Navajo President and Vice President Congratulate High Wire Artist Nik Wallenda

LITTLE COLORADO RIVER GORGE, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly and Vice President Rex Lee Jim congratulated high wire artist Nik Wallenda after he successfully walked across the Little Colorado River Gorge on a two inch steel cable on Sunday evening near the Grand Canyon.

Wallenda’s tightrope walk, which was near the Little Colorado River Navajo Tribal Park, was broadcasted live on the Discovery Channel to 217 countries throughout the world.

“I want to congratulate Nik on his successful walk. I want to thank the Discovery Channel, NBC and all the workers who made this event successful. This is an example of what can happen when we work together.

I am pleased that the Navajo Nation was a part of this project and that we helped Nik achieve one of his life long goals. It was exciting to Nik walk on the tightrope with windy conditions and I am happy that he was successful.
The worldwide audience was able to see the Navajo Nation and now we invite you to come Navajo land. Come see the pristine landscape for yourself, with your own eyes, you won’t regret it. We invite travelers near and far to come experience Navajo land,” President Shelly said.

President Shelly, Navajo First Lady Martha Shelly and Vice President Jim sat together near the edge of the Little Colorado Gorge and watched Wallenda walk across the gorge.

President Shelly gave a bolo tie to Wallenda after the walk and Vice President Jim presented Wallenda a silver and turquoise belt buckle.

Vice President Jim said Wallenda's success is about achievement.

“I want our Navajo children to know that they can dream big and have big success. Just like Nik dreamed about walking over the Grand Canyon, our young children can dream big about their goals in life and they can achieve them.

We can use each success and build upon that. Each success builds for bigger dreams and larger successes. We can accomplish that for the Navajo Nation,” Vice President Jim said.

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