

**LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY SHEET**

Tracking No. 0032-22

**DATE:** February 14, 2022

**TITLE OF RESOLUTION:** AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING REINSTATEMENT OF VESTAH J. TIKIUM, FORMERLY KNOWN AS VESTAH J. JAMES, AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION

**PURPOSE:** This resolution, if approved, will reinstate Vestah J. Tikium as a member of the Navajo Nation.

**This written summary does not address recommended amendments as may be provided by the standing committee. The Office of Legislative Counsel requests each committee member to review the proposed resolution in detail.**

5-DAY BILL HOLD PERIOD: Johnson  
Website Posting Time/Date: 9:55 AM; 02-16-22  
Posting End Date: 02-21-22  
Eligible for Action: 02-22-22

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

PROPOSED NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL – Fourth Year, 2022

INTRODUCED BY

Wilma Stewart

(Prime Sponsor)

TRACKING NO. 0032-22

AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL;  
APPROVING REINSTATEMENT OF VESTAH J. TIKIUM, FORMERLY  
KNOWN AS VESTAH J. JAMES, AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION

BE IT ENACTED:

SECTION ONE. AUTHORITY

- A. The Navajo Nation Council is the governing body of the Navajo Nation. 2 N.N.C. § 102(A).
- B. A proposed resolution that requires final action by the Navajo Nation Council shall be assigned to standing committee(s) having authority over the subject matter at issue and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee. 2 N.N.C. § 164(A)(9).
- C. The Health, Education and Human Services Committee is a standing committee of the Navajo Nation Council and has legislative oversight over the Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records and Identification. 2 N.N.C. §§ 400(A), 401(C)(2), and 1665.
- D. Navajo Nation law provides, “[r]enunciation of membership” provides that [a]ny enrolled member of the Navajo Nation may renounce his [her] membership by written petition to the President of the Navajo Nation requesting that his [her] name be stricken

1 from the Navajo Nation roll. Such person may be reinstated in the Navajo Nation only  
2 by the vote of majority of the Navajo Nation Council. 1 N.N.C. § 705.

- 3 E. In addition, Navajo Law provides, “[n]o person, otherwise eligible for membership in  
4 the Navajo Nation, may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation, who, at the same  
5 time, is on the roll of any other tribe of Indians.” 1 N.N.C. § 703.

6  
7 **SECTION TWO. FINDINGS**

- 8 A. The Navajo Nation Office of Vital Records verified through memorandum, attached as  
9 **Exhibit A**, that Vestah J. Tikium (formerly Vestah J. James) officially relinquished her  
10 enrollment with the Navajo Nation on February 11, 1998, and has not be reinstated  
11 since.
- 12 B. Ms. Tikium officially relinquished her Navajo Nation membership and the Navajo  
13 Nation President approved on February 11, 1998. **Exhibit B** provides documentation  
14 for relinquishment of Navajo Nation memebership.
- 15 C. Ms. Tikium was enrolled with the Orutsararmuit Native Council of Bethel, Alaska. Ms.  
16 Tikium relinquished her membership with the Orutsararmuit Native Council on  
17 February 2, 2000 because she decided to be domiciled within the Navajo Nation,  
18 official documents of relinquishment is attached as **Exhibit C**.
- 19 D. Ms. Tikium is eligible for reinstatement pursuant to 1 N.N.C. § 705 and requesting to  
20 be reinstated with the Navajo Nation, as requested in **Exhibit D**.

21  
22 **SECTION THREE. RE-ENROLLMENT**

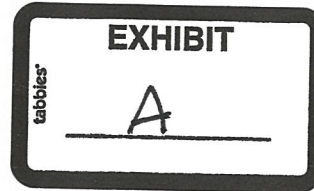
23 The Navajo Nation Council hereby confirms that Vestah J. Tikium be reinstated and re-  
24 enrolled as a member of the Navajo Nation. Ms. Tikium shall be entitled to all rights,  
25 benefits, and privileges associated with the Navajo Nation membership.

26  
27  
28  
29  
30

# THE NAVAJO NATION




JONATHAN NEZ | PRESIDENT   MYRON LIZER | VICE PRESIDENT



## MEMORANDUM

TO:           Office of Legislative Counsel  
              Legislative Branch  
              Navajo Nation

FROM:         
              Ronald D. Duncan, Program Manager I  
              Navajo Office of Vital Records & Identification (NOVRI)

DATE:       February 14, 2022

RE:           Reinstatement of VJames

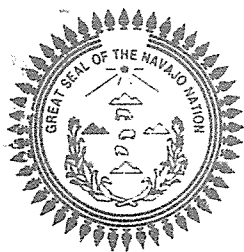
This memorandum is to verify the enrollment and subsequent relinquishment of Vestah Joann James, date of birth

Ms. James enrolled with the Navajo Nation on October 14, 1969 with enrollment number  
Her blood quantum is three-eighths Navajo according to our records. Ms. James petitioned for relinquishment from the Navajo Nation through the Section 164 Review Process, #4514 with the intent to enroll her with the Orutsararmuit Native tribe. Relinquishment occurred on February 11, 1998 upon the signature of the Navajo Nation President and has not been reinstated since that time.

Pursuant to Title 1 § 703, no person may enroll as a member of the Navajo Nation who is on the roll of another Indian tribe. In this instance, Ms. James would need to demonstrate that she has relinquished from or never enrolled with the Orutsararmuit Native Tribe.

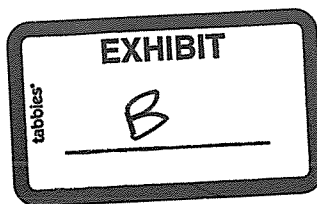
If this is the case, then Ms. James would be eligible for reinstatement and should her request be granted, her original enrollment number would be restored to her. Please contact me should you have any questions about this matter me at (928) 871-6883.

c:           File



THE  
NAVAJO  
NATION

P. O. BOX 9000 • WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515 • (520) 871-6000



COPY

ALBERT A. HALE  
PRESIDENT

THOMAS E. ATCITY  
VICE PRESIDENT

February 25, 1998

Vestah Joanne James  
Post Office Box  
St. Michaels, Arizona 86511

Dear Ms. James:

Enclosed is your Relinquishment of Navajo Membership. Roll Number \_\_\_\_\_ has been cancelled and should no longer be used. A copy of your Relinquishment has been forwarded to Orutsaramuit Native Council in Bethel, Alaska.

If there are any questions, please call our office at 520/871-6386, ext. 7211.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Evelyn Mike".

Evelyn Mike  
Vital Statistics Technician

Enclosure

RELINQUISHMENT OF NAVAJO TRIBAL MEMBERSHIP

I, Vestah Joanne James, R# , DOB: do hereby petition the President of the Navajo Nation that my name be stricken from the Navajo Census Rolls. My reason is that I want to become an enrolled member of the Orutsararmuit Native Council.

Subject to the acknowledgment of the Navajo Nation President, I do hereby withdraw and renounce my membership in the Navajo Tribe.

I understand and agree that by executing this Relinquishment, I am forfeiting any and all rights and benefits I have, including, but not limited to, any personal or other property of any kind of character, which is based on Navajo membership. I further understand that this Relinquishment will become effective upon receipt of the Navajo Office of Vital Records.

Signed at Window Rock, Az this 29th day of December, 1997.

Vestah Joanne James

Vestah Joanne James

R#

Post Ofc. Box

ADDRESS:

St. Michaels, Az 86511

WITNESSES:

Donna J. Henderson  
Name (Signature Required)

P.O. Box  
Address

Window Rock, Az 86575

ACKNOWLEDGED:

[Signature]  
Navajo Nation President

DATE

Jennifer Carrall  
Name (Signature Required)

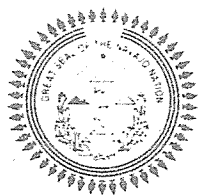
P.O. Box #  
Address

St. Michaels, Az - 86511 -

Recorded on page 22 Southern Navajo Indian Census Roll, Arizona. Recorded on Feb. 18, 1998.

[Signature]  
Leonard Bessly, Vital Statistics Manager  
Navajo Office of Vital Records

cc: Tribal Enrollment Services, Fort Defiance Agency, The Navajo Nation, P.O. 290, Fort Defiance, AZ 86504  
Orutsararmuit Native Council, P.O. Box 927, Bethel, Alaska 99559



**THE  
NAVAJO  
NATION**

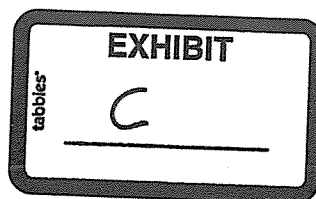
P.O. BOX 9000

WINDOW ROCK, ARIZONA 86515

(520)871-6386

KELSEY A. BEGAYE  
PRESIDENT

TAYLOR McKENZIE, M.D.  
VICE PRESIDENT



February 23, 2000

Vastah Joanne James  
PO Box

Dear Ms. James:

This office has received a notice that you have relinquished from the Orutsararmuit Native Council of Bethel, Alaska.

If you intend to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation, you need to request in writing to this office why you want to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation and why you relinquished from the Orutsararmuit Tribe.

The Enrollment Screening Committee will be meeting soon, but a date has not been set yet. We will let you know in writing when the committee will be meeting. The burden of gathering all pertinent documents you will present to the Enrollment Screening Committee rest on you. Please furnish this office a copy of all the documents.

If there are any questions, please call this office at 520/8716386, extension 6406.

Sincerely,

Evelyn Mike  
Vital Statistics Technician



February 07, 2000

Vestah Joanne James  
P.O. Box  
St. Michaels, AZ. 86511

Dear Vestah:

Orutsararmuit Native Council has approved the relinquishment request for Vestah Joanne James, your name has been removed from the Tribal Enrollment Registry as of February 02, 2000.

A copy of your relinquishment form and this letter have been forwarded to The Navajo Nation.

If you have any questions, please call (907) 543-2608.

Sincerely,

Linda Samuelson  
Tribal Ops.

CC: The Navajo Nation  
File



ADULT RELINQUISHMENT FORM

I, Vestah Joanne James, an adult person, do hereby relinquish my tribal membership in the Orutsaramuit Native Council for the following reason: (list your reasons, if any)

I am currently residing in Fort Defiance, Arizona (Navajo Reservation) and I intend to remain there for life with my families and relatives.

This relinquishment of my tribal membership is made freely and voluntarily with the full understanding that henceforth I shall cease to hold membership in the Native Village of Bethel and that I will no longer be eligible for benefits I am entitled to as a member of the tribe.

My membership is cancelled as of: (Check One)

(X) The date of the Native Village of Bethel receives this form.  
Date received February 02, 2000.

( ) The date of my acceptance into another tribe.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Tribe

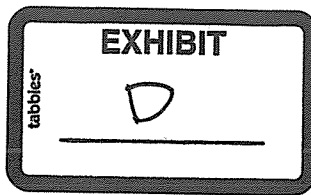
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Enrollment

Signature of person relinquishing: Vestah Joanne James

Mailing Address: Post Office Box

St. Michaels, Arizona 86511

Date: February 02, 2000



Vestah J. Tikium  
Post Office

Date: January 13, 2022

The Navajo Nation  
Fort Defiance Agency  
Tribal Enrollment Services  
P.O. Box 290  
Ft. Defiance, AZ 86504

**RE: REINSTATEMENT**

Dear Enrollment Director,

My name is Vestah J. Tikium from Fort Defiance, Arizona. In 1998, I relinquished my Tribal Census with The Navajo Nation and enrolled with Orutsaramuit Native Council with the intention of relocating to Bethel, Alaska after the passing of my late grandmother. However, my children did not want to relocate and to continue with their education here at Window Rock Unified School District. So with that decision, we never moved and continued residing here on The Navajo Nation.

On February 02, 2000, Orutsaramuit Native Council has approved my relinquishment request and removed my name from the Tribal Enrollment Registry (letter attached). A copy of the relinquishment form and letter have been forwarded to The Navajo Nation.

Therefore, I respectfully would like to request to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation with your consideration and approval to obtain my previous Tribal Census No. [redacted]. As I have resided on the Navajo reservation all of my life and plan to remain here with my children and family for the rest of my life. I am also in the process of renovating my home and actively involved in livestock ownership with my family.

Your understanding and approval to the above matter is most appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address or contact me at ( [redacted] ) . Ahe'hee'

Sincerely,

Vestah J. Tikium

FILE

ATTACHMENT

Letter of Relinquishment from the ONC

Vestah J. James  
Post Office Box

Date: January 17, 2001

Leonard Benally, Manager  
**NAVAJO VITAL RECORDS**  
Post Office Box 9000  
Window Rock, Az. 86515

**RE: REQUESTING TO RE-ENROLL**

Dear Mr. Benally:

I respectfully would like to request to re-enroll with the Navajo Nation with your consideration and approval to obtain my previous **Tribal Census No.**

As I have resided on the Navajo reservation most of my life and plan to remain here with my children and spouse for the rest of my life. I am also in the process of renovating my house and actively involved in livestock ownership with my family.

Your understanding and approval to the above matter is most appreciated. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at the above address or daily at (520)871-5863. Thank you.

Sincerely,

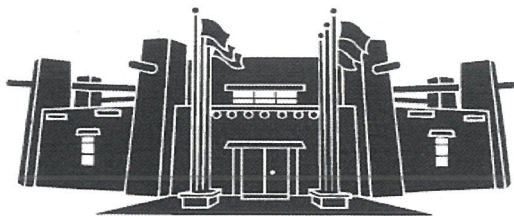
*Vestah J. James*

Vestah J. James

ATTACHMENT


\* Letter of Relinquishment

*1-17-2001/jw*



## MEMORANDUM

TO : Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

FROM :   
Chad Abeyta, Attorney  
Office of Legislative Counsel

DATE : February 14, 2022

RE : **AN ACTION RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES AND THE NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL; APPROVING REINSTATEMENT OF VESTAH J. TIKIUM, FORMERLY KNOWN AS VESTAH J. JAMES, AS A MEMBER OF THE NAVAJO NATION**

As requested, I have prepared the above-referenced proposed resolution and associated legislative summary sheet pursuant to your request for legislative drafting. The resolution as drafted is legally sufficient. Regarding substance, as with any legislation, it can be subject to review by the courts in the event of proper challenge. Please ensure that this particular resolution request is precisely what you want.

If you are satisfied with the proposed resolution, please sign it as "sponsor" and submit it to the Office of Legislative Services where it will be given a tracking number and sent to the Office of the Speaker for assignment. If the proposed resolution is unacceptable to you, please contact me at the Office of Legislative Counsel and advise me of the changes you would like made to the proposed resolution. Ahéhee'.

22-019-1

THE NAVAJO NATION  
LEGISLATIVE BRANCH  
INTERNET PUBLIC REVIEW PUBLICATION



LEGISLATION NO: \_0032-22\_

SPONSOR: Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formerly Known as Vestah J. James, as a Member of the Navajo Nation**

***Date posted:*** February 16, 2022 at 9:55AM

Digital comments may be e-mailed to [comments@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto: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.: 0032-22**

**SPONSOR: Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.**

**TITLE: An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formerly Known as Vestah J. James, as a Member of the Navajo Nation**

**Posted: February 16, 2022 at 9:55 AM**

**5 DAY Comment Period Ended: February 21, 2022**

**Digital Comments received:**

<b>Comments Supporting</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments Opposing</b>	<i>None</i>
<b>Comments/Recommendations</b>	<i>None</i>

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Legislative Tracking Secretary  
Office of Legislative Services**

**February 22, 2022; 8:27 AM**  
**Date/Time**

**HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
24<sup>TH</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL**

**FOURTH YEAR 2022**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Speaker,

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

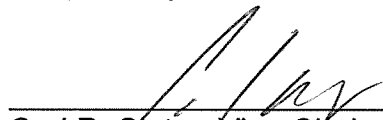
**Legislation No. 0032-22:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formerly Known as Vestah J. James, as a Member of the Navajo Nation

**Sponsor:** Delegate Wilson C. Stewart, Jr

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  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council

Date: February 23, 2022

Main Motion:

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Second: Honorable Paul Begay, Jr.

Vote: 4-0-0

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

**Legislation No. 0032-22:** An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'iyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formerly Known as Vestah J. James, as a Member of the Navajo Nation

**Sponsor:** Delegate Wilson C. Stewart, Jr

**VOTE TALLY SHEET:**

Main Motion:

Motion: Honorable Edison J. Wauneka

Second: Honorable Paul Begay Jr.

Yea: Paul Begay, Jr.; Pernell Halona; Charlaine 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  
24<sup>th</sup> Navajo Nation Council  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Angelita Benally, Legislative Advisor  
Health, Education and Human Services Committee  
Office of Legislative Services



**24<sup>th</sup> NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE REPORT  
Fourth Year 2022**

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

**NAVAJO LEGISLATIVE BILL #0032-22**

An Action Relating to Health, Education and Human Services, and Naabik'íyáti' Committees and the Navajo Nation Council; Approving Reinstatement of Vestah J. Tikium, Formerly Known as Vestah J. James, as a Member of the Navajo Nation

*Sponsored by: Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.*

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

Respectfully Submitted,



*Hon. Eugenia Charles-Newton, Chairperson Pro Tem  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEE*

**24 February 2022**

**MAIN MOTION**

*Motioned by: Honorable Wilson C. Stewart, Jr.*

*Seconded by: Honorable Jimmy Yellowhair*

*Vote: 19 In Favor, 00 Opposed (Chairperson Pro Tem Charles-Newton Not Voting)*

# NAVAJO NATION

1213

2/24/2022

Naa'bik'iyati' Committee Regular Meeting

12:38:57 PM

Amd# to Amd#

Consent Agenda: Legislation

PASSED

MOT Stewart, W

0252-21, Legislation 0016-22 and

SEC Yellowhair

Legislation 0032-22

Yeas : 19

Nays : 0

Excused : 3

Not Voting : 1

Yea : 19

Begay, E

Henio, J

Stewart, W

Walker, T

Begay, P

James, V

Tso, C

Wauneka, E

Brown

Nez, R

Tso, D

Yazzie

Daniels

Slater, C

Tso, E

Yellowhair

Freeland, M

Smith

Tso, O

Nay : 0

Excused : 3

Begay, K

Crotty

Damon

Not Voting : 1

Halona, P

Presiding Speaker: Charles-Newton