23rd Navajo Nation Council
Office of the Speaker

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 23, 2018

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

Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. continues to address availability of services and resources for Navajo veterans

MANY FARMS, Ariz. – On Tuesday, Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse'Daa'Kaan, Upper Fruitland) and Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood) welcomed the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to the Navajo Nation during their "Bringing VA Benefits Home" campaign at Many Farms Chapter, located approximately 16-miles north of Chinle, Ariz.

The "Bringing VA Benefits Home" event gives veterans and their families the opportunity to talk with a VA representative regarding disability claims and other VA-related concerns. The on-site representative assisted veterans and their families with filing claims, adding information to existing claims, obtaining veterans identification cards, and enrolling in eBenefits.

PHOTO: Speaker LoRenzo Bates at the "Bringing VA Benefits Home" event at Many Farms Chapter on March 20, 2018.

During his welcome address, Speaker Bates expressed his appreciation to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for providing on-site services to Navajo veterans who live in rural areas throughout the Navajo Nation.

"I commend the Veterans Affairs department for coming to the Navajo Nation to assist our Navajo veterans. Many of our veterans do not have the opportunities or resources to travel more than 100-miles to receive VA services. However, this event allows Navajo veterans to express their concerns and needs," said Speaker Bates, adding, "I also commend my colleague Delegate Begay and Many Farms Chapter for working closely with the VA department for bringing VA services near the Navajo home areas."

Delegate Begay, who assisted in planning and organizing the partnership between the Many Farms Chapter and the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, expressed the need for more on-site VA representative services for Navajo veterans on the Nation.

According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs tribal relations specialist Lorae Homana Pawiki, the Many Farms Chapter is the first-ever tribal community to host the "Bringing VA Benefits Home" event.

The "Bringing VA Benefits Home" event is scheduled to visit the following communities:

- April 10, 2018 at Kayenta Chapter
- April 12, 2018 at Shiprock Chapter
- May 8, 2018 at Tuba City Chapter
- May 10, 2018 at St. Michaels Chapter
- June 12, 2018 at Crownpoint Chapter
- June 14, 2018 at Chinle Chapter
- June 29, 2018 at Twin Arrows Navajo Casino Resort

Approximately 50 veterans received on-site VA services throughout the day and expressed their appreciation to the Navajo Nation Council and local chapters for providing veteran resources and services to address their issues and concerns.

The Tselani/Cottonwood Chapter, located approximately 23-miles west of Chinle, Ariz., also hosted the "Bringing VA Benefits Home" event the following day.

The "Bringing VA Benefits Home" event provides on-site services from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at each location.

# # #

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