

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Second Year 2016

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; DECLARING THE THIRD FRIDAY IN MARCH TO BE KNOWN AS "NAVAJO NATION NAAT'ÁANII DAY" WITHIN THE NAVAJO NATION

BE IT ENACTED:

Section One. Standing Committee Authority and Power

- A. The Navajo Nation Council established the Health, Education and Human Services ("HEHS") Committee as a standing committee with the purpose to oversee the Division of Human Resources. See 2 N.N.C. §§400 (A), 401 (C)(1) and 164 (A)(9).
- B. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee possess power to establish Navajo Nation policy, promulgate rules and regulations governing the Navajo Nation's human services. See 2 N.N.C. §401 (B)(1).
- C. Proposed resolutions requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. See 2 N.N.C. §164 (A)(9).
- D. The Navajo Nation Council is the Navajo Nation's governing body. See 2 N.N.C. §102 (A).

Section Two. Findings

- A. Prior to the formation of a centralized Navajo Nation government, there were influential *naat'aaniis* (leaders): Narbona, Barboncito, Manuelito and Ganado Mucho. See David E. Wilkins, The Navajo Political Experience, 129 (1999).
- B. In 1922, the federal government established the semblance of a central Navajo governing authority in order to enter into mineral development leases with the Navajo Nation. See David E. Wilkins, The Navajo Political Experience, 82 (1999).

- C. It is the duty of the Nation's [leaders] to preserve, protect, and enhance the Diné Life Way and sovereignty of the people and their government; the Nation's leaders have always lived by these fundamental laws. See 1 N.N.C. § 2 (History).
- D. A *naat'áanii*, is a term in Navajo used to describe a leaders skill at persuasion through, speech, gestures, and *K'é* (reinforcing relationships using positive values). See Raymond D. Austin, Navajo Courts and Navajo Common Law: A Tradition of Tribal Self-Governance, 9-10 (2009).
- E. The Navajo Nation government structure consists of *Hózhóqí Nahat'á* (Executive Branch), *Naat'áji Nahat'á* (Legislative Branch), *Haskkéjį Nahat'aá* (Judicial Branch), and the *Naayee'jį Nahat'á* (National Security Branch); [t]he leader(s) of the Executive Branch (*Alqajį Hózhóqí Naat'ááh*) represent the Navajo Nation to other people and nations and implement the policies and laws enacted by the legislative branch. See 1 N.N.C. § 202 (E); See also 1 N.N.C. § 203 (C).
- F. It is the right and freedom of the Diné to choose leaders of their choice; leaders who will communicate with the people for guidance; leaders who will use their experience and wisdom to always act in the best interest of the people; and leaders who will ensure the rights and freedoms of the generations yet to come. See 1 N.N.C. § 203 (A).
- G. In the month of March (*Woozhch'iid*), with the sound of the thunder the world is reawakened and the rebirth of all living things occurs; in essence March is a time of renewal, purity and a new beginning.
- H. It would be appropriate for the Navajo people to set aside a day in March to commemorate and pay tribute to our past, present, and future *Naat'áanii*'s of the Navajo Nation.

Section Three. Declaration

The Navajo Nation hereby declares the third Friday of March to be observed as the "Navajo Nation *Naat'áanii* Day."

Section Four. Personnel Policy Manual

This declaration shall not be added to the Navajo Nation Personnel Policies Manual, Section IX, Employee Benefits, para. B, and not be a Paid Holiday. The Human Resources Department shall not incorporate such provision in the next published Personnel Policies Manual.

Section Five. Effective Date

This declaration shall become effective in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(C).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona) at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 14 in favor and 6 opposed, this 21st day of April 2016.



LoRenzo Bates, Speaker
Navajo Nation Council

4/28/16

Date

Motion: Honorable Herman Daniels
Second: Honorable Benjamin Bennett

Navajo Nation

Chairman and Vice-President Chairman Term of Office Vice-President

DODGE, Chee	1923-1928	NONE
CHISCHILLIGE, Deshna	1928-1932	YAZZIE, Maxwell
DODGE, Thomas	1932-1936	KANUHO, Marcus
TALIMAN, Henry, Sr.	1937-1938	KINSEL, Roy
MORGAN, Jacob, C.	1938-1942	GORMAN, Howard
DODGE, Chee	1942-1946	AHKEAH, Sam
AHKEAH, Sam	1946-1950	TSO, Zealy **
AHKEAH, Sam	1951-1954	CLAW, John (1951-1952)
		MALONEY, Adolph (1952-1954)
JONES, Paul	1955-1963	PRESTON, Scott
NAKAI, Raymond	1963-1970	DAMON, Nelson
MCDONALD, Peter	1971-1979	SKEET, Wilson
MCDONALD, Peter	1979-1982	PAUL, Frank E.
ZAH, Peterson	1983-1987	BEGAY, Edward T.
MCDONALD, Peter	1987-1989	THOMPSON, Johnny R.
HASKIE, Leonard	1989-1991	BILLY, Irvin
ZAH, Peterson	1991-1995	PLUMMER, Marshall
HALE, Albert	1995-1999	ATCITY, Thomas
ATCITY, Thomas	1998-1998	BLUEHOUSE, Milton
BLUEHOUSE, Milton	1998-1999	WILLETO, Frank Chee
BEGAY, Kelsey	1999-2003	MCKENZIE, Taylor
SHIRLEY, Joe	2003-2007	DAYISH, Frank
SHIRLEY, Joe	2007-2011	SHELLY, Bennie
SHELLY, Ben	2011-2015	JIM, Rex Lee
BEGAY, Russell	2015-	NEZ, Jonathan

**Zealy Tso was elected to serve the unexpired term of Chee Dodge who died before taking office.