FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Churchrock Chapter celebrates Fourth annual Treaty Day Celebration

CHURCHROCK, N.M. – The 4th annual Churchrock Treaty Days commenced with a traditional Navajo morning blessing last Friday at the Churchrock chapter house to “recognize Navajo sovereignty from our treaty [Navajo Treaty of 1868],” said Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau).

Delegate Yazzie stated that he and the community collaborated with outside entities to strengthen community fellowship.

“We are creating a gathering place for our elders and encouraging youth participation in the events,” said Yazzie.

The event schedule included some of the following events: a song-and-dance social event, community fun runs, a revival, a fashion show and a veteran bike run.

Throughout the afternoon, visitors filled a walkway lined with food stands, jewelry vendors, and health education booths.

During the Commemoration Ceremony, Vice President Rex Lee Jim addressed a large audience to explain the significance of the treaty signing.

Titus Nez, planning committee president, explained that the chapter received growing support from the community.

“The Treaty Celebration has grown to be bigger and bigger every year,” said Delegate Yazzie. “We are already looking forward to next year’s festivities.”

The Office of the Speaker, Office of the President and Vice President, Navajo Engineering and Construction Authority, URI Inc. and Fire Rock Navajo Casino all participated as event sponsors.

The Churchrock Treaty Days originated from a community effort to commemorate the June 1, 1868, treaty signing with the United States, which ended the four-year incarceration of the Navajo People at Fort Sumner, allowing their return to their homelands.

Delegate Yazzie invites the public to attend Mariano Lake Treaty Day Celebration on June 14.

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