23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 19, 2017

MEDIA CONTACTS
Jared Touchin (928) 221-9253
Jolene Holgate (928) 380-4174
Crystalyne Curley (928) 286-7918
nnlb.communications@gmail.com

Navajo Nation Council honors high school state basketball champions

PHOTO: Members of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council and high school girls basketball teams from St. Michael Indian School, Sanders Valley High School, Tohatchi High School, and Shiprock High School during the 2017 Spring Council Session in Window Rock, Ariz.

WINDOW ROCK – During the Spring Council Session, the Council recognized and congratulated high school girls basketball teams from St. Michael Indian School, Sanders Valley High School, Tohatchi High School, and Shiprock High School for winning state championships in their respective divisions. The 23rd Navajo Nation Council presented each player and coach with plaques and medallions as they received a standing ovation on the Council floor.

"We are honored to have our youth with us at the Spring Council Session to recognize their accomplishments and success. On behalf of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council, we congratulate them for their dedication and for winning state championships for their schools and the Nation," stated

Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

The St. Michael Indian High School girls basketball team won the 2016 – 2017 1-A division Arizona state basketball championship, the Sanders Valley High School girls basketball team won the 2016 – 2017 2-A division Arizona state basketball championship title, the Tohatchi High School girls basketball team won the 2016 – 2017 3-A division New Mexico state basketball championship title, and the Shiprock High School won the 2016 – 2017 4-A division New Mexico state basketball championship title.

Council Delegate Raymond Smith, Jr. (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tsé Si áni, Wide Ruins) presented the awards to Sanders Valley High School basketball team and Council Delegate Steven Begay (Coyote Canyon, Mexican Springs, Naschitti, Tohatchi, Bahastl'a'a') congratulated the Tohatchi High School girl's basketball teams during the opening day of Spring Council Session.

"Our Navajo people cherish the sport of basketball. The game teaches our Navajo youth discipline, strength, and teamwork. Many of our Navajo citizens traveled to Phoenix and Albuquerque during the championship games to support our children and four of our Navajo teams made it to the top. We are so proud of them," stated Delegate Begay.

Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels) recognized the St. Michael Indian High School basketball team and Council Delegate Tom Chee (Shiprock) presented the awards to the Shiprock High School basketball team on the second day of the Spring Council Session.

"As a former teacher and coach of Shiprock High School, I am greatly honored to recognize the players for their prestigious title they have accomplished this year. It takes persistence, strength, and faith to reach a high level of honor," stated Delegate Chee.

The Council Chamber gallery was filled with the family members and fans of each team who came to support the teams and coaches.

Delegate Hale added, "We also thank and acknowledge the teachers, parents, and community members of each team for their continuous support and prayers for our young leaders. Thank you for praying and encouraging our Navajo youth to do their best and push their limits."

# # #

For news on the latest legislative branch activities, please visit www.navajonationcouncil.org or find us on Facebook and Twitter, keywords: Navajo Nation Council