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### **COUNCIL DELEGATES PAY TRIBUTE TO VETERANS AND ARMED FORCES**

Navajo Nation Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) and other Council delegates participated in Veterans' Day activities in and around the Navajo Nation in appreciation of Navajo veterans and Armed Forces.

On Thursday, November 9, 2006, the Eastern Navajo Agency paid tribute to veterans with its annual parade and dinner at Crownpoint, N.M. Council delegate Alice Benally (Crownpoint/Nahodishgish) was on hand, along with nearly 300 others at the dinner, to thank veterans for a job well done.

"I'm very proud of you and honored that you have served your country," Benally said. "I'm proud to say you're Native Americans; you're Navajo veterans."

At the dinner, Eastern Agency veterans were given plaques and leather jackets in appreciation for their service.

The following day, Benally also participated in a Veterans' Day appreciation ceremony sponsored by Miss Eastern Navajo Nation Laureen Etcitty at the Navajo Technical College in Crownpoint, N.M.

The ceremony, which was the first of its kind, was completely sponsored by Etcitty, Benally said.

On Friday, November 10, 2006, Speaker Morgan and delegate Raymond Berchman (Oak Springs/St. Michaels) joined 60 motorcycle riders to escort the 1116<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company back to Gallup, N.M., where the company was met with a parade and rally downtown.

Speaker Morgan presented the 1116<sup>th</sup> with a plaque that included the Navajo Nation medal of valor and a certificate of appreciation in honor of the Navajo people who have served with the company.

The medal of valor was created when the Navajo Nation Council declared 2004 and 2005 as Years of the Navajo Veteran.

Among the approximately 136 men and women returning home with the 1116<sup>th</sup> were 35 Navajos. The company had been away for nearly 14 months, Julius Tulley said.

On Sunday, November 12, 2006, Speaker Morgan was the guest speaker at the Iyanbito Chapter's annual Veterans' Day celebration. The celebration began with a parade leading to the Chapter house where a dinner and ceremony were held.

Veterans received flags to support the troops and a turkey dinner. Entertainment was provided in honor of the veterans' service.