



25th Navajo Nation Council

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council recognizes Domestic Violence Awareness Month



PHOTO: The 25th Navajo Nation Council was joined by President Dr. Buu Nygren, Vice-President Richelle Montoya and students from Tsehootsooí Diné Bi'ólta' during the signing of the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation.

WINDOW ROCK Ariz. - On the first day of Council Fall Session, 25th Navajo Nation Council members were joined by community members, advocates for a walk from the Navajo Nation Museum to the Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz., to raise awareness for Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

The 25th Navajo Nation Council and the Office of the President and Vice President signed a proclamation recognizing the month of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month to help combat the violence that impacts many families and homes across the Nation.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley, (Low Mountain, Many Farms, Nazlini, Tachee/Blue Gap, Tselani/Cottonwood), Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty, Cherilyn Yazzie (Dilkon, Greasewood Springs, Indian Wells, Teesto, Whitecone), and Helena Nez-Begay (Bodaway/Gap, Coppermine, K'ai'Bii'To, LeChee, Tonalea/Red Lake) were also joined by the Navajo Nation Police Department, tribal officials, and domestic violence resources organizations for the walk.

"Today, I walked because as kids, we all witnessed or experienced domestic violence in one form or another without knowing. Now, as I've grown older and am working for the Council, I am able to advocate and empower our people to rise and be strong again," said Delegate Yazzie.

There are different forms of domestic violence, stated Delegate Brenda Jesus (Oak Springs, St. Michaels). Delegate Jesus reminded the gathered crowd that violence is not only physical, it can also be verbal and mental, and that all variances of violence impact a victim's mind and spirit moving forward.

Domestic violence advocacy has been a major effort of Delegate Crotty, who currently serves in several roles advocating for domestic violence prevention and leading the Navajo Nation's Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives Task Force.

"We need to help advocates on the ground and community members who are trying to heal themselves," said Delegate Crotty, who also sponsored the Victims Rights Act of 2023 that was recently enacted to provide additional support and resources for victims of violence.

In front of the Council Chamber, Speaker Curley, President Nygren, Vice President Montoya, Attorney General Ethel Branch, Chief Justice JoAnn Jayne, and Delegate Crotty signed the Domestic Violence Awareness Month proclamation.

"In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, our Diné culture and traditions emphasize respect and honoring one another through K'é. All families on the nation are entitled to a safe, healthy living environment which nurtures and protects each family member's emotional physical and emotional well-being," said President Nygren.

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