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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The 5th Annual Navajo Nation-Washington, D.C. “Operation Carry the Flame” is scheduled for May 21-29

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – To honor the memory of those Warriors who each gave the ultimate sacrifice during war, Navajo Nation leaders and tribal members are scheduled to participate in this year’s Navajo Nation’s 5th Annual “Operation Carry the Flame” motorcycle run during May 21-29.

Organizers for the four-day event are respectfully requesting fellow Native American communities along the route to host riders with meals and lodging. The route includes stops located at Albuquerque, N.M.; Amarillo, Texas; Oklahoma City, Okla.; Fort Smith, Ark.; Little Rock, Ark.; Memphis, Tenn.; Nashville, Tenn.; Knoxville, Tenn. and Charlotte, N.C.

The trip takes four days to reach the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., where the event officially ends on Sunday evening, May 27, before Memorial Day, according to event organizers.

“The Navajo Nation Council is honored to be a part of this event,” said Navajo Council Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale). “We have to honor the Gold Star Mothers and Fathers who each loss a Warrior during war. We honor their loss.”

Speaker Morgan added that he gives reverence to the Gold Star Mothers and Fathers because “these parents have suffered the most. The grief and torment wrought by war fall on all sides, on friends and family members alike. The memorial bike run is for the heroes who are not longer here with us.”

The group believes the need for this awareness continues today and they will continue this tradition every May.

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Here is the tentative schedule for the Run during the days of May 21-29, 2007.

On Day 1, Monday, May 21, the Round-up and Registration is scheduled at 8 a.m. at the Navajo Nation Veterans' Park in Window Rock, Ariz. Then the Roll Out is scheduled for 9 a.m. The first stop is scheduled for Albuquerque, N.M. for a fuel stop, and the second stop is scheduled for Amarillo, Texas for a fuel stop. The last stop of the day is scheduled for Oklahoma City, Okla.

On Day 2, Tuesday, May 22, the Riders will assemble and have a safety meeting at 8 a.m. At 9 a.m. the Roll Out is scheduled for 9 a.m. The first stop is scheduled for Fort Smith, Ark. for a fuel stop, and the second stop is scheduled for Little Rock, Ark. for a fuel stop. The last stop of the day is scheduled for Memphis, Tenn.

On Day 3, Wednesday, May 23, the Riders will assemble and have a safety meeting at 8 a.m. At 9 a.m. the Roll Out is scheduled for 9 a.m. The first stop is scheduled for Nashville, Tenn. for a fuel stop, and the second stop is scheduled for Knoxville, Tenn. for a fuel stop. The last stop of the day is scheduled for Charlotte, N.C.

For information on how to donate lodging and/or meals for the Navajo Nation "Operation Carry the Flame," event contact Zane James at (928)871-7160 or send e-mail to: Zanejames@navajo.org.