



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

MEDIA CONTACTS

Alray Nelson, Communications Director
Kyrn Hardy, Public Information Officer
Kolton Nephew, Legislative Staff Writer
E-mail: nnlb.communications@gmail.com
Phone: (928) 530-8329

Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay, Jr. continues advocating for Veterans, Gold and Blue Star Families

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 22, 2021



PHOTO: Western Navajo Agency Veterans, Billy Goodman, Jr., Leslie Dele, and Don Coleman posting colors for the 2021 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Council Delegate Kee Allen Begay Jr. of the 24th Navajo Nation Council continues his advocacy for Navajo veterans and sponsors Resolution No. NABIAU-25-21 during a Naabik'iyáti' Committee meeting hosted earlier this month.

The resolution would request the United States Congress and the Biden-Harris Administration to establish a direct line of service for veterans and their families on the Navajo Nation. This comes after reports of excessive delays for veterans seeking healthcare and other basic services from the federal government.

“Our veterans and their families deserve the best care and support possible from our respective veteran agencies at the local and federal level. Educational opportunities need to be expanded and the proper infrastructure for electric and water lines need to be constructed,” said Delegate Begay. “We need to ensure our veterans and their surviving spouses, and our Gold and Blue Star Mothers, get the support they need. President Joe Biden must uphold his commitment to uplift veterans and their families during this pandemic.”

Currently, no Veterans Affairs (VA) Offices or direct federal services are available on the Navajo Nation, resulting in long wait or travel times for veterans seeking care. Although the Navajo Veterans Administration offers some basic services, it is limited to housing and a financial assistance program.

- MORE -

Back in 2010, tribal leaders gathered to offer comments on a Memorandum of Understanding to address the lack of healthcare access to the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Indian Health Service (IHS). Reports showed that the IHS lacked the funding and specific support to address the post-traumatic stress disorders and other traumatic brain injuries experienced by Native American veterans nationally.

As of this year, there are over 128,000 Native American veterans living in the United States with approximately 10,000 veterans from the Navajo Nation. Delegate Begay continues to advocate for veterans' services, their surviving families and is committed to hosting future tribal consultation meetings with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Interior Department, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and members of Congress.

###