



The Navajo Nation  
Office of the President and Vice President

CONTACTS:  
Jared Touchin, Communications Director  
(928) 274-4275  
Crystalyn Curley, Sr. Public Information Officer  
(928) 274-2758  
Timothy Benally, Public Information Officer  
(928) 871-7000  
[nnopvp.communications@gmail.com](mailto:nnopvp.communications@gmail.com)

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## Funding approved to construct the Navajo Warriors Home nursing home for veterans



**PHOTO:** Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez, Vice President Myron Lizer, Council Delegates, Navajo veterans, and Chinle Chapter officials join together for the signing of Resolution CAP-20-22 in Chinle, Ariz. on May 9, 2022.

**CHINLE, Ariz.** — Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez and Vice President Myron Lizer were joined by the Chinle Agency Veterans Organization and Chinle Chapter officials in Chinle, Ariz. on Monday, as they signed into law Resolution CAP-20-22, appropriating \$29 million to construct and operate a 60-bed nursing home for Navajo veterans which will be named “Navajo Warriors Home.” The new facility will be the very first nursing home on the Navajo Nation dedicated to providing services for Navajo veterans.

“As Navajo people, we all have someone in our family who has served or is serving in the Armed Forces. Indigenous people have the highest per capita rate of military service among all demographics. Our Navajo Code Talkers helped win World War II using our sacred language. We have a long proud history of military service among the First People of this country. With the approval of funding, our Nation is prioritizing the care of our veterans so that they no longer have to seek nursing home services hundreds of miles away from our homelands. They are our warriors

and they deserve these types of services closer to home so they can be near their loved ones within our sacred mountains. We are very thankful for the service and sacrifices of our veterans and we thank all past and present leaders who advocated for this initiative,” said President Nez.

Council Delegate Carl Slater, who sponsored the legislation, and Council Delegate Eugene Tso, who represents the Chinle community, were also in attendance for the signing of the resolution, which was passed by the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council by a vote of 22-0 on April 20.

“We hope this collaborative effort provides a sustainable model that leadership can look to in the future as we establish resources for every Navajo veteran. It’s important to remember past leaders who paved the way for projects like this that allow our veterans to be cared for at home. Ahéhee’ to all of our Diné warriors who advocated for the establishment of this monumental project and your service does not go unrecognized,” said Delegate Slater, who also offered his appreciation on behalf of the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee.

According to the legislation, if a Navajo veteran requires a nursing home due to health and/or age, there are no veteran-specific nursing homes on the Navajo Nation, and the only solution is for the veteran to be admitted to a Veterans Administration nursing home hundreds of miles from their home and the Navajo Nation. Furthermore, such admissions are contingent on space availability and priorities set by the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs.

“Not only will our warriors be able to stay closer to their loved ones, but it will provide more jobs and new opportunities for those who want to train for a career in caring for elders. Providing these types of services are a major part of community building for our Nation. The Navajo Warriors Home is a wonderful example of what we can accomplish when we work together and support each other,” said Vice President Lizer.

Navajoland Nursing Homes, Inc. CEO Wayne Claw, who also oversees the Dr. Guy Gorman Senior Care Center in Chinle, Ariz. thanked the Navajo Nation’s leaders stating, “Ahe’hee, thank you to President Nez and Vice President Lizer. Since 2005, we have been working hard on this project. We have to take care of our veterans on the lands they have protected for us on the battlefields. We welcomed our veterans back home when they completed their service and now, we have to take care of them.”

Navajoland Nursing Homes, Inc. will oversee the construction and operation of the Navajo Warriors Home nursing home facility in the community of Chinle, Ariz. The Office of the President and Vice President thanks the 24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council, Chinle Chapter, Chinle Agency Veterans Organization, and past leaders for their support.

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