



25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL

25TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

MEDIA CONTACT:

nnlb.communications@gmail.com

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Naabik'íyáti' Committee approves legislation designating the Navajo Nation as a "Purple Heart Navajo Nation"



Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved Legislation No. 0108-26, designating the Navajo Nation as a "Purple Heart Navajo Nation."

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – On Thursday, the Naabik'íyáti' Committee approved legislation designating the Navajo Nation as a "Purple Heart Navajo Nation."

The designation honors Navajo veterans who have been wounded or killed in action and recognizes all Purple Heart recipients, both living and deceased, for their extraordinary courage, resilience, and unwavering commitment in defense of the Navajo Nation and the United States.

"This designation is long overdue and reflects the deep respect our Nation holds for those who have sacrificed so much in service to our people and to this country," said Council Delegate Otto Tso, sponsor of the legislation. "Our Purple Heart recipients carry the weight of that sacrifice every day, whether through the wounds they survived or the lives they gave. By formally recognizing them, the Navajo Nation affirms that their service will never be forgotten and that we stand ready to support them and their families for generations to come."

Diné soldiers have contributed to a legacy of service in every major American conflict of the past century, from World War I through World War II, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam Era, the Gulf War, and ongoing military operations. At the outset of World War II, an estimated 3,600

Navajo men and women entered military service. That mobilization rate reflects more than patriotism alone; it speaks to a sovereign people's deliberate decision to defend both their homeland and the broader nation.

Among the most celebrated contributions of WWII were the Navajo Code Talkers, whose secure communications code, based on the Navajo language, was never broken by enemy forces during the Pacific Theater of World War II.

Congress later honored this achievement through the Navajo Code Talkers Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2000, a recognition that stands as one of the most singular instances in military history in which a people's language became an instrument of liberation.

The legislation also reflects deeply held cultural values. The Diné philosophy places enduring importance on service, the protection of the people, and the restoration of hózhó, the state of harmony, balance, and beauty that defines a life and world in right order.

For Purple Heart recipients, including those who gave their lives and those who carry the marks of combat still, formal recognition is not simply a matter of public policy but a sovereign responsibility and a sacred obligation of the Navajo people to their own.

Beyond its symbolic significance, the legislation acknowledges the ongoing needs of living Purple Heart recipients within Navajo communities, including access to healthcare, mental health resources, and the full benefits afforded to combat-wounded veterans.

The Naabik'iyáti' Committee approved the legislation on a consent agenda with a vote of 15 in favor and none opposed. The Naabik'iyáti' Committee has final authority for this legislation.

The legislation supports designating the Navajo Nation as a "Purple Heart Navajo Nation" in recognition of the distinguished service and sacrifice of Navajo veterans.

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