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NAVAJO NATION HONOR RUN TO BE HELD MAY 17-18

For the fourth year in a row, the Navajo Nation Honor Riders will pay tribute to the sacrifices of Native American Armed Forces with a two-day motorcycle ride that will take them around the Navajo Nation and through the Hopi reservation.

The 4th Annual Navajo/Hopi Honor Run, which carries the theme "Riding for our Fallen Heroes," honors the following Native Americans:

- U.S. Army SPC Clint Lamebear
- U.S. Army SPC Lori Piestewa
- U.S. Army PFC Sheldon Hawk Eagle
- U.S. Army SGT Lee Duane Todacheene
- U.S. Army PFC Harry N. Shondee, Jr.
- USMC LOCL Quinn A. Keith
- USMC CPL Bernice K. Yazzie
- USMC LCPL Jonathan Grant
- USMC LCPL Kevin B. Joyce
- U.S. Army CPL Lyle J. Cambridge
- U.S. Army SGT Marshall A. Westbrook
- USMC CPL Brett Lee Lundstrom
- U.S. Army SGT Clifton J. Yazzie

Beginning the morning of May 17 at the Navajo Nation Veterans Memorial Park in Window Rock, the Navajo Nation Honor Riders, including many Council delegates and the Vice President, will ride to Tseyi Canyon, near Kayenta, Arizona. They will make stops along the way at Ganado, Arizona; Beshbito Gold Star Memorial Park; the Hopi Veteran Memorial Park; and the Piestewa home in Flagstaff, Arizona.

On May 18, the Honor Riders will visit Nenahnezad, New Mexico, and make their way to Window Rock, Arizona by 3:30 p.m., for a program sponsored by Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan and the Navajo Nation Council. The riders are expected to depart Window Rock by 5 p.m. to arrive at the Rock Springs Chapter House, where the ride will end.

The motorcycle run began in 2003 when Council delegate Larry Noble and Bobby Martin, a cousin of Lori Piestewa, discussed a way to honor her sacrifice. The first run was borne from those discussions. It has now grown to become a large annual event coordinating with the national run of Operation Carry the Flame and Rolling Thunder.

Riders on the run to Washington D.C. join up to 100 local riders to recognize the sacrifice of Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces with this honor run.

During the program to welcome the riders to Window Rock, a name reading, a lighting ceremony, and a rose petal ceremony are scheduled to take place beginning at 1 p.m. After the arrival of the motorcycles, people are given the opportunity to hold the ceremonial torch that is being carried by Operation Carry the Flame to Washington D.C. The torch honors the Gold Star Mothers and the Blue Star Mothers.

For more information contact Larry Noble at (928) 871-6380 or Angela Barney-Nez at the Speaker's office at (928) 871-.7160.

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