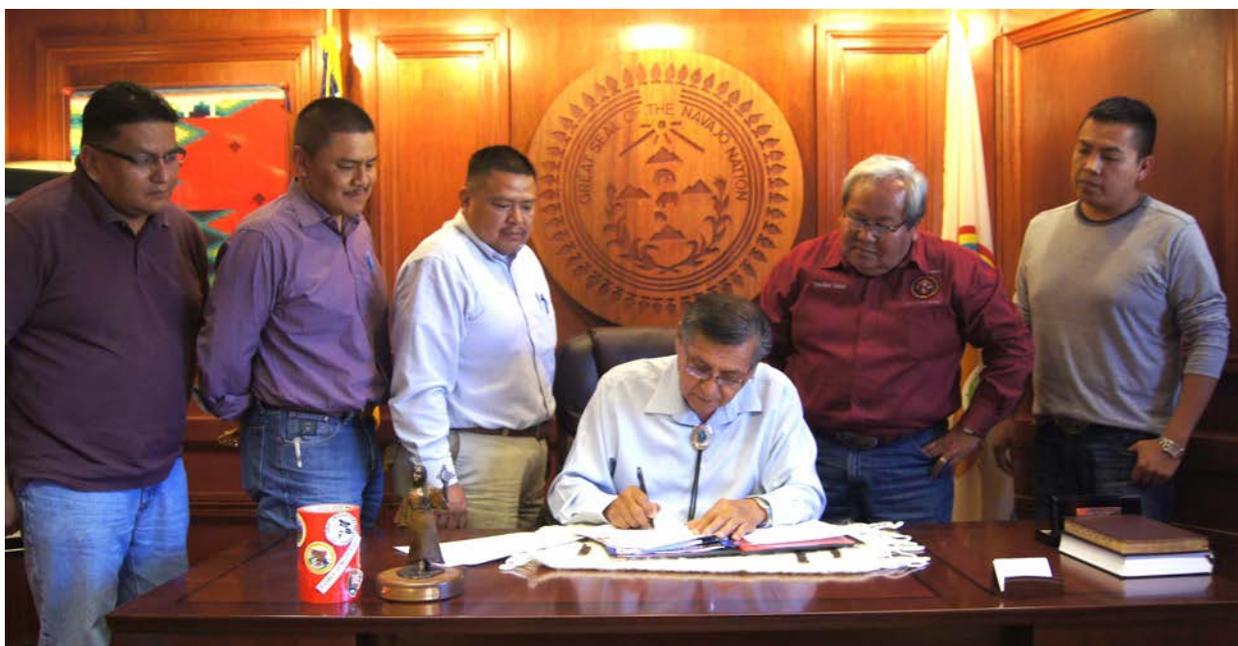




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Navajo President Shelly Signs Veterans' Trust Fund Amendments



Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly (center) signs legislation while Navajo Speaker Johnny Naize (right center) watches. (From left to right) Council Delegates Danny Simpson, Jonathan Hale and Alton Shepard view the signing along with President Shelly's executive staff members (far right) Benny Francisco.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Ben Shelly signed legislation Friday afternoon that provides funding for as many as 75 new homes for Navajo veterans on the Navajo Nation.

“Today, we recognize the needs of our warriors, our veterans on the Navajo Nation,” said President Shelly before he signed legislation CS-48-13.

The legislation, co-sponsored by Navajo Council Speaker Johnny Naize and Council Delegate Alton Shepard, amends the allocations to the Navajo Veterans Trust Fund. The bill allocates four percent of Navajo revenue to be equally split between the Navajo Veterans Trust Fund and the Department of Navajo Veterans' Affairs.

The money going to the Department of Navajo Veterans' Affairs would be for housing. The DNVA office would split their allocated money equally with the five agencies on the Navajo Nation and each agency would be responsible to use the money to build as many as 15 homes for Navajo veterans.

"We have to take care of our veterans. They risked their lives for our freedom and to defend our people," President Shelly said.

The revenue distribution would need to be reauthorized in 2017. Until then, the trust fund and the DNVA would split as much as \$7 million depending upon revenue forecasts. Revenues from taxes, oil and gas mining and minerals, timber, land rentals and other revenue producing activity would be shared with the trust fund and the DNVA office.

Speaker Naize, Council Delegates Shepard, Jonathan Hale, and Danny Simpson were all present during the signing ceremony.

"I appreciate the signing of this legislation," Speaker Naize said after President Shelly signed the legislation.

"To our veterans, I want to thank each and every one of you for the sacrifices you made for our country and our people. You helped make this Navajo way of life possible," President Shelly said.

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