



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 28, 2018

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Health, Education, and Human Services Committee supports \$1 million appropriation request for Navajo Code Talker museum and veterans center

WINDOW ROCK – On Monday, the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee issued a “do pass” recommendation for Legislation No. 0283-18, supporting New Mexico Senate Bill 105 which seeks the approval of a \$1 million appropriation from the state’s general fund to allow the Indian Affairs Department to design and construct a Navajo Code Talker museum and veterans center in McKinley County, New Mexico.

Legislation sponsor and chair of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee, Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels), said although the New Mexico State Legislature is not currently in session, the position of the Navajo Nation can still be established and used to advocate during future legislative sessions at the state level.

“This supporting resolution will still be in effect when the state legislature goes back into session next year and we can use this official position to advocate for the museum to honor all of our Navajo veterans and Navajo Code Talkers,” said Delegate Hale.

New Mexico State Sen. John Pinto (D-Dist. 3) introduced Senate Bill 105 during the most recent legislative session. During a hearing for the bill that was held on Jan. 30, the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department said the project would require additional sources of funding.

Delegate Hale said the Navajo Code Talkers Association has been fundraising for years and should be able to contribute to the construction of a museum and veterans center.

“This will be the official position of the Navajo Nation and we will continue to request the support of the state of New Mexico to honor the legacy of the Navajo Code Talkers,” added Delegate Hale.

The Health, Education, and Human Services Committee voted 3-0 in support of the legislation, which will move forward to the Naabik’iyátí’ Committee for final consideration.

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