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### **SOLDIERS WELCOMED BY NAVAJO NATION HONOR RIDERS**

Two soldiers were greeted with a surprise motorcycle escort from the Navajo Nation Honor Riders and a welcome home celebration in their honor at the Cornfields Chapter on Sunday, June 25, 2006.

About 20 bikers gathered at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock Sunday afternoon. From there, they rode to Ganado, Ariz., where they met the soldiers and provided escort for them to the Cornfields Chapter House.

Pfc. Crystalyn R Deswood and Staff Sergeant Marcelle Williams were presented with plaques expressing appreciation on behalf of the Navajo Nation Council by Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan, who was part of the motorcycle escort. Deswood and Williams were also presented with certificates of appreciation from the local veteran's organization.

"It's very surprising that this many people showed up," Debra Begay, mother of Crystalyn, said. She thanked the bikers for supporting all veterans and military personnel.

Betty Williams, mother of Marcelle, said, "I didn't realize how many people care. We still need your prayers – each and every one of you."

Council delegate Orlanda Smith-Hodge expressed her appreciation to the bikers saying, "It really touches your heart when you have people from other communities that are so dedicate to our veterans and military people."

She noted that Sanostee Council delegate Jerry Bodie joined the celebration. Also riding with the group, in memory of their son, were the parents of the late Sgt. Clifton Yazzie.

Marcelle, who had driven in from North Carolina, introduced his family to the audience. He also thanked Crystalyn for her support while they were serving.

"This really just threw me off," he said. "From the bottom of my heart, thank you."

Crystalyn, who is stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, thanked everyone for their prayers and said those serving appreciated the support.



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Attached photo: The Navajo Nation Honor Riders escort two soldiers to Cornfields Chapter on Sunday, June 25, 2006 for a welcome home celebration.