



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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25th Navajo Nation Council honors Vietnam War Veterans Day



Speaker Crystalyne Curley called on Navajo community members to hold Vietnam veterans in prayer.

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — On Sunday, National Vietnam War Veterans Day, the 25th Navajo Nation Council honored and expressed its deepest gratitude to the brave men and women who served during the Vietnam War.

Observed annually on March 29, the day recognizes the millions of Americans who served and marks the 1973 withdrawal of the last U.S. combat troops from Vietnam. Established in 2017, it serves as an opportunity to honor Vietnam veterans with the respect and recognition they have always deserved.

Speaker Crystalyne Curley and members of the 25th Navajo Nation Council joined the Nahata Dziil community for its 2nd Annual Celebrating Our Vietnam Veterans Event. Speaker Curley and Council Delegates Arbin Mitchell and Dr. Andy Nez reflected on the experiences of Vietnam-era service members.

While today's returning service members are honored with ceremonies, dinners, and parades, Vietnam veterans faced a very different climate.

"Our Vietnam veterans did not receive the warm welcome they deserved. Today, we make it a point to honor our service members when they return, but that was not the reality for them. We want to say what should have always been said: thank you, and welcome home," said Speaker Crystalyne Curley.

Council Delegate Mitchell honored and thanked the veterans' families, recognizing them for their support and for carrying the burden of concern that the conflict placed on families at home.

Delegate Dr. Nez reiterated the sacrifice that veterans' families endured and encouraged prayer and traditional songs as a source of support.

Nez has been an advocate for veteran issues, having passed legislation in October 2025 that codifies the structure and authority of veterans' organizations across all Navajo agencies and chapters. The law allows veterans groups to develop official plans of operation and ensures their inclusion in Navajo Nation Veterans Administration (NNVA) and Veterans Advisory Council (VAC) activities and advocacy.

Council Delegate Vince James honored the Vietnam veterans with a traditional song for their protection and thanked the community for supporting its service members.

The Council recognizes the contributions of Navajo Nation service members who answered the call during the Vietnam War, continuing a long-standing tradition of military service among Diné people. Thousands of Navajo men and women served with honor and distinction, while many made the ultimate sacrifice.

"We honor those who never came home, those still missing, and the families who continue to carry that loss," Speaker Curley said. "Many are still grieving, still searching for answers. We must remain reverent, hold our warriors in prayer, and ensure their legacy lives on. Today, we honor them with the pride and respect they have always deserved."

The 25th Navajo Nation Council thanks the Nahata Dziil Veterans Organization for organizing the event and stands in solidarity with all Vietnam veterans, acknowledging their service, sacrifice, and resilience.

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