



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

April 8, 2020

**Navajo Nation Family Prayer Weekend  
declared to help fight the spread of COVID-19**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, First Lady Phefelia Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, and Second Lady Dottie Lizer issued a proclamation on Wednesday, declaring April 10-13, 2020, as "Navajo Nation Family Prayer Weekend," in observance of Good Friday and Easter and to encourage families to pray together for family members, neighbors, health care workers, governing officials, and those who are sick, and the families who have lost loved ones due to COVID-19 on the Navajo Nation.

"It has been a heartbreaking and challenging month for our Navajo people as Dikos Nstaaígíí-19, COVID-19, has spread among our communities. As we approach the 57-hour weekend curfew, we ask all of our Diné people to join us in prayer for the victims of the virus and their families, and the health of our communities," said President Nez. "Easter is the celebration of the resurrection of Jesus from the tomb on the third day after his crucifixion."

The proclamation also recognizes "the adversities and sacrifices our people make serving their families and their Nation; those who are researching the COVID-19 coronavirus, the law enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, the military, and all who dedicate their service for our safety."

"For many of us, prayer is an important expression of faith, love, and hope. It is an act of worship, and it offers healing, guidance, and comfort. Through prayer, we find the strength to overcome challenges and heartache. Prayers reminds us that we are not alone and that we are all children of God," said Vice President Lizer. "Also, we ask for everyone to continue to pray for our local health care providers, law enforcement, and first responders who are combating the virus at the front lines."

The proclamation also states, "the religious faith of the Navajo People is strong and guided us through many adversities as a Nation and as individuals."

"The Navajo people have endured many hardships and sacrifices throughout history, but we continue to stand strong with our faith, prayers, and teachings of our elders. As resilient people,

we know our prayers are heard and answered. This weekend, may our beliefs and values bring us together and plant the seeds of hope and restoration," added President Nez.

The proclamation designates April 10-13, 2020, as "Navajo Nation Family Prayer Weekend."

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## THE NAVAJO NATION

# *Proclamation*

### RECOGNIZING APRIL 10-13, 2020 AS “NAVAJO NATION FAMILY PRAYER WEEKEND” TO CALL ON GOD FOR WISDOM, STRENGTH, PROTECTION, HEALING, AND RESTORATION

**FOR THE NAVAJO NATION** the past several weeks has been heartbreaking as we experience the spread of the coronavirus disease across our communities and we recognize:

**WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2020 the Commission on Emergency Management declared a Public Health State of Emergency for the Navajo Nation due to the confirmation of the coronavirus disease surrounding the Navajo Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2020 we issued an Executive Order establishing the Health Command Operations Center, issuing travel restrictions for Navajo Nation employees, closing government offices and sending non-essential employees home, and supporting the closure of schools on the Navajo Nation; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 17, 2020 the Nation learned of two (2) confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease and over the past 23 days, the number has risen to 488 cases and 20 deaths due to the coronavirus disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the Navajo Department of Public Health issued several Public Health Emergency Orders for Navajo People to stay home, a nightly curfew, and an extended curfew for 57-hours from April 10 to April 13 to help reduce the spread of the coronavirus disease; and

**WHEREAS**, the religious faith of the Navajo People is strong and guided us through many adversities as a Nation and as individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, we come together this Easter Weekend to give thanks for blessings and to call on God for He is all powerful, all knowing, never-changing, ever-present, full of loving-kindness, merciful and full of grace toward all who call on his name; and

**WHEREAS**, during this critical time, as we face the coronavirus disease, we encourage families to pray together on this designated weekend for family members, neighbors, health care workers, governing officials, and those who are sick, and those families who have lost loved ones, and we cry out to God for comfort, guidance, harmony, spiritual health, resiliency, and strength; and

**WHEREAS**, we recognize the adversities and sacrifices our people make serving their families and their Nation; those who are researching the COVID-19 coronavirus, the law enforcement officers, firefighters, first responders, the military, and all who dedicate their service for our safety; and

**WHEREAS**, on this NAVAJO NATION FAMILY PRAYER WEEKEND, let each of us call upon God for His guidance and express our gratitude for the love and grace He bestows on us and the Navajo Nation.

**NOW THEREFORE, I, JONATHAN NEZ**, President of the Navajo Nation, **I, MYRON LIZER**, Vice President of the Navajo Nation, **I, PHEFELIA NEZ**, First Lady of the Navajo Nation, and **I, DOTTIE LIZER**, Second Lady of the Navajo Nation, do hereby proclaim April 10-13, 2020, as “Navajo Nation Family Prayer Weekend” to offer prayers for our Navajo People as we fight the coronavirus disease. “We shout Restore!”

**PROCLAIMED THIS 8<sup>th</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2020**



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



Myron Lizer, *Vice President*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**



Phefelia Nez, *First Lady*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**



Dottie Lizer, *Second Lady*  
**THE NAVAJO NATION**