

LEGISLATION SUMMARY

TrackingNo. 0025-22

Date: February 3, 2022

Re: **AN ACT RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NAVAJO WOMEN WARRIORS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING EVERY YEAR**

Purpose: to recognize and honor Navajo women who serve in the military by designating the first day of Spring every year as “Navajo Women Warriors Day”

OLC No. 21-070-1

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson
Website Posting Time/Date: 10:30AM; 02-10-22
Posting End Date: 02-15-22
Eligible for Action: 02-16-22

Health Education & Human Services Committee
Thence
Naabik'iyáti' Committee
Thence
Navajo Nation Council

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION
24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL - Fourth Year, 2022

Introduced by:



(Prime Sponsor)

Tracking No. 0025-22

AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION
COUNCIL; RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NAVAJO WOMEN
WARRIORS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING EVERY YEAR

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education, and Human Services Committee as a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council. As such, the Committee has the responsibility to review and recommend legislation relating to veterans and veterans' services, among other duties. 2 N.N.C. §401(B)(6)(a).

B. The Navajo Nation Council established the Naabik'iyáti' Committee as a Navajo Nation standing committee, and proposed legislation requiring final action by the Navajo Nation Council is assigned to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(9) and §700(A).

C. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).

SECTION TWO. FINDINGS

A. The Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization passed a resolution dated October 12, 2017, titled: "Supporting Navajo Women Veteran Recognition Day; Beginning The First

Day of Spring in March of Every Year on The Navajo Nation.” **EXHIBIT A.**

B. The Fort Defiance Agency Veterans Organization acknowledges the following statistics: the current projected percentages of U.S. veterans who are women is 10% of the total veteran population; the average age of women veterans is 48 years old; post-traumatic stress disorder, hypertension, and depression are frequent conditions that women veterans experience; one in five women seen at veterans hospitals report that they have suffered sexual trauma at the hands of their male counterparts; and the suicide rate for women veterans is 19 per 100,000.

EXHIBIT A.

C. Many Navajo women who serve in the military have children and families but must sacrifice time with their loved ones while serving their country away from home. When they return, these women warriors experience many challenges as they take on the responsibilities of civilian life. **EXHIBIT A.**

D. Since the birth of Changing Women, Diné women have traditionally been held in high regard as they are responsible for the growth of the Navajo People.

E. The Navajo Nation acknowledges that Navajo women who have served in the military face many different obstacles and challenges, as compared to men serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

F. It is most appropriate for the Navajo Nation to designate the first day of Spring in March of every year as a day to recognize, commemorate, and pay tribute to all Navajo Women Warriors who are currently serving, have served, or will serve, in the U.S. Armed Forces.

SECTION THREE. DECLARATION OF THE NAVAJO NATION

The Navajo Nation hereby recognizes and declares the first day of Spring of every year, during the month of March, as a day to honor our Navajo Women Warriors. This day shall be called “Navajo Women Warriors Day” and shall be day of reverence for, and celebration of, all Navajo Women Warriors.

SECTION FOUR. EFFECTIVE DATE

This declaration shall be effective on the date of the certification of this Resolution by the Speaker of the Navajo Nation Council, in accordance with 2 N.N.C. §221(C).



**FORT DEFIANCE AGENCY VETERANS ORGANIZATION
AGENCY MEETING**

P.O. Box 430

Window Rock, Arizona, 86515

Phone: (928) 871-6413 Fax: (928) 871-7288.

Commander: Olin T. Kieyoomia

Vice Commander: Ryan Sandoval

Secretary: Clara Williams

RESOLUTION

**Supporting Navajo Women Veteran Recognition Day; Beginning The First
Day of Spring in March of Every Year on The Navajo Nation.**

WHEREAS:

1. Pursuant to The Navajo Nation Veterans Act; Title II, Section One (E,I,M,N,O,R,T); SS 1032 (B-5,9,10), The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation through resolution of the Veterans Agency; and
2. Pursuant to Navajo Nation Council Resolution CMA-25-71; The Navajo Veterans were recognized and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration was established under the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government- Office of the President and Vice President of the Navajo Nation; and
3. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization is duly recognized by the Navajo Nation with a Plan of Operation to address the issues, concerns and advocate for all Navajo Veterans; and
4. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes and acknowledges that it is entrusted to strive toward unification of all Navajo Nation Veterans and Local Leadership to provide leadership and coordinate with the needs of the veterans; and
5. In 1942, the Navajo Nation Council passed a resolution to aid and defend the United States against all subversive and assisted in the United States Selective Services Board to draft the eligible Navajo to serve in the United States Armed Services and reaffirm allegiance to the United States and expression of patriotism; and
6. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges the following facts of women veterans:
 - A. *The current projected percentage of U.S. Veterans who are women is 10 percent.*
 - B. *The average age of women Veterans was 48 years, compared to 63 years for their male counterparts.*
 - C. *PTSD, hypertension, and depression were the top three diagnostic categories for women Veterans*
 - D. *About 1 in 5 women seen in VHA respond "yes" when screened for Military Sexual Trauma (MST)- rates of MST are higher among women, because of the disproportionate ratio of men to women in the military.*
 - E. *Women make up nearly 11.6 percent of OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.*
 - F. *About 57.4 percent of women OEF/OIF/OND Veterans have received VA health care; of these, 89.8 percent have used VA health care more than once*



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G. Nearly 51.3 percent of female OEF/OIF/OND Veterans who used VA care during FY 2002-2011 were born in or after 1970 (aged 43 or younger) compared to nearly 48 percent of male OEF/OIF/OND Veterans.

H. The suicide rate for women Veterans was 19 per 100,000, which was about half the male Veteran suicide rate of 37.2 per 100,000.

***Reference: <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/docs/VA-Women-Veterans-Fact-Sheet.pdf>**

7. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges Navajo Women and Women in general, that have served or are serving, face many obstacles and challenges that differ from their male counterpart; and
8. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges that many Women Veterans face challenges when returning to civilian life, including raising children on their own or dealing with the aftereffects of all military trauma; and
9. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges that Women Veterans experience their military service in different ways than men and also deal with unique mental health conditions; and
10. The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization recognizes, understands and acknowledges women veterans are more at risk of being homeless than their male counter and often face struggles with their children.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. **Supporting Navajo Women Veteran Recognition Day; Beginning The First Day of Spring in March of Every Year.**
2. **The birth of Changing Woman (Asdza nádleehé) was planned by First Man (Áłtsé hastiin) and First Woman (Áłtsé asdzáán). First Man (Áłtsé hastiin) repeatedly held up his medicine bundle (jish) toward Gobernador Knob (Ch'oolii) at dawn (hayííka).**
3. **Changing Woman (Asdzaa Nadleehe) [Asdzaa nádleehé] comes closest to being the personification of the earth (Nahasdzáán) and of the natural order of the universe (Yádiłhił Bii' Bił Haz'ánigíí).**
4. **Navajo Women represent the cyclical path of the seasons (nináhaghahígíí), birth (spring (daan daago), maturing (summer shi shiigo), growing old (fall 'ak'eed) and dying (winter haigo), only to be reborn again in the spring (daan daago).**
5. **Since the Birth of Changing Woman, Navajo Women have been held in high regard as they are responsible for the growth of the Nation, Families, and Teachings.**
6. **The need to recognize Navajo Women Veteran contributions towards military service in all conflicts, peacetime and after...**



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C-E-R-T-I-F-I-C-A-T-I-O-N

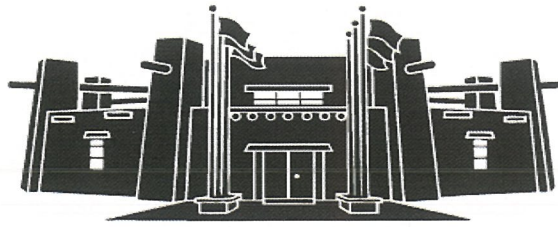
The Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Hereby Certifies the Foregoing Resolution that was Considered at a Regular Duly Called Meeting in Tohatchi Chapter, Tohatchi, New Mexico (Navajo Nation) and that same was approved and passed with a vote of 68 in Favor; 00 Opposed and 01 Abstain on the 12th day of October 2017.

Motioned: Lorenzo Lee- Dilkon Chapter Veterans Organization

Seconded: Tyrone Yazzie- Teesto Veterans Organization

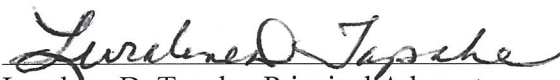
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Olin T. Kieyoomia", is written over a horizontal line.

**Olin T. Kieyoomia- Commander
Ft. Defiance Agency Veterans Organization**



MEMORANDUM

To: Hon. Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chair
Law and Order Committee
24th Navajo Nation Council

From: 
Luralene D. Tapahe, Principal Advocate
Office of Legislative Counsel

Date: February 3, 2022

Subject: **AN ACT RELATING TO THE HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES, AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; RECOGNIZING AND HONORING NAVAJO WOMEN WARRIORS ON THE FIRST DAY OF SPRING EVERY YEAR**

Per your request, the Office of Legislative Counsel has prepared the above-referenced proposed legislation and related summary sheet. Based on existing Navajo Nation law and other applicable laws, and upon review of all supporting documents regarding your request that were submitted to OLC, this legislation as drafted is legally sufficient. However, as with any action of government, this legislation may be subject to judicial review in the event of a legal challenge.

Please review this legislation to make sure it is drafted to your satisfaction, and that all necessary and appropriate supporting documents have been provided and all attached Exhibits are correct.

OLC has reviewed the appropriate standing committees' authorities to consider this legislation, based on the standing committees' powers and responsibilities set forth in Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code. Based on its review, OLC has listed those committees in the title of this legislation. However, the Speaker may assign this legislation to any committee(s) other than those shown in the title, pursuant to his authority under 2 N.N.C. §164(A)(5).

If you find anything unacceptable, please let me know immediately and advise me of your desired changes. I can be reached at phone no. (928)871-7166 or by email at: LuraleneTapahe@navajo-nsn.gov
Thank you for your cooperation.

THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: _0025-22__

SPONSOR: Eugenia Charles-Newton

TITLE: An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Recognizing and Honoring Navajo Women Warriors on the First Day of Spring Every Year

Date posted: February 10, 2022 at 10:30AM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to comments@navajo-nsn.gov

Written comments may be mailed to:

Executive Director
Office of Legislative Services
P.O. Box 3390
Window Rock, AZ 86515
(928) 871-7586

Comments may be made in the form of chapter resolutions, letters, position papers, etc. Please include your name, position title, address for written comments; a valid e-mail address is required. Anonymous comments will not be included in the Legislation packet.

Please note: This digital copy is being provided for the benefit of the Navajo Nation chapters and public use. Any political use is prohibited. All written comments received become the property of the Navajo Nation and will be forwarded to the assigned Navajo Nation Council standing committee(s) and/or the Navajo Nation Council for review. Any tampering with public records are punishable by Navajo Nation law pursuant to 17 N.N.C. §374 *et. seq.*

**THE NAVAJO NATION
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY**

LEGISLATION NO.: 0025-22

SPONSOR: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

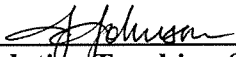
TITLE: An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Recognizing and Honoring Navajo Women Warriors on the First Day of Spring Every Year

Posted: February 10, 2022 at 10:30 AM

5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 15, 2022

Digital Comments received:

Comments Supporting	1) Titus J. Nez
Comments Opposing	<i>None</i>
Comments/Recommendations	<i>None</i>



**Legislative Tracking Secretary
Office of Legislative Services**

February 15, 2022; 8:20 AM
Date/Time

Supporting Legislation No. 0025-22

Titus Nez <titusnez@pinedalegov.org>

Fri 2/11/2022 1:00 PM

To: comments <comments@navajo-nsn.gov>;

Good afternoon Honorable Council Delegates of the 24th Navajo Nation Council and Honorable Navajo Nation President Jonathan Nez,

I would like to express my utmost respectful support for Legislation No. 0025-22. I have heard stories growing up about our lady warriors, those who have fought hard for our freedom from many years of oppression, violence, most of all protecting their loved ones. We have heard stories of these women who fought alongside powerful chiefs like Hastiin Ch'il Haajini (Chief Manuelito). Our clan Bit'ahnii comes from his very sister who moved along the Defiance Plateau including the communities of Manuelito and Coyote Canyon, NM. The matriarchs of our family have defended us through the generation and continue to, this very day. Our ancestors fought hard to preserve our traditional ceremonies, prayers, songs, stories, and traditions; they walked, some barefoot over 600+ miles from our homeland to Ft. Sumner, NM, and back through harsh winters and hot summers. All our Dine' women have taken a big part in giving life, protecting their children, grandchildren, and tribe to ensure we never lose our identity through these harsh realities. From the stories of Altse Asdzaa to Adzaa Nadleehi; we heard the strength and fierce protection they contributed to making who we are today.

Then we have our women who served in the United States Armed forces, who defended our Navajo land, protect our Freedom and Democracy. Fierce women who today face many challenges still represent and speak for all Veterans like Shima Elouise Brown of Sanostee, NM, or my aunt Jackie Becenti of Leupp, AZ; who is a proud Veteran of the Marine Corp. They served our country to protect the very freedoms we live by today to vote, to speak freely to practice our ceremonies; most importantly to ensure we as Dine people; carry on what our ancestors suffered to protect and pass down to our generations.

With all these statements I made, I am a proud citizen of the United States, a proud enrolled member of the Great Navajo Nation and a resident of Churchrock, NM. I support this legislation and hope we do honor our Asdzaa doo Saanii Nidaazbaah. Ahe'hee

Respectfully,

Titus J. Nez, Churchrock (Tse Naaoshjin), Navajo Nation, New Mexico USA

WARNING: External email. Please verify sender before opening attachments or clicking on links.

**HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

FOURTH YEAR 2022

COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. Speaker,

The **HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

Legislation No. 0025-22: An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Recognizing and Honoring Navajo Women Warriors on the First Day of Spring Every Year

Sponsor: Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton

Has had it under consideration and reports the same with the recommendation that it DO PASS with no amendment.

And thence is referred to the Naabik'iyáti' Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Carl R. Slater, Vice-Chairman
Health, Education and Human Services Committee
24th Navajo Nation Council

Date: February 23, 2022

Main Motion:

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Second: Honorable Charlaine Tso

Vote: 4-0-0

HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Regular Meeting
February 23, 2022

Legislation No. 0025-22: An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Recognizing and Honoring Navajo Women Warriors on the First Day of Spring Every Year

Sponsor: Delegate Eugenia Charles-Newton

VOTE TALLY SHEET:

Main Motion:

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Second: Honorable Charlene Tso

Yea: Paul Begay, Jr.; Pernell Halona; Charlene Tso; Edison J. Wauneka

Nay:

Not Voting: Carl R. Slater (Presiding Vice-Chairman)

Excused: Daniel E. Tso

Absent:

Vote: 4-0-0



Carl R. Slater, Vice-Chairman
Health, Education and Human Services Committee
24th Navajo Nation Council

Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor
Health, Education and Human Services Committee
Office of Legislative Services

**24th NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT
Fourth Year 2022**

The **NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE** to whom has been assigned:

NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0025-22

An Act Relating to the Health, Education, and Human Services, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees, and the Navajo Nation Council; Recognizing and Honoring Navajo Women Warriors on the First Day of Spring Every Year

Sponsored by: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

Has had it under consideration and reports the same that the legislation **WAS PASSED AND REFERRED TO THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL.**

Respectfully Submitted,



*Honorable Seth Damon, Chairman
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE*

10 March 2022

MAIN MOTION

Motioned by: Honorable Eugenia Charles-Newton

Seconded by: Honorable Nathaniel Brown

Vote: 20 In Favor, 00 Opposed (Chairman Damon Not Voting)

NAVAJO NATION

1223

3/10/2022

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

01:46:11 PM

Amd# to Amd#

New Business - (CONSENT AGENDA)

PASSED

MOT Charles-Newton

Legislations: 0026-22, 0025-22

SEC Brown

0037-22 ,0039-22, & 0044-22

Yeas : 20

Nays : 0

Excused : 1

Not Voting : 2

Yea : 20

Begay, K

Daniels

Slater, C

Tso, O

Begay, P

Freeland, M

Smith

Walker, T

Brown

Halona, P

Stewart, W

Wauneka, E

Charles-Newton

Henio, J

Tso, D

Yazzie

Crotty

James, V

Tso, E

Yellowhair

Nay : 0

Excused : 1

Nez, R

Not Voting : 2

Tso, C

Begay, E

Presiding Speaker: Damon