



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

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MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**25th Navajo Nation Council honors Peshlakai family,  
calls for action to end drunk driving**



**Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Dr. Andy Nez participate in the Angels Vs Drunk Driver Awareness Walk 2025.**

**WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.** — On the first day of the 2025 Summer Session, Council Delegates Amber Kanazbah Crotty and Dr. Andy Nez, the Missing and Murdered Diné Relatives (MMDR) Task Force, community leaders, and members of the Peshlakai family gathered in unity to honor the lives of DeShauna and Del Lynn Peshlakai, who were tragically killed by a drunk driver in 2010.

To commemorate their lives and raise awareness about the dangers of drunk driving across the Navajo Nation, delegates and advocates participated in a memorial walk from the Navajo Nation Museum to the Council Chamber.

MMDR Task Force Chair Amber Kanazbah Crotty emphasized the Council's commitment to justice and prevention, stating, "The Peshlakai sisters were vibrant young Diné girls with bright futures. Their deaths were preventable. We owe it to them and to every family impacted by drunk driving to fight for stronger penalties, consistent prosecution, and lasting policy change. We must amend our laws, including Title 17, and ensure our justice system works for our people—not against them."

Darlene Peshlakai, mother of the Peshlakai sisters, addressed the Council and the public, expressing both sorrow and resolve. "It's been over fifteen years, but the pain never leaves. We keep walking, showing up, and spreading the message that drunk driving must end. This

is not just our fight. It should be everyone's. We need checkpoints. We need chapter-level engagement. We need the entire Navajo Nation to stand with us and protect our youth."

Speaker Crystalyne Curley echoed the call for community-wide action. "These issues are painful, but we must talk about them," she said. "Let's use our platforms—social media, community forums, and legislative action—to bring visibility and change. We honor the Peshlakai family not just with our words, but with the work we commit to from this moment forward."

Delegate Crotty also highlighted a broader legislative effort to amend the Navajo Nation Criminal Code, Title 17, and remove the current three-year statute of limitations for murder under tribal law. She called on both tribal and federal partners to do more to prosecute habitual offenders and strengthen provisions under the Major Crimes Act.

"Our people are asking for justice," Crotty said. "Too many families are left behind by a broken system. We need prosecutorial power, treatment for offenders, and protections that prevent tragedies before they happen."

The "Angels vs. Drunk Drivers" awareness walk served as both a solemn remembrance of the enduring grief carried by impacted families and a powerful call to action.

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