NAVAJO NATION PROCLAMATION

Declaring the Second Week of October of Every Year As
Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week
And Calling Upon all Navajos to Participate in Planned Events and Activities

WHEREAS:

1. All of our Nation’s citizens should have the opportunity to live and work with dignity and freedom. For this reason, the Navajo Nation will observe the second full week of October of every year as Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week to recognize the talents, skills, and dedication of disabled individuals who are a vital part of our workforce, schools and businesses; and

2. This year, the United States recognizes the 19th anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). The ADA has allowed disabled persons to participate more fully in our society; and it has opened doors for countless Americans by removing barriers, improving employment opportunities, expanding government services, and regulating public accommodations, transportation, and telecommunications; and

3. In June of 2005, the Navajo Nation Council established the Navajo Nation Advisory Council on Disabilities to advocate for individuals with disabilities to ensure equal access to employment, education, housing, public safety, communication, recreation, medical treatment, and socialization opportunities; and

4. In coordination with the federal and state government planned activities, the Navajo Nation will declare the second full week of October of every year Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week in an effort to foster the awareness of the needs, issues and successes of our Navajo brothers and sisters with disabilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, THAT

1. We, Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., President of the Navajo Nation, and Mr. Ben Shelly, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, declare the second week of October of every year as Navajo Nation Disability Awareness Week.

2. We further call upon all Navajo Nation leaders, employees and citizens to be involved and participate in planned events and activities to learn about the needs, issues and successes of our Navajo brothers and sisters with disabilities.

PROCLAIMED THIS 11TH DAY OF AUGUST 2009.

Dr. Joe Shirley, Jr., President
THE NAVAJO NATION

Mr. Ben Shelly, Vice President
THE NAVAJO NATION