RESOLUTION OF THE  
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE  
23rd NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL -- Fourth Year, 2018  
AN ACTION

RELATING TO HEALTH, EDUCATION AND HUMAN SERVICES AND 
NAABIK'ÍYÁTI' COMMITTEES; RESPECTFULLY REQUESTING THE UNITED 
STATES VETERANS AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH A VETERANS 
HOSPITAL AND CREATE PERSONNEL POSITIONS TO ADDRESS HOUSING AND 
BENEFITS ON THE NAVAJO NATION FOR NAVAJO NATION VETERANS

WHEREAS:

A. The Navajo Nation established the Health, Education and 
Human Services Committee (HEHSC) as a Navajo Nation Council 
standing committee and as such empowered HEHSC to review 
and recommend resolutions regarding veterans and/or veteran 
services. 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 400 (A), 401 (B)(6)(a) 
(2012). See also CO-45-12.

B. The Navajo Nation established the Naabik'íyáti' Committee 
as a Navajo Nation Council standing committee and as such 
empowered Naabik'íyáti' Committee to coordinate with all 
committees, chapters, branches and entities concerned with 
all Navajo appearances and testimony before Congressional 
committees and departments of the United States government. 
See 2 N.N.C. §§ 164 (A)(9), 700 (A), 701 (A)(8) (2015); See 
also CO-45-12.

C. The Navajo Nation has a government-to-government 
relationship with the United States of America, Treaty of 

D. Historically, Native Americans served in the military at a 
higher rate than any other ethnic group. U.S. Gov't 
ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE, HEALTH CARE ACCESS: IMPROVED OVERSIGHT, 
ACCOUNTABILITY, AND PRIORITIZATION CAN IMPROVE ACCESS FOR NATIVE AMERICAN 
VETERANS 1 (2014).

E. Currently, there are over 128,000 living Native American 
veterans with approximately 10,000 from the Navajo Nation. 
See U.S. Census Bureau, 2011-2015 American Community Survey 
American Indian and Alaska Native Tables.
F. Native American veterans have provided invaluable service and allegiance to the United States of America and bring great honor to their tribal communities.


H. In 2010, tribal leaders and representatives offered comments on the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Indian Health Service (IHS) 2010 Memorandum of Understanding and other health related issues. One comment recorded showed that IHS understood the native culture, languages, and background; however, IHS did not understand the specific needs of Native veterans like the VA, i.e. post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). *DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS: 2012 TRIBAL CONSULTATION REPORT 11 (2012)*.

I. There is currently no United States Veteran Affairs office or services on the Navajo Nation. This requires Navajo veterans to travel off reservation to seek veteran services. The Navajo Nation has established a Veterans Administration through appropriations from the Navajo Nation General Fund; however, assistance through the Navajo Veterans Administration is limited to housing and financial assistance.

J. It is in the best interest of the Navajo Nation to request the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran’s hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

A. The Navajo Nation respectfully requests the United States Department of Veterans Affairs to establish a veteran’s hospital and create personnel positions to address housing and other benefits on the Navajo Nation to meet the needs of the Navajo veterans.

B. The Navajo Nation hereby authorizes the Navajo Nation President, the Navajo Nation Speaker, Navajo Washington Office and their designees to advocate for this request.
CERTIFICATION

I, hereby, certify that the foregoing resolution was duly considered by the Naabik’iyáti’ Committee of the 23rd Navajo Nation Council at a duly called meeting in Window Rock, Navajo Nation (Arizona), at which a quorum was present and that the same was passed by a vote of 10 in Favor, and 00 Opposed, on this 09th day of November 2018.

[Signature]
LoRenzo C. Bates, Chairman
Naabik’iyáti’ Committee

Motioned:    Honorable Tuchoney Slim, Jr.
Second :    Honorable Kee Allen Begay, Jr.

Chairman LoRenzo C. Bates not voting

Pursuant to § 700 (D), A quorum of the committee shall be satisfied by the presence of two (2) members of each Standing Committee or a majority of delegates of the Navajo Nation Council.
Law: Legislation 0323-18:
Respectfully Requesting the US
Veterans Affairs Administration
to Establish a Veterans Hospital

Yeas: 10
- Begay, K
- Bennett
- Brown

Nays: 0

Excused: 1
- Begaye, N

Not Voting: 12
- Bates
- Begay, NM
- Chee
- Damon
- Filfred
- Kieycomia
- Perry
- Phelps
- Shepherd
- Smith
- Tsosie
- Tso
- Yazzie