23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 19, 2017

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Council declares the second Friday in May as "Navajo Police Officer Day"

WINDOW ROCK – On Tuesday during the 2017 Fall Council Session, the Navajo Nation Council unanimously approved Legislation No. 0244-17 with a vote of 14-0, declaring the second Friday in May as "Navajo Police Office Day" on the Navajo Nation.

Law and Order Committee chair Council Delegate Edmund Yazzie (Churchrock, Iyanbito, Mariano Lake, Pinedale, Smith Lake, Thoreau), who sponsored the legislation, requested the support of his Council colleagues emphasizing the need to recognize Navajo law enforcement.

"The Nation's police officers work intensive hours everyday to protect the people, families, and communities and they deserve to be acknowledged. The declaration will honor and express the Nation's appreciation for all their hard work and sacrifice," said Delegate Yazzie.

He added that the Navajo Nation Police Department is comprised of seven police districts that cover 27,000 square-miles, and consists of approximately 239 police officers, who work 24-hours a day and seven days a week to provide public safety services.

According to the legislation, "Navajo Police Officer Day," would be an observed holiday to recognize all Navajo and fallen police officers.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi'i'áhi/To'Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnáoz't'l'í), who co-sponsored the legislation, stated that the observed holiday would also help to address public safety issues and concerns on the Nation.

"Setting aside a day for Navajo law enforcement gives the Nation the opportunity to address and prioritize public safety. The Nation needs to recognize that our police officers need special attention and assistance. Stress levels from the workload impacts the officers' lives and their families and we must find ways to help them," said Delegate Crotty, "The Nation also needs to find ways to support families and colleagues of fallen officers."

The legislation also states that the observed holiday would acknowledge fallen Navajo officers and recommends establishing a fund account to assist the families of fallen officers.

Delegate Yazzie said that all the fallen Navajo police officers should be recognized, respected, and honored on their own tribal homelands.

"At the national level, May 15th is recognized as 'Peace Officers Memorial Day' and the week as 'Police Week' where tens of thousands of law enforcement around the world gather at the national capitol to honor and recognize police officers and fallen officers. This legislation would allow us to honor and recognize our officers on the Navajo Nation," said Delegate Yazzie.

The observed holiday will become effective upon certification of the Speaker of the Council.

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