

RESOLUTION OF THE

NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE OF THE  
23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Third Year, 2017

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES SUPPORTING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE  
NATIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS MEMORIAL AT THE NATIONAL  
MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN IN WASHINGTON D.C.

WHEREAS:

- A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and Human Services Committee ("HEHSC") as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered HEHSC to review and recommend resolutions regarding veterans. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate with all committees, Chapters, branches and entities concerned with all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional committees, and departments of the United States government. See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 1868, Aug. 12, 1868, 15 Stat. 667.
- D. The Office of Tribal Government Relations and Department of Veterans Affairs reports that Native Americans have served in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group, report attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- E. Native Americans have served in every United States military encounters since the Revolutionary War and continue to make significant contributions that exemplify intelligence, bravery, and patriotism. *Id.*
- F. Currently, there are over 128,000 living Native American veterans with approximately 10,000 from the Navajo Nation. See U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey

5-Year Estimates: 2011-2015 American Community Survey  
American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.

- G. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.
- H. In 1994, Congress passed the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act, which authorized the National Congress of American Indians to construct the National Native American Veterans' Memorial within the interior structure of the National Museum of the American Indian ("NMAI"). The memorial is authorized in order to recognize the distinguished military service of Native Americans, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians. Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act of 1994, Pub. L. No. 103-384, §§ 2-3 108 Stat. 4067 (prior to 2013 amendment).
- I. In 2013, Congress amended the Native American Veterans' Memorial Establishment Act to permit the construction of the National Native American Veterans' Memorial on the exterior property of the NMAI and to include the NMAI as a partner in the construction of the memorial. See Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013, Pub. L. No. 113-70, § 2-4, 127 Stat. 1208.
- J. Other entities operating on the Navajo Nation support the construction of the National Native American Veterans' Memorial, attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.
- K. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to support the construction of the National Native American Veterans' Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports the construction of the National Native American Veterans' Memorial at the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C. for the purpose of paying tribute to the significant service and sacrifice of Native American, Alaskan Native, and Native Hawaiians who have served in the United States Armed Forces.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the President of the Navajo Nation, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, and their designees, to advocate for the construction of

the National Native American Veterans' Memorial as outlined in the National Native American Veterans Memorial Establishment Act of 1994 as amended by the Native American Veterans' Memorial Amendments Act of 2013.

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'íyáti' Committee of the 23<sup>rd</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 12 in Favor and 00 Opposed, on this 26<sup>TH</sup> day of October, 2017.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "LoRenzo C. Bates", with a stylized flourish at the end.

LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairperson  
Naabik'íyáti' Committee

Motion: Honorable Dwight Witherspoon  
Second: Honorable Norman M. Begay

Chairperson Bates not voting



## National Museum of the American Indian Director Visits Reno-Sparks Indian Colony

The Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of the American Indian (NMAI) has been charged by Congress with building a National Native American Veterans Memorial, and on Monday, veterans and had a chance to comment on the pending design and construction.

Native Americans have served in the United States military in every major conflict since the Revolutionary War. In recent decades, they have served in greater numbers per capita than any other ethnic group. So, the museum has begun preliminary plans to construct this memorial in the next four years to give all Americans the opportunity to learn of the proud and courageous tradition of service of Native Americans in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The NMAI and the advisory committee are currently conducting consultations to share plans for the memorial and to seek input and support. Regional events, like the one being held at the Reno-Sparks Indian Colony (RSIC), bring together tribal leaders, Native veterans, and community members. RSIC Tribal Chairman Arlan D. Melendez, a Marine Corps veteran, co-hosted a consultation for the memorial at the Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Care Center on May 1. Veterans, their family members, professionals whom work with veterans and members of the community attended.

The service and sacrifice of Native American veterans, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, spans nearly two and a half centuries of American history. During World War II, over 44,000 Native Americans served in the U.S. military. Hundreds of Hopi, Navajo, Comanche, and other Native language speakers—Code Talkers—played a crucial role. More than 42,000 Native Americans served during the Vietnam War. Today, the U.S. Department of Defense estimates more than 24,000 American Indian and Alaska Native men and women are on active duty, and more than 150,000 veterans self-identify as American Indian or Alaska Native.

An advisory committee for the memorial has been formed, led by the Honorable Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Northern Cheyenne) and Chickasaw Nation Lieutenant Governor Jefferson Keel. The group, composed of tribal leaders and veterans from across Native America, is assisting with outreach to communities and veterans and advising on plans for the memorial.

In the fall of 2020, the museum will launch a juried competition to select a design for the memorial. The National Native American Veterans Memorial will be located prominently on the museum's grounds on the National Mall, between the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the U.S. Capitol. The dedication ceremony is planned for Veterans Day 2020, to unveil the memorial and honor the immense contributions and patriotism of Native Americans in the U.S. Armed Forces.

RESOLUTION OF THE WINSLOW INDIAN HEALTH CARE CENTER

**Resolution of Support for the National Native American Veterans Memorial**

**WHEREAS:**

1. The Winslow Indian Health Care Center ("WIHCC") is a non-profit corporation chartered under Navajo Nation law and sanctioned and authorized by the Navajo Nation Council in Resolution No. CJY-33-10 to operate the federally funded health care programs, services, functions and activities in and near the eight chapters of Leupp, Bird Springs, Teesto, White Cone, Dilkon, Tolani Lake, Jeddito and Indian Wells; and
2. Native Americans, including American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, have served honorably in the armed forces of the United States in every major conflict since the Revolutionary War; and
3. Native Americans have served in numbers far exceeding their representation in the population of the United States and, in the twentieth century, served at a higher rate per capita than any other ethnic group; and
4. Native Americans have given their lives in service to their country and have earned through their service Medals of Honor and numerous other military honors; and
5. Veterans hold a place of high esteem in Native American communities, with strong traditions of protecting their homeland, community, family, and cultural heritage; and
6. This long and honorable tradition of service is largely unknown to the general public; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The WIHCC Board of Directors supports the efforts of the National Museum of the American Indian, as directed by the United States Congress, to create a National Native American Veterans Memorial to honor and raise awareness of this tradition of service; and
2. The WIHCC Board of Directors encourages contributions of financial support for the project and urges all who can to give generously in honor of Native American veterans and all veterans.



**CERTIFICATION**

We hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered at a duly called meeting of WIHCC at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 6 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstained, that \_\_\_\_ day of June, 2017.

WINSLOW INDIAN HEALTH CARE CENTER, INC.

  
Robert Salabye, President

Motion By: Velma HusKey

Second By: Mary Ann Begay

# NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 645

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

10/26/2017

04:30:39 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation No. 0416-17:

PASSED

MOT Witherspoon

Supporting the Construction of

SEC Begay, NM

the National Native American

Veterans Memorial...

**Yea : 12**

**Nay : 0**

**Not Voting : 11**

**Yea : 12**

Begay, NM

Bennett

Daniels

Tso

Begay, S

Chee

Phelps

Tsosie

BeGaye, N

Damon

Slim

Witherspoon

**Nay : 0**

**Not Voting : 11**

Bates

Crotty

Jack

Shepherd

Begay, K

Filfred

Perry

Smith

Brown

Hale

Pete

Yazzie