

BFJY-157-82

Class "C" Resolution  
No BIA Action Required.

RESOLUTION OF THE  
BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE  
OF THE NAVAJO TRIBAL COUNCIL

Adopting the Fiscal Year 1982 Budget (8000 Series)  
for the Veterans Assistance Program

WHEREAS:

1. The Veterans Assistance Program was established by the Navajo Tribal Council Resolution CF-14-82, within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Tribal Council; and
2. Navajo Veterans have never been able to gain treatment and benefits from the federal government on a parity with other veterans and in many cases have been totally excluded from key benefits and programs instituted expressly for the benefit of veterans; and
3. The Navajo Veteran's Commission special mandate shall be to identify and assess Navajo Veteran needs, prioritize those needs and make recommendations for the expenditures of funds from a revolving credit account established for funding of special programs or expansions of programs to be implemented through the existing Tribal Divisions; and
4. The Navajo Tribal Council did further amend the Fiscal Year 1982 Tribal Budget by establishing through the appropriate tribal financial mechanism, a revolving credit account in the amount of \$1,875,000.00 from the Unappropriated Surplus Funds, for the purpose of initiating, implementing, expanding or improving various veterans programs as identified and prioritized by the Navajo Veterans Commission; and
5. To the maximum extent possible, such funds shall be used to generate additional state, federal or tribal funds in order to insure the maximum return for the dollar by use as match or by increasing the effectiveness or responsiveness of some ongoing program identified as having the potential to meet a high priority veteran need including, but not limited to housing, medical care, employment assistance, burial, or increased participation in federal veterans benefit programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

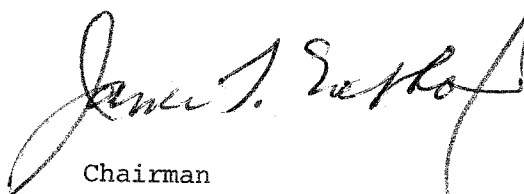
1. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council hereby approves the adoption and implementation of the Fiscal Year 1982 Budget for the Veterans Assistance Program, attached hereto as Exhibit "A".

2. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council hereby directs the establishment of a revolving account (8000 series) to be assigned by the Financial Services Department for the Veterans Assistance Program.

3. The Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council hereby directs the Veterans Assistance Program to coordinate all activities with the Chairman, Navajo Tribal Council, Navajo Veterans Commission, Navajo Housing Services Department, and further directs the Veterans Assistance Program to submit a full report monthly to the Chairman, Navajo Tribal Council and the Navajo Veterans Commission for their review.

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Budget and Finance Committee of the Navajo Tribal Council at a duly called meeting at Albuquerque, New Mexico, at which a quorum was present and that same was passed by a vote of 7 in favor and 0 opposed, this 28th day of July, 1982.



Chairman  
Budget and Finance Committee

\$1,000,000

Transfer to Community Development Veterans Housing Program

\$ 875,000

Emergency Assistance	\$ 60,000.00
Burial Assistance	40,000.00
Medical, Transportation Cost, Veterans Ceremonies	300,000.00
Navajo Nation Veterans Association	120,000.00
Navajo Nation Honor Guard	80,000.00
Chapter Employment, Vocational Rehabilitation Assistance & Counseling	80,000.00
Navajo Language	40,000.00
Education	105,000.00
McNabb & Preston/Washington Law Firm	<u>50,000.00</u>
TOTAL:	<u>\$875,000.00</u>

Subject to Modification by the Budget and Finance Committee, all accounts will be in 8000 continuation account.

PROPOSED FY '82 BUDGET FOR THE  
VETERANS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM  
THE NAVAJO TRIBE

HOUSING

\$1,000,000.00 will be transferred to the Navajo Veterans Housing Assistance Program to be administered by the Division of Community Development through the Navajo Housing Services Department whereby \$23,025 will be established for program administration, \$700,000 for program grants, and \$276,975 for revolving loans.

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs plans a high priority in certain categories, such as the elderly, recently separated service persons, provide assistance for active duty personnel in extreme emergency cases, veterans, and the incarcerated, etc. Financial assistance will be provided up to and not to exceed \$450.00, in cases of hardship. In cases of burnouts, assistance will be provided to replenish only basic and essential items, an official report or written verification must be submitted within 20 days after the burnout for documentation. The burnout must occur to a permanent resident in which the veteran was living at the time of the disaster. The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting for appropriation of \$60,000.00.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE

For the Burial Assistance benefit, the deceased veteran must have been discharged under conditions other than dishonorable. The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs will administer a burial assistance program for Navajo Veterans in accordance with the provisions and eligibility requirements of chapter 38, U.S. Code of Federal Regulations. Generally, \$300.00 will be provided from the Veterans Administration, also the Navajo Nation Office of Veteran's Affairs program will provide burial assistance of a maximum payment of \$450.00. For this program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting an appropriation of \$40,000.00.

TRANSPORTATION COSTS, MEDICAL, AND VETERAN'S CEREMONIES

For this program, the funds will be used to provide per diem and transportation to handicapped or non-handicapped veterans to necessary medical services to eligible veterans on an outpatient basis within the limits of the Veterans Administration facilities. Outpatient medical treatment includes medical examinations and related medical services including rehabilitation, professional counseling, training and mental health services as necessary in connection with treatment of physical and mental disabilities. For veteran's ceremonies, this includes conventions, Traditional ceremonies, Navajo Nation Veterans Association, and orientation on veterans benefits. For the entire program the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting for appropriation of \$300,000.00

## NAVAJO NATION VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION

The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs proposes an umbrella Veteran organization to ensure the affect of a benefit for every Navajo serviceman/woman and veterans, male or female. The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs will pay into a trust fund at the Great Western Bank in Window Rock, Arizona, the initial due (1982) and subsequent (1983, 1984, 1985) three years dues for every enumerate member of the Navajo Nation Veteran's Association. Five (5) dollars of each participating serviceman/women will be expended from each year's due payment to purchase and provide each with a three thousand dollars (\$3,000) life insurance policy. For this program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting for an appropriation of \$120,000.00.

## NAVAJO NATION HONOR GUARD

The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs proposes to fund and maintain a Navajo Nation Honor Guard composed of a veteran from the Four Armed Forces branches and from each war and peacetime era. A total of twenty-four (24) veterans will be used. The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs will advertise and recruit the necessary veterans who will compose this Honor Guard, provide uniforms, equipment, a stipend fee, per diem, and a appropriate means of transportation. For this program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting for an appropriation of \$80,000.00

## CHAPTER EMPLOYMENT, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE AND COUNSELING

For the Chapter Employment program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs will employ five (5) veterans for each agency to coordinate activities at the chapter levels. Salaries will be set at minimum wages. For the Vocational Rehabilitation program, eligible veterans who suffered a service - connected disability, and who were discharge or released under other than dishonorable conditions. The Veterans Administration will determine if they need Vocational Rehabilitation to overcome the handicap for employment caused by their disabilities. If the Veterans Administration determines the need, the veterans can utilize the Vocational Rehabilitation centers on the Navajo Reservation, in coordination with the Vocation Rehabilitation Program under the Division of Education, the Navajo Tribe. For this program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting an appropriation of \$80,000.00.

## NAVAJO LANGUAGE

The United States government is heavily involved with a Spanish language program operated by the Veteran's Administration to insure that Spanish speaking veterans are aware of their federal benefits and other publications. No similar program has ever been made available for Navajo Veterans. The failure to properly inform Navajo of their rights and benefits has caused thousands of them to miss millions of dollars of benefits and as a consequence, missed many thousands of opportunities. The funding will also provide appropriate V.A. materials to be translated in the Navajo Languages,

## NAVAJO LANGUAGE (continued)

so that our people will know what services and opportunities are available to them. We also propose that we obtain funds for and prepare audio or video tapes on the same subject so that our older families will understand the programs. For this program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting an appropriation of \$40,000.00.

## EDUCATION

The Veterans Administration administers two basic programs for veterans and service persons seeking assistance for education or training. Services will be provided to eligible veterans who served on active duty for more than 180 continuous days and who were released under conditions other than dishonorable. We know that there have been thousands of Navajo veterans who left the Navajo Nation to serve in a war and when they returned to their traditional way of life, they were never made aware of the fact they could have received education and many other types of training. This failure to participate was not due to a physical or mental impairment, but due to language and cultural differences and no less a deterrent for the Navajo Veterans. We feel that Navajo Veterans upon learning of these program now wish to participate in the two basic programs are: Educational Assistance for the veteran and Dependents Educational assistance, for eligible spouses and children of veterans who died of service connected causes or who are permanently disable. For the program, the Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs is requesting for an appropriation of \$105,000.

## CONTRACTING SERVICES

(MacNabb and Preston)

The Navajo Nation Office of Veterans Affairs proposes to hire the Washington Law firm MacNabb and Preston to prepare the legislative package, under tribal guidance and supervision and to utilize their contacts and skills to influence the congressional committees to pass the legislation. The firm would also be responsible for working with the Veterans Administration, the B.I.A., HUD and other concerned agencies to insure that appropriate policy changes are made to enable full Navajo Veteran participation in all programs. The FY '82 intensive legislative effort with MacNabb and Preston would cost \$50,000.00. This would include all professional advice, assistance, travel and per diem, xerox, and reproduction costs and any miscellaneous costs.