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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Utah's Intermountain School Alumni seek to establish an  
Intermountain School memorial to remember the Intermountain  
School legacy and memory**

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Victor Joe Jr., an alumnus of the Intermountain School, and fellow alumni want to honor and dedicate a 3 ft-high granite stone memorial that will represent the legacy of Intermountain School alumni especially the veteran students who served in the military defending the U.S.

About a year ago, Joe, a project coordinator, for the Intermountain School Monument Project Committee, along with fellow committee members began the process of creating a monument commemorating "Intermountain School at Brigham City, Utah." The monument is designed in the shape of crystal of Mother Earth.

Joe, a Dennehosto, Ariz. native, said he and the Intermountain School Reunion Committee have been working on this project with the city of Brigham City that donated land at Constitution Park.

The area located in the Northeast section of Brigham City is a portion of the former Intermountain School campus.

"I know it will be in the best interest our 'of our Navajo Nation,'" Joe said. "Many former students have become prominent leaders of our great Nation; and there's no doubt that most of the students made successful lives. We shall always continue to experience the legacy of our school because it has changed our world and we have changed our world."

Honorable Speaker Lawrence T. Morgan (Iyanbito/Pinedale) supports Joe and both committee members endeavors, and recognizes the value of commemorating the school's tradition.

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He added that the memorial will also include the Veterans of the Intermountain students and alumni who served in the armed services, and those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in the armed services.

The Reunion Committee members are Jo Cohoe, chairperson; Betty Rose Draper, vice-chairperson; Glenda Benally, secretary and Ruby James, treasurer.

The Monument Project Committee members are Kathy Charley; Lloyd Beyal and Joe.

Joe said the Reunion Committee members who are all volunteers “wholeheartedly support this particular project.”

The Reunion Committee was established 17 years ago, and since then committee members have organized an annual reunion at Wheatfield Lake, Ariz. He said that during the annual event, the main agenda is fundraising for the annual reunion event.

“The main focus of the reunion committee is to keep the remembrance of the school alive,” Joe said.

The 2007 Intermountain School Reunion is scheduled for July 20-22, 2007 at Wheatfield Lake, Wheatfield, Ariz.

Joe said that the history of the Intermountain School began when the federal government built the Bushnell General Hospital during 1942 in Brigham City, Utah to treat wounded World War II soldiers. The hospital was closed during 1946. During 1950, the Bureau of Indian Affairs converted the hospital facility into boarding school for Navajo children between the ages of 13 and 18-years-old. During those years, it is estimated 20,000 students have fulfilled their educational experiences. The Intermountain School was closed during 1984.

“The city of Brigham City, Utah has played an important role in the lives of our students,” Joe said. “They have allowed and provided the school facility and the land to meet the needs of our Navajo children and other tribal entities that received the same benefit. Even to this day, the city officials, the council and the mayor have the compassion and understanding to allow us to build our monument on the city property at Intermountain school campus.”

The city of Brigham City, Utah has a population of 17,149 people.

Joe said that there is no fee, no charge for the use of the city property.

“We are so thankful for their generosity, respect and kindness,” Joe said, adding that the committee members need to raise idealistically \$30,000 for the dedication ceremony for the memorial.

“We need your support with our fundraising project; we are also sending letters to our friends asking for their help,” Joe added.

Joe along with members of the Intermountain School reunion committee are respectfully requesting donations to be send to Ruby James, the committee’s treasurer. Donations should be directed to the Intermountain School Reunion Committee. James’ address is Post Office Box 901, Kirtland, N.M. 87417.

Information: [www.intermountainreunion.com](http://www.intermountainreunion.com)