

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

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE; SUPPORTING NEW MEXICO SENATE BILL 105 TITLED "AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A NAVAJO CODE TALKERS MUSEUM AND VETERANS CENTER"

WHEREAS:

- A. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee ("HEHSC") is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. The committee is empowered to review and recommend resolutions regarding certain matters, including health, education, social services, veterans and veteran affairs. 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'íyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to assist and coordinate all requests for information, appearances and testimony relating to state legislation impacting the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(4), 701(A)(6) (2015); See also CO-45-12.
- C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government relationship with the State of New Mexico.
- D. On January 24, 2018, New Mexico State Senator John Pinto introduced S.B. 105 titled "An Act Making an Appropriation for a Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center" and is attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.
- E. The Navajo Nation supports S.B. 105 "An Act Making an Appropriation for a Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center" for the following reasons:
  1. The Act will appropriate one million dollars from the New Mexico General Fund to the Indian Affairs Department for expenditure in fiscal year 2019 for the design and construction of a Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center to be located in McKinley County, New Mexico.

F. The proposed Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center will be funded by additional funding sources including but not limited to the Navajo Code Talkers Foundation. See **Exhibit B.**

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

- A. The Navajo Nation hereby supports New Mexico S.B. 105 "An Act Making an Appropriation for a Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center" for the reasons stated herein.
- B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the President of the Navajo Nation, the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, and their designees to advocate the Navajo Nation's support of New Mexico S.B. 105 "An Act Making an Appropriation for a Navajo Code Talkers Museum and Veterans Center".

**CERTIFICATION**

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik'iyáti' 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 13 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of October 2018.



LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman  
Naabik'iyáti' Committee

Motioned: Honorable Leonard Tsosie  
Second : Honorable Benjamin L. Bennett

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting



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SENATE BILL 105

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

John Pinto

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A NAVAJO CODE TALKERS MUSEUM AND  
VETERANS CENTER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.**--One million dollars  
(\$1,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the  
Indian affairs department for expenditure in fiscal year 2019  
to design and construct a Navajo code talkers museum and  
veterans center located in McKinley county. Any unexpended or  
unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2019  
shall revert to the general fund.

.209114.1

underscored material = new  
[bracketed material] = delete



# SANTA FE NEW MEXICAN

[http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/legislature/bill-to-fund-new-code-talkers-museum-passes-senate-committee/article\\_6bc33aad-0c13-56a0-a6b1-26618d5b090a.html](http://www.santafenewmexican.com/news/legislature/bill-to-fund-new-code-talkers-museum-passes-senate-committee/article_6bc33aad-0c13-56a0-a6b1-26618d5b090a.html)

## Bill to fund new Code Talkers museum passes Senate committee

By Robert Nott | The New Mexican Jan 30, 2018 Updated Jan 31, 2018



State Sen. John Pinto, one of the few living Navajo Code Talkers who served in World War II, has introduced a bill to allocate \$1 million for the construction of a museum and veterans center to honor the Code Talkers. Pinto is shown speaking with Kaitlyn Gibson of the American Cancer Society. Jason Stilgebauer/The New Mexican



The Navajo Code Talkers were not so much the silent warriors of World War II as they were the indecipherable heroes of the Japanese theater of combat.

The Code Talkers, many of whom were from New Mexico, used their native language to confound the Japanese in planning battles, calling for reinforcements and transmitting requests for food, ammunition or medicine.

Many military historians credit them with helping to win the war.

“Were it not for the Navajos, the Marines would have never taken Iwo Jima,” Marine Maj. Howard Connor once said of a famous and pivotal battle. He served as a signal officer for the Marines’ Code Talker unit during the Iwo Jima campaign.

Now one of few Code Talkers still living, state Sen. John Pinto, D-Gallup, wants to honor their legacy with a museum.

On Tuesday, he moved one small step closer to that goal after the Senate Indian and Cultural Affairs Committee unanimously voted for a bill asking the Legislature to allocate \$1 million to build a Navajo Code Talkers museum and veterans center in New Mexico, near the Arizona border.

Pinto, sponsor of the bill, presented it by facing an assembly of some 25 people, many of them Native Americans. Then the senator, who estimates he is 93 years old (birthdates on the Navajo Nation often were imprecise), recounted with quiet emotion the contribution Navajos made to winning the war.

His head bowed, his hands clasped together as in prayer, Pinto spoke of the Japanese aerial attack on Pearl Harbor that led to America’s entry into the war, and of the 2,335 U.S. servicemen killed in that attack.

“I hope it never happens again,” he said.

He then recounted how Navajos were recruited to join the Marines as a special unit of Code Talkers who would use their native language to confuse the enemy's cryptography experts.

The Navajo Diné language, which few non-Navajos understood, was unwritten. Code strategists devised a 200-plus word code from it.

Many Code Talkers, who also took part in combat missions, died overseas and are buried far from their native land, Pinto said.

Still, building a museum in honor of Code Talkers would not be easy.

The Legislative Finance Committee's fiscal analysis of the bill says the Indian Affairs Department has concerns about the costs for design and construction, which could in turn limit money for operations and programming. The Indian Affairs Department said other funding "would be necessary for the continued operation of the project."

But the \$1 million that New Mexico would invest in the planned museum is just one source of funding, said Mark Freeland, a spokesman for the Navajo Nation. He said the nonprofit Navajo Code Talkers Foundation is also raising money for the project.

The 140-acre property designated for the museum was donated to the Navajo Code Talkers Foundation by the Chevron Mining company, Freeland told the committee.

Many who attended the hearing spoke in favor of Pinto's proposal.

Carmen Moffett of Gallup told the committee that her father, Newton Moffett, served with the Army during World War II. She said opening the museum "would be a historic moment."

"I would like, in my lifetime, to see something like this happen," she said. "If not, then in the lifetime of my son."

Her son, Del Norte Elementary School fifth-grader Hunter Whitehair of Gallup, said the museum could be an important destination for school field trips so children “can learn about our culture and not forget about our contributions to the war.”

Some senators on the committee asked Pinto and Freeman if the museum would include information on Code Talkers from other tribes and nations, including Comanches. Freeman said that is a possibility.

The bill next goes to the Senate Finance Committee.

*Contact Robert Nott at 505-986-3021 or [rnott@sfnewmexican.com](mailto:rnott@sfnewmexican.com).*

**NAVAJO NATION**

RCS# 1066

10/11/2018

Naa'bik'iyati Committee

06:24:55 PM

**Amd# to Amd#**

**Legislation 0283-18: Supporting**

**PASSED**

MOT Tsosie

New Mexico Senate Bill 105 Title

SEC Bennett

An Act Making an Appropriation  
for a Navajo Code Talkers Museum

**Yea : 13**

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 10**

**Yea : 13**

Bennett

Jack

Phelps

Tso

Chee

Perry

Slim

Tsosie

Crotty

Pete

Smith

Witherspoon

Damon

**Nay : 0**

**Excused : 0**

**Not Voting : 10**

Bates

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Begay, K

Brown

Hale

Yazzie

Begay, NM

Daniels