

RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FOURTH YEAR, 2022

AN ACT  
RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NAVAJO WOMEN WARRIORS ON THE FIRST DAY OF  
SPRING EVERY YEAR

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. As such, the Committee has the responsibility to review and recommend legislation relating to veterans and veterans' services, among other duties. 2 N.N.C. § 401(B)(6)(a).
- B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation standing committee, and proposed legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council is assigned to the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9) and § 700(A).
- C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

- A. The Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization passed a resolution dated October 12, 2017, titled: "Supporting Navajo Women Veteran Recognition Day; Beginning The First Day of Spring in March of Every Year on The Navajo Nation." EXHIBIT A.
- B. The Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization acknowledges the following statistics: the current projected percentages of U.S. veterans who are women is 10% of the total veteran population; the average age of women veterans is 48 years old; post-traumatic stress disorder, hypertension, and depression are frequent conditions that women veterans experience; one in five women seen at veterans hospitals report that they have suffered sexual trauma at the hands of their male counterparts; and the suicide rate for women veterans is 19 per 100,000. EXHIBIT A.

- C. Many Navajo women who serve in the military have children and families but must sacrifice time with their loved ones while serving their country away from home. When they return, these women warriors experience many challenges as they take on the responsibilities of civilian life. **EXHIBIT A.**
- D. Since the birth of Changing Women, Diné women have traditionally been held in high regard as they are responsible for the growth of the Navajo People.
- E. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that Navajo women who have served in the military face many different obstacles and challenges, as compared to men serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.
- F. It is most appropriate for the Navajo Nation to designate the first day of Spring in March of every year as a day to recognize, commemorate, and pay tribute to all Navajo Women Warriors who are currently serving, have served, or will serve, in the U.S. Armed Forces.

### **SECTION THREE. DECLARATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION**

The Navajo Nation hereby recognizes and declares the first day of Spring of every year, during the month of March, as a day to honor our Navajo Women Warriors. This day shall be called "Navajo Women Warriors Day" and shall be day of reverence for, and celebration of, all Navajo Women Warriors.

### **SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This declaration shall be effective on the date of the certification of this Resolution by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, in accordance with 2 N.N.C. § 221(C).

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24<sup>th</sup> 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 21 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 2022.

  
Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

April 29, 2022  
DATE

Motion: Honorable Vince R. James

Second: Honorable Eugene Tso

Speaker Seth Damon not voting



**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION  
AGENCY MEETING**

**P.O. Box 430**

**Window Rock, Arizona, 86515**

**Phone: (928) 871-6413 Fax: (928) 871-7288.**

**Commander: Olin T. Kieyoomia**

**Vice Commander: Ryan Sandoval**

**Secretary: Clara Williams**

**RESOLUTION**

**Supporting Navajo Women Veteran Recognition Day; Beginning The First  
Day of Spring in March of Every Year on The Navajo Nation.**

**WHEREAS:**

1. Pursuant to The Navajo Nation Veterans Act; Title II, Section One (E,I,M,N,O,R,T); SS 1032 (B-5,9,10), The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation through resolution of the Veterans Agency; and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-25-71; The Navajo Veterans were recognized and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration was established under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government- Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation; and
3. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation with a Plan of Operation to address the issues, concerns and advocate for all Navajo Veterans; and
4. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes and acknowledges that it is entrusted to strive toward unification of all Navajo Nation Veterans and Local Leadership to provide leadership and coordinate with the needs of the veterans; and
5. In 1942, the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution to aid and defend the United States against all subversive and assisted in the United States Selective Services Board to draft the eligible Navajo to serve in the United States Armed Services and reaffirm allegiance to the United States and expression of patriotism; and
6. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges the following facts of women veterans:
  - A. *The current projected percentage of U.S. Veterans who are women is 10 percent.*
  - B. *The average age of women Veterans was 48 years, compared to 63 years for their male counterparts.*
  - C. *PTSD, hypertension, and depression were the top three diagnostic categories for women Veterans*
  - D. *About 1 in 5 women seen in VHA respond "yes" when screened for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)- rates of MST are higher among women, because of the disproportionate ratio of men to women in the military.*
  - E. *Women make up nearly 11.6 percent of OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.*
  - F. *About 57.4 percent of women OEF/OIF/OND Veterans have received VA health care; of these, 89.8 percent have used VA health care more than once*





**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION  
AGENCY MEETING**

**P.O. Box 430**

**Window Rock, Arizona, 86515**

**Phone: (928) 871-6413 Fax: (928) 871-7288.**

**Commander: Olin T. Kieyoomia**

**Vice Commander: Ryan Sandoval**

**Secretary: Clara Williams**

*G. Nearly 51.3 percent of female OEF/OIF/OND Veterans who used VA care during FY 2002-2011 were born in or after 1970 (aged 43 or younger) compared to nearly 48 percent of male OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.*

*H. The suicide rate for women Veterans was 19 per 100,000, which was about half the male Veteran suicide rate of 37.2 per 100,000.*

*\*Reference: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/VA-Women-Veterans-Fact-Sheet.pdf>*

7. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges Navajo Women and Women in general, that have served or are serving, face many obstacles and challenges that differ from their male counterpart; and
8. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges that many Women Veterans face challenges when returning to civilian life, including raising children on their own or dealing with the aftereffects of all military trauma; and
9. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges that Women Veterans experience their military service in different ways than men and also deal with unique mental health conditions; and
10. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges women veterans are more at risk of being homeless than their male counter and often face struggles with their children.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. **Supporting Navajo Women Veteran Recognition Day; Beginning The First Day of Spring in March of Every Year.**
2. **The birth of Changing Woman (Asdza nádleehe) was planned by First Man (Áłtsé hastiin) and First Woman (Áłtsé asdzáán). First Man (Áłtsé hastiin) repeatedly held up his medicine bundle (jish) toward Gobernador Knob (Ch'oolii) at dawn (hayííka).**
3. **Changing Woman (Asdzaa Nadleehe) [Asdzaa nádleehe] comes closest to being the personification of the earth (Nahasdzáán) and of the natural order of the universe (Yádiłhił Bii' Bii' Haz'ánígíí).**
4. **Navajo Women represent the cyclical path of the seasons (nináhaghahígíí), birth (spring (daan daago), maturing (summer shi shiigo), growing old (fall 'ak'eed) and dying (winter haigo), only to be reborn again in the spring (daan daago).**
5. **Since the Birth of Changing Woman, Navajo Women have been held in high regard as they are responsible for the growth of the Nation, Families, and Teachings.**
6. **The need to recognize Navajo Women Veteran contributions towards military service in all conflicts, peacetime and after...**



**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION  
AGENCY MEETING**

**P.O. Box 430**

**Window Rock, Arizona, 86515**

**Phone: (928) 871-6413 Fax: (928) 871-7288.**

**Commander: Olin T. Kieyoomia**

**Vice Commander: Ryan Sandoval**

**Secretary: Clara Williams**

**C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N**

The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Hereby Certifies the Foregoing Resolution that was Considered at a Regular Duly Called Meeting in Tohatchi Chapter, Tohatchi, New Mexico (Navajo Nation) and that same was approved and passed with a vote of 68 in Favor; 00 Opposed and 01 Abstain on the **12<sup>th</sup> day of October 2017.**

**Motioned: Lorenzo Lee- Dilkon Chapter Veterans Organization**

**Seconded: Tyrone Yazzie- Teesto Veterans Organization**

**Olin T. Kieyoomia- Commander  
Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization**

# NAVAJO NATION

1048

4/21/2022

Navajo Nation Council 2022 Spring Session

03:06:00 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0025-22: Recognizing	PASSED
MOT James, V	and Honoring Navajo Women	
SEC Tso, E	Warriors on the First Day of	
	Spring Every Year	

Yeas : 21

Nays : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 2

Yea : 21

Begay, E	Freeland, M	Smith	Tso, E
Begay, K	Henio, J	Stewart, W	Walker, T
Begay, P	James, V	Tso	Wauneka, E
Brown	Nez, R	Tso, C	Yazzie
Charles-Newton	Slater, C	Tso, D	Yellowhair
Daniels			

Nay : 0

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 2

Halona, P	Crotty
-----------	--------

Presiding Speaker: Damon