



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council acts to formally recognize and establish Agency Veterans Organizations and Chapter Veterans Organizations



Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez said Legislation No. 0168-25 strengthens representation and accountability of veterans' advocacy across the Navajo Nation.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Tuesday, the 25th Navajo Nation Council took historic action to approve amendments that formally recognize and establish Agency Veterans Organizations (AVO) and Chapter Veterans Organizations (CVO) within Title 2 of the Navajo Nation Code.

“This legislation codifies and solidifies the formal recognition of Veterans organizations across all agencies and chapters,” said Council Delegate Dr. Andy Nez, who sponsored the legislation. “Accordingly, it allows for these organizations to adopt their Plans of Operations, and in accordance with the updates, will ensure the NNVA and Advisory Council include their activities and advocacy.”

Legislation No. 0168-25 amends the Navajo Nation Veterans Act to strengthen the organizational structure, representation, and accountability of veterans' advocacy across the Navajo Nation. The measure recognizes one Agency Veterans Organization per agency and one Chapter Veterans Organization per chapter, totaling 110 CVOs across the Nation. These recognized bodies will serve as the foundation for unified and consistent communication, advocacy, and coordination of veterans' issues from the local to the national level.

The amendments also restructure the Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) to include ten members, with two representatives—one male and one female—selected from each of the five agency veterans organizations. Representatives must be nominated through agency

resolutions and demonstrate honorable service with valid documentation. This restructuring ensures balanced representation and inclusion of both men and women who honorably served.

Council Delegate George Tolth offered an amendment requiring that the Veterans Advisory Council internally adopt bylaws and a code of conduct by the end of the second quarter of FY2026. These documents are to establish standards for the conduct of VAC members, outline procedures for member removal if necessary, and define the rules guiding the conduct of council meetings.

“The 25th Navajo Nation Council’s approval ensures that veterans’ voices are further represented in policy and decision-making,” said Dr. Nez. “This is about giving veterans a stronger platform to advocate for the services, benefits, and recognition they deserve.”

The legislation requires quarterly written and in-person reports from veterans’ organizations to the Navajo Nation Council and the NNVA Executive Director. These reports will document veterans’ needs, identify service gaps, and recommend actions to improve coordination and delivery of programs.

The measure received widespread support from the Northern, Eastern, Western, Fort Defiance, and Central Agency Veterans Organizations, as well as the Veterans Advisory Council and the Navajo Nation Veterans Administration. Together, these entities emphasized that the legislation strengthens the foundation of veterans’ representation and elevates their advocacy on behalf of veterans, surviving spouses, and Gold Star Mothers.

Members of the Council commended Delegate Nez for his leadership and collaboration with the veterans’ organizations throughout the legislative process.

Legislation No. 0168-25 was approved with a vote of 17 in favor and six opposed. The 25th Navajo Nation Council serves as the final authority for this legislation.

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