



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Navajo Nation leaders declare 2018 as “The Year of the Naalstoos Sání”**



**PHOTO:** (left to right) Speaker LoRenzo Bates, Vice President Jonathan Nez, President Russell Begaye, and Chief Justice JoAnn Bitsilly Jayne sign the proclamation to declare the year 2018 as “The Year of Naalstoos Sání” at the Navajo Nation Museum in Window Rock, Ariz. on Feb. 9, 2018.

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Friday, Speaker LoRenzo Bates, President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez and Chief Justice JoAnn Bitsilly Jayne came together to sign a proclamation to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of the signing of the Naalstoos Sání – The Treaty of 1868. The “Year of the Naalstoos Sani” recognizes, honors, and reflects on the strength and resiliency of the Navajo people in the past, present, and future.

In 1864, the Navajo people were forcefully removed from their homelands and moved 300 miles east to Bosque Redondo, N.M, also known as Hwéeldi or The Long Walk. The Treaty of 1868 allowed the Navajo people to return to their homelands and established an intergovernmental relationship between the Navajo people the U.S. government.

The proclamation states, "On June 1, 1868, our Diné leaders signed the Treaty of 1868 with the United States Government to, first and foremost, ensure our return to our beloved homeland; secondly, protect our Diné Lifeway; and thirdly, memorialize our newly created Nation-to-Nation sovereign relationship with the federal government. The anniversary of the signing of the Treaty is significant because it marks an occasion for us to come together as a Nation to reflect upon our past, our present, and our future."

Moments before the three branch chiefs signed the proclamation, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) highlighted the historical significance of the treaty and the courage, strength, and resiliency of past Navajo leadership and people.

"Since the signing of The Treaty of 1868, the Navajo Nation has become a strong and preserving nation. The treaty allows the Nation to practice our sovereignty everyday, which would not have been possible without the courage and strength of our past leaders. The past leaders and our Navajo people who returned home from Hwéeldi fought for the interest of future generations," said Speaker Bates during the signing of the proclamation.

The proclamation also states that the Navajo Nation will continue to revitalize the Navajo language, traditional, and culture teachings and for all of the Nation's departments and programs to protect and strengthen sovereignty and the Navajo way of life.

On June 1, 2018, the Navajo Nation Museum plans to publicly exhibit/display the original Navajo Treaty of 1868 to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the signing of the treaty.

Speaker Bates extended his appreciation to President Russell Begaye, Vice President Jonathan Nez, and Chief Justice JoAnn Bitsilly Jayne for collaborating and signing the proclamation to declare 2018 as "The Year of Naaltsoos Sáńí."

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THE NAVAJO NATION

*Proclamation*

RECOGNIZING 2018  
AS  
THE YEAR  
OF  
NAALSTOOS SÁNÍ

**Diné bi Iína Náás Yilyéet doo bee Haadaaílnilní  
“Perpetuate Diné Way of Life through Resilience”**

The Executive Branch, Legislative Branch, and Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation hereby recognize the 150<sup>th</sup> year since the signing of Naalstoos Sání (“The Treaty of 1868”).

On June 1, 1868, our Diné leaders signed the Treaty of 1868 with the United States Government to, first and foremost, ensure our return to our beloved homeland; secondly, protect our Diné Lifeway; and thirdly, memorialize our newly created Nation-to-Nation sovereign relationship with the federal government. The anniversary of the signing of the Treaty is significant because it marks an occasion for us to come together as a Nation to reflect upon our past, our present, and our future.

**WHEREAS**, the Diné people have always been and continue to be guided and protected by the laws provided by the Diyin Dine’é (Holy People), Nahasdzáán (Mother Earth) dóó Yá dilhil (Father Sky) bi bee haz’áanii. These immutable laws have provided sanctuary for our people—guiding, sustaining and protecting us since time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, it is within our ancient stories and beliefs, that Diyin Dine’é emerged into this world after facing many hardships, as our people have throughout our history, which has taught us resiliency. The Warrior Twins had the strengths of their parents, Asdzáán Nádleehé (Changing Woman) and Jóhonaa’éi (the Sun), and the assistance the Holy People and others; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the leadership role of Asdzáán Nádleehé, who teaches us that our Diné women are strong, autonomous, and co-equal with Diné men. We have relied on the spiritual guidance of our Diné women throughout the history of our matrilineal society; and

**WHEREAS**, we as Diné have used and continue to use the tools of our people – elders’ wisdom, community values, teamwork, and the service of individuals for the greater good – to battle Nayéé, including the modern-day monsters of suicide, addiction, and violence; and

**WHEREAS**, it is our duty and responsibility as Diné to preserve, support and protect our strengths as a people, to ensure that our sacred language and traditional teachings are not lost for future generations, and to maintain our cultural and spiritual ties to our homeland between the Sacred Mountains where our stories were created and our livelihood is connected; and

**WHEREAS**, we had the strength as a people to maintain these ties throughout the Hweeldi, the forced removal of Diné in the Long Walk, when our people were rounded up and forced to walk three hundred miles to be interned at Bosque Redondo. Many were tortured, raped, and killed, including women in childbirth and children. Still, we persevered. Our ceremonies preserved the Diné as a people and a culture, until the signing of Naalstoos Sání created recognition of our Sovereignty by the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, Diné Sovereignty secures our right to self-governance and our right to embrace our traditional practices, values and beliefs; and

**WHEREAS**, with our wisdom, courage, strength, and resilience, we have become the largest Native Nation in terms of our land base and we have grown into a diverse Nation from all walks of life, with many professions, many levels of knowledge, and different beliefs. Through our diversity and talents, we are now a strong Nation recognized throughout the world; and

**WHEREAS**, we, as Diné people, reflect on how far we have progressed as a Nation, made possible by the sacrifices of our ancestors. With this knowledge, we must humbly accept and fulfill our unlimited potential to build a good, just, and fair world for our people; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Nation Museum is working with the National Archives in Washington, D.C. to bring Naalstoos Sání for an exhibit, which will mark the first time in history that it will be on the Navajo Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive Branch, Legislative Branch and Judicial Branch of the Navajo Nation support bringing the Treaty to the Navajo Nation and educating our Nation and our people on its significance.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED:**

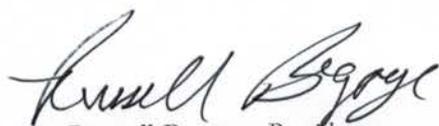
**Section 1.** The year 2018 is recognized as “The Year of Naalstoos Sání” to pay tribute, honor, and remember the strength and resiliency of our ancestors and our great Nation.

**Section 2.** We hereby affirm our ties to our homeland between the Sacred Mountains.

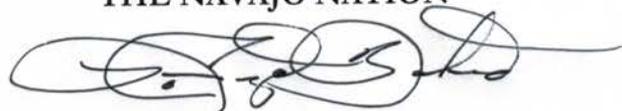
**Section 3.** We hereby commit to a continuing effort to revitalize our Diné language and traditional and cultural teachings and direct all divisions, departments and programs of the Navajo Nation to do their part in strengthening our sovereignty and ensuring the survival of the Diné Lifeway.

**Section 4.** We hereby encourage the public to learn and share the history, language and cultural teachings of our people so that our Diné Lifeway will live on in perpetuity.

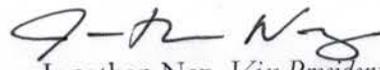
**ORDERED THIS <sup>XX</sup> DAY OF JANUARY 2018**



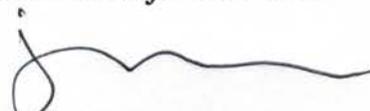
Russell Begaye, *President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**



LoRenzo Bates, *Speaker*  
**23<sup>rd</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**



Jonathan Nez, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**



JoAnn Jayne, *Chief Justice*  
**NAVAJO NATION SUPREME COURT**