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## President Shelly Receives War Bonnet from Tsuu T’ina Nation

**Window Rock, Ariz.** — As a gift from the Tsuu T’ina tribe, of Alberta Canada, Administrator Kevin Littlelight, presented Navajo President Ben Shelly with a traditional Tsuu T’ina war bonnet.

“I wanted to congratulate you on your position as the Navajo Nation President,” said Littlelight. “It is a gift from our people to the President, to show that we honor him as being a prevalent leader amongst his people.”

On Saturday at the 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Navajo Nation Fair pow-wow, during the Tsuu T’ina traditional ceremony Littlelight began with a prayer and singers then recited traditional songs of the Tsuu T’ina tribe. As Littlelight sang, yellow and red war paint were applied onto the president’s face. Littlelight then told president that the war paint was to protect him in his journey as a leader. The war bonnet was then placed on President Shelly’s head.



President Shelly, receiving his war bonnet from Kevin Littlefoot, Nation Administrator



President Shelly, after receiving his war bonnet from the Tsuu T’ina Nation of Albarta Canada

“I respect and appreciate this grand gesture, said President Shelly. “It gives me the pleasure to lead the Navajo Nation well and with this war bonnet, I will continue to fight for us.”

The war bonnet was made of golden eagle feathers, which are sacred to the Plains Indians and is a symbol of stature. The bonnet represents the accomplishment of being a warrior and making a transition from a warrior to a chief.

In previous years, a war bonnet was presented to the former President Peterson Zah and former President Joe Shirley Jr.

“We always try to maintain our relationship with the leading Nation. We have so much to learn in terms of politics, ceremonies, and culture preservation and we have relied on the Navajo Nation for these things, said Littlelight. “We want to foster that relationship into the future.”

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