



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**Navajo Nation Council and Legislative Branch recognize
dedication of branch staff members with over 15 years of service**

Departing Navajo Nation acting chief legislative counsel also appreciated for service

WINDOW ROCK – At the closing of the Winter Council Session last week on Jan. 30, the 22nd Navajo Nation Council and the Legislative Branch recognized the dedication and tireless commitment of eleven branch employees who have served the Navajo Nation in varying capacities for more than fifteen years.

“I want to thank these dedicated employees for their unwavering contributions to our Nation over such a great expanse of time,” said Speaker Johnny Naize (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood). “Each of these valuable staff members has exhibited a caliber of sheer commitment that enables our government to develop and adapt with sturdiness.”

Upon receiving his recognition plaque for twenty-five years of service, Johnny R. Thompson addressed the Council with his sentiments on legislative and governmental public service.

“Thank you very much. I know you feel for your people when you step onto the [Council Chambers] floor,” said Thompson, expressing that he could relate to them on a certain level. “The work that I do – I don’t do it for me. It’s not for my office, it’s for the constituents.”

Three employees who received recognition for 15 years of service were: Ronald Largo (Ethics and Rules Office), Anslem Bitsoi (Navajo Labor Commission), and Sally Tohannie (Navajo Election Administration).

Receiving recognition for 20 years of service were Henrietta Wauneka (Ethics and Rules Office) and Clarence Rockwell (Navajo Utah Commission).

Among the three who were recognized for 25 years of service were: Ronald Haven (Office of Legislative Counsel), Arlene Coan (Navajo Election Administration), and Carol Wilson (Office of Legislative Counsel).

Lorene Spencer, a legislative advisor with the Office of Legislative Services, was recognized for her 30 years of service.

Lastly, Marjorie James, a legislative reporting supervisor with the Office of Legislative Reporting Section, was appreciated for her 35 years of service to the Nation.

As the recognition ceremony wrapped up, Speaker Naize announced that there was one more individual he wanted to recognize for his service to the Nation as acting chief legislative counsel, Edward McCool.

McCool, who began working for the Nation for a second stint in November 2010, announced that he would be resigning, effective Feb. 2, to pursue personal endeavors.

“I want to thank you for the honor of having served you all the time I have been here, particularly these last few years,” said McCool to members of the Council. “I feel a part of this Council. In my heart, I feel a part of it – and that is because we pulled it together, together.”

McCool continued on to say that the past two years were especially intense because of the processes of transition that had to occur when the Navajo people voted for the Council reduction from eighty-eight members to twenty-four.

“People should be proud of the transition that you made happen. Within the last six months, you have it down,” said McCool. “To be a part of that history, the Navajo Council and the Navajo people will always be a part of my life.”

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