



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 22, 2025

Navajo Nation Council opens Summer Session with traditional horseback arrival



Honoring the legacy of past leaders, Council Delegates commence the 2025 Navajo Nation Council Summer Session with the annual horse ride to the Navajo Nation Council Chamber.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Monday, July 21, the 25th Navajo Nation Council opened its 2025 Summer Session with a traditional horseback arrival at the Navajo Nation Council Chamber in Window Rock, Ariz. The ceremonial ride honored the legacy of past leaders who would travel on horseback from across Diné Bikéyah to participate in legislative sessions.

The Council's summer session commenced with the annual procession, where horse riders merged with the family of the late DeShauna and Del Lynn Peshlakai who marched for drunk driving awareness. Delegates participating in Monday's trail ride included Casey Allen Johnson, Germaine Simonson, Lester Yazzie, Steven Arviso, and Rickie Nez.

In the days leading up to the session, Navajo leaders rode from their home communities, stopping in chapters along the way to meet with local residents. This practice reflects a continued commitment to community dialogue and face-to-face governance.

"The summer session begins with a reflection of who we are as a Nation and the horseback ride reminds us of the responsibilities our ancestors carried," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley. "We continue that work by listening to our communities and acting on their behalf."

The official calling of the session to order by Madam Speaker Curley was followed by the posting of colors by the Navajo Women Veterans.

Eastern Navajo Ateed Yazhi Georgianna Begay led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Makayla Jones, Little Miss Ceremonial, sang the national anthem. An invocation was delivered by Native American Church Bahas'ah Chapter Vice President Anthony Howard.

Throughout the session, delegates will hear reports and deliberate on legislative matters impacting the Navajo people. The Summer Session is open to the public and will be livestreamed via the Navajo Nation Council's Facebook and YouTube platforms (@navajonationcouncil).

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