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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Speaker Morgan wholeheartedly supports long overdue ‘Welcome Home’ ceremony for Vietnam Veterans

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) granted \$2,546.78 on Thursday, April 19 for Navajo Vietnam Veterans to charter a Navajo Nation Transit bus to participate in the 13th Annual Vietnam Remembrance Day Ceremony in Phoenix.

The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. on Sunday, April 29, 2007 at the Wesley Bolin Memorial Park.

“I strongly support all Vietnam Veterans, and this is long overdue in ‘Welcoming Home,’ all our Warriors who each served in the Vietnam War,” Speaker Morgan said. “This ceremony will be innately healing for all the Vietnam Veterans, and will rightly pay homage to the fallen and to the cause to which lives were sacrificed.”

“In this ceremony, we, meaning the In-Country Vietnam Veterans Association, South Vietnamese Veterans’ Association, Vietnam Veterans’ of American, Inc. and the Scottish-American Military Society Post 48, will ‘Welcome Home’ those who received no welcome,” said Council Delegate Elmer Milford (Fort Defiance). “On this day they will receive congratulations, admiration and gratitude, something which eluded the generation that served in Vietnam.”

Milford is one of the delegate sponsors for the special request to Speaker Morgan and his office to fund the charter bus for the Navajo Vietnam Veterans.

“This is great!” said Leo Chischilly, Navajo Veterans Affairs Department Manager.

Chischilly, a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Army, said being welcomed home “is something we always wanted.”

“We were able to experience that,” Chischilly said, noting that there is currently discussion among his fellow Vietnam Veterans about having more ceremonies and recognition events of the sacrifices and service of the Vietnam Veterans.

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Chischilly said he was happy when he heard the news from council delegate, Larry Anderson, a Vietnam Veteran, that the special request was granted by Speaker Morgan.

"Larry said this is something the Vietnam Veterans will enjoy."

Many color guard units are invited to participate in the Parade of Color Guards. For Navajo Veterans' who want to participate, please contact your Agency Office. The Navajo Veterans' Affairs office will coordinate with each Agency Office for Navajo Vietnam Veterans who want to participate.

For general information, contact Josie Kakar-Delsi at kakar_delsi@cgmail.box.com.