

RESOLUTION OF THE
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE
23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED STATES VETERANS AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS

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 and/or veteran services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) (2012). See also CO-45-12.
- B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'iyáti' 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. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a higher rate than any other ethnic group. U.S. Gov'T ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS: IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN VETERANS 1 (2014).
- E. 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.

- F. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.
- G. Within the last 5 years, reports of excessive, and sometimes deadly, waiting times for veterans seeking government healthcare came to light, and President Obama promised accountability. Scott Bronstein & Tom Cohen, *Obama: Shinseki stays for now, but VA misconduct will be punished*, CNN (May 23, 2014) available at www.cnn.com.
- H. In 2010, tribal leaders and representatives offered comments on the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and other health related issues. One comment recorded showed that IHS understood the native culture, languages, and background; however, IHS did not understand the specific needs of Native veterans like the VA, i.e. post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 2012 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT 11 (2012).
- I. There is currently no United States Veteran Affairs office or services on the Navajo Nation. This requires Navajo veterans to travel off reservation to seek veteran services. The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations from the Navajo Nation General Fund; however, assistance through the Navajo Veterans Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.
- J. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

- A. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran's hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees to advocate for this request.

CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 23rd 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 10 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 09th day of November 2018.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Second : Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

Pursuant to § 700 (D), A quorum of the committee shall be satisfied by the presence of two (2) members of each Standing Committee or a majority of delegates of the Navajo Nation Council.

NAVAJO NATION

RCS# 1105

11/9/2018

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

01:07:44 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Legislation 0323-18:

PASSED

MOT Slim

Respectfully Requesting the US

SEC Begay, K

Veterans Affairs Administration
to Establish a Veterans Hospital

Yea : 10

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 12

Yea : 10

Begay, K
Bennett
Brown

Crotty
Daniels
Hale

Jack
Pete

Slim
Tso

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

BeGaye, N

Not Voting : 12

Bates
Begay, NM
Chee

Damon
Filfred
Kieyoomia

Perry
Phelps
Shepherd

Smith
Tsosie
Yazzie