RESOLUTION OF THE
NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - FOURTH YEAR, 2022

AN ACTION
RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING REINSTATEMENT OF VESTAH J. TIKIUM, FORMERLY KNOWN AS VESTAH J. JAMES, AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

B. A proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to standing committee(s) having authority over the subject matter at issue and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).

C. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has legislative oversight over the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records and Identification. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(C)(2).

D. Navajo Nation law provides, "[r]enunciation of membership" provides that [a]ny enrolled member of the Navajo Nation may renounce his [her] membership by written petition to the President of the Navajo Nation requesting that his [her] name be stricken from the Navajo Nation roll. Such person may be reinstated in the Navajo Nation only by the vote of majority of the Navajo Nation Council. 1 N.N.C. § 705.

E. In addition, Navajo Law provides, "[n]o person, otherwise eligible for membership in the Navajo Nation, may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation, who, at the same time, is on the roll of any other tribe of Indians." 1 N.N.C. § 703.

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records verified through memorandum, attached as **Exhibit A,** that Vestah J. Tikium (formerly Vestah J. James) officially relinquished her

enrollment with the Navajo Nation on February 11, 1998, and has not be reinstated since.

B. Ms. Tikium officially relinquished her Navajo Nation membership and the Navajo Nation President approved on February 11, 1998. **Exhibit B** provides documentation for relinquishment of Navajo Nation memebership.

C. Ms. Tikium was enrolled with the Orutsararmuit Native Council of Bethel, Alaska. Ms. Tikium relinquished her membership with the Orutsararmuit Native Council on February 2, 2000 because she decided to be domiciled within the Navajo Nation, official documents of relinquishment is attached as **Exhibit C**.

D. Ms. Tikium is eligible for reinstatement pursuant to 1 N.N.C. § 705 and requesting to be reinstated with the Navajo Nation, as requested in **Exhibit D**.

SECTION THREE. RE-ENROLLMENT

The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms that Vestah J. Tikium be reinstated and re-enrolled as a member of the Navajo Nation. Ms. Tikium shall be entitled to all rights, benefits, and privileges associated with the Navajo Nation membership.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the 24th 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 01 Opposed, on this 21st day of April 2022.

Honorable Seth Damon, Speaker
24th Navajo Nation Council

April 29 2022
DATE

Motion: Honorable Rickie Nez
Second: Honorable Paul Begay, Jr.

Speaker Seth Damon not voting

THE NAVAJO NATION

JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT

EXHIBIT
tabbies
A

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of Legislative Counsel
Legislative Branch
Navajo Nation

FROM: Ronald D. Duncan, Program Manager I
Navajo Office of Vital Records & Identification (NOVRI)

DATE: February 14, 2022

RE: Reinstatement of VJames

This memorandum is to verify the enrollment and subsequent relinquishment of Vestah Joann James, date of birth

Ms. James enrolled with the Navajo Nation on October 14, 1969 with enrollment number Her blood quantum is three-eighths Navajo according to our records. Ms. James petitioned for relinquishment from the Navajo Nation through the Section 164 Review Process, #4514 with the intent to enroll her with the Orutsararmuit Native tribe. Relinquishment occurred on February 11, 1998 upon the signature of the Navajo Nation President and has not been reinstated since that time.

Pursuant to Title 1 § 703, no person may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation who is on the roll of another Indian tribe. In this instance, Ms. James would need to demonstrate that she has relinquished from or never enrolled with the Orutsararmuit Native Tribe.

If this is the case, then Ms. James would be eligible for reinstatement and should her request be granted, her original enrollment number would be restored to her. Please contact me should you have any questions about this matter me at (928) 871-6883.

c: File

NAVAJO OFFICE OF VITAL RECORDS & IDENTIFICATION
POST OFFICE BOX 3240 · WINDOW ROCK, AZ 86515 · PHONE: (928) 871-6386 · FAX: (928) 871-6397

THE
NAVAJO
NATION

P. O. BOX 9000 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • (520) 871-6000

ALBERT A. HALE
PRESIDENT

THOMAS E. ATCITTY
VICE PRESIDENT

EXHIBIT
B

COPY

February 25, 1998

Vestah Joanne James
Post Office Box
St. Michaels, Arizona 86511

Dear Ms. James:

Enclosed is your Relinquishment of Navajo Membership. Roll Number has been cancelled and should no longer be used. A copy of your Relinquishment has been forwarded to Orutsaramuit Native Council in Bethel, Alaska.

If there are any questions, please call our office at 520/871-6386, ext. 7211.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Mike
Vital Statistics Technician

Enclosure

RELINQUISHMENT OF NAVAJO TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

I, Vestah Joanne James, R# , DOB: . do hereby petition the President of the Navajo Nation that my name be stricken from the Navajo Census Rolls. My reason is that I want to become an enrolled member of the Orutsararmuit Native Council.

Subject to the acknowledgment of the Navajo Nation President, I do hereby withdraw and renounce my membership in the Navajo Tribe.

I understand and agree that by executing this Relinquishment, I am forfeiting any and all rights and benefits I have, including, but not limited to, any personal or other property of any kind of character, which is based on Navajo membership. I further understand that this Relinquishment will become effective upon receipt of the Navajo Office of Vital Records.

Signed at Window Rock, Az this 29th day of December, 1997.

Vestah Joanne James
Vestah Joanne James
R#
Post Ofc. Box
ADDRESS:
St. Michaels, Az 86511

WITNESSES:

Dora J. Henderson
Name (Signature Required)
P.O. Box
Address
Window Rock, Az 86515

Jennifer Carroll
Name (Signature Required)
P.O. Box #
Address
St. Michaels Az - 86511 -

ACKNOWLEDGED:

Navajo Nation President

FEB 12 1998
DATE

Recorded on page 22 Southern Navajo Indian Census Roll, Arizona. Recorded on Feb. 18, 1998.

Leonard Benally, Vital Statistics Manager
Navajo Office of Vital Records

cc: Tribal Enrollment Services, Fort Defiance Agency, The Navajo Nation, P.O. 290, Fort Defiance, AZ 86504
Orutsararmuit Native Council, P.O. Box 927, Bethel, Alaska 99559

THE
NAVAJO
NATION
P.O. BOX 9000 WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 (520)871-6386

KELSEY A. BEGAYE
PRESIDENT

TAYLOR McKENZIE, M.D.
VICE PRESIDENT

EXHIBIT
C

February 23, 2000

Vastah Joanne James
PO Box

Dear Ms. James:

This office has received a notice that you have relinquished from the Orutsararmuit Native Council of Bethel, Alaska.

If you intend to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation, you need to request in writing to this office why you want to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation and why you relinquished from the Orutsararmuit Tribe.

The Enrollment Screening Committee will be meeting soon, but a date has not been set yet. We will let you know in writing when the committee will be meeting. The burden of gathering all pertinent documents you will present to the Enrollment Screening Committee rest on you. Please furnish this office a copy of all the documents.

If there are any questions, please call this office at 520/8716386, extension 6406.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Mike
Vital Statistics Technician

ONC
ORUTSARARMUIT NATIVE COUNCIL

February 07, 2000

Vestah Joanne James
P.O. Box
St. Michaels, AZ. 86511

Dear Vestah:

Orutsararmuit Native Council has approved the relinquishment request for Vestah Joanne James, your name has been removed from the Tribal Enrollment Registry as of February 02, 2000.

A copy of your relinquishment form and this letter have been forwarded to The Navajo Nation.

If you have any questions, please call (907) 543-2608.

Sincerely,

Linda Samuelson
Tribal Ops.

CC: The Navajo Nation
File

P.O. BOX 927, BETHEL, ALASKA 99559 (907) 543-2608 FAX (907) 543-2639 IN STATE ONLY 800-478-2654

ADULT RELINQUISHMENT FORM

I, Vestah Joanne James, an adult person, do hereby relinquish my tribal membership in the Orutsaramuit Native Council for the following reason: (list your reasons, if any)

I am currently residing in Fort Defiance, Arizona (Navajo Reservation) and I intend to remain there for life with my families and relatives.

This relinquishment of my tribal membership is made freely and voluntarily with the full understanding that henceforth I shall cease to hold membership in the Native Village of Bethel and that I will no longer be eligible for benefits I am entitled to as a member of the tribe.

My membership is cancelled as of: (Check One)

(X) The date of the Native Village of Bethel receives this form. Date received February 02, 2000.

( ) The date of my acceptance into another tribe.

Name of Tribe

Date of Enrollment

Signature of person relinquishing: Vestah Joanne James

Mailing Address: Post Office Box

St. Michaels, Arizona 86511

Date: February 02, 2000

P.O. BOX 927, BETHEL, ALASKA 99559 (907) 543-2608 FAX (907) 543-2639 IN STATE ONLY 800-478-2654

EXHIBIT
tabbies
D

Vestah J. Tikium
Post Office .

Date: January 13, 2022

The Navajo Nation
Fort Defiance Agency
Tribal Enrollment Services
P.O. Box 290
Ft. Defiance, AZ 86504

RE: REINSTATEMENT

Dear Enrollment Director,

My name is Vestah J. Tikium from Fort Defiance, Arizona. In 1998, I relinquished my Tribal Census with The Navajo Nation and enrolled with Orutsararmuit Native Council with the intention of relocating to Bethel, Alaska after the passing of my late grandmother. However, my children did not want to relocate and to continue with their education here at Window Rock Unified School District. So with that decision, we never moved and continued residing here on The Navajo Nation.

On February 02, 2000, Orutsaramuit Native Counscil has approved my relinquishment request and removed my name from the Tribal Enrollment Registry (letter attached). A copy of the relinquishment form and letter have been forwarded to The Navajo Nation.

Therefore, I respectfully would like to request to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation with your consideration and approval to obtain my previous Tribal Census No. As I have resided on the Navajo reservation all of my life and plan to remain here with my children and family for the rest of my life. I am also in the process of renovating my home and actively involved in livestock ownership with my family.

Your understanding and approval to the above matter is most appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at . Ahe'hee'

Sincerely,

Vestah J. Tikium

Vestah J. Tikium

FILE

ATTACHMENT
☞ Letter of Relinquishment from the ONC

Vestah J. James
Post Office Bo)

Date: January 17, 2001

Leonard Benally, Manager
NAVAJO VITAL RECORDS
Post Office Box 9000
Window Rock, Az. 86515

RE: REQUESTING TO RE-ENROLL

Dear Mr. Benally:

I respectfully would like to request to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation with your consideration and approval to obtain my previous **Tribal Census No.**
As I have resided on the Navajo reservation most of my life and plan to remain here with my children and spouse for the rest of my life. I am also in the process of renovating my house and actively involved in livestock ownership with my family.

Your understanding and approval to the above matter is most appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address or daily at (520)871-5863. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Vestah J. James

Vestah J. James

ATTACHMENT
* Letter of Relinquishment

1-17-2001 fax

NAVAJO NATION

1049 4/21/2022

Navajo Nation Council 2022 Spring Session 03:34:34 PM

Amd# to Amd#	Legislation 0032-22: Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formely Known as Vestah J. James as a Member of the....	PASSED
MOT Nez, R		
SEC Begay, P		

Yeas : 21 **Nays : 1** **Excused : 0** **Not Voting : 1**

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 : 1

Halona, P

Excused : 0

Not Voting : 1

Crotty

Presiding Speaker: Damon