are especially addictive, very expensive, unpleasant to non-smokers, and no good comes from smoking them.”

– Navajo President Joe Shirley, Jr.

The proclamation also recognizes the U.S. Surgeon General’s Report on The Health Consequences of Involuntary Exposure to Commercial Tobacco Smoke.

Each year, approximately 440,000 people in the United States die of illnesses attributed to smoking. An estimated 3,400 lung cancer deaths and 46,000 heart disease deaths occur annually among adult non-smokers in the United States.

It notes that Navajos respect and value the physical, mental and spiritual aspects of life but that in recent decades the use of commercial tobacco products, or *Bilagáana bi’ Na’toh*, “has entered our homes and is being abused by our people.”

Some 202,300 episodes of childhood asthma occur annually as a result of exposure to secondhand smoke.

It says that secondhand smoke contains more than 50 cancer-causing chemicals, and when non-smokers are

###