



The 24TH NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL
Office of the Speaker

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Naabik'iyáti' Committee Honors Legacy of Medicine Man Pete Price

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: June 10, 2022

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. — Yesterday, the Naabik'iyáti' Committee of the 24th Navajo Nation Council approved Legislation No. 0083-22 during the Regular Meeting with seventeen (17) delegates in favor and one (1) opposed. Several other legislation that were placed on the approved consent agenda were also passed.

Council Delegate Wilson C. Stewart, Jr. (Fort Defiance, Crystal, Red Lake, Sawmill) sponsored Legislation No. 0083-22, which requests the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Roads Department to change the name of Navajo Route N110 from Kit Carson Road to Pete Price Road in Fort Defiance, Ariz.

"As a former Fort Defiance Chapter President, I wanted our community to remember an individual that played a vital role in both our community and the wider Navajo Nation," said Delegate Stewart. "Working with the Community Land Use Planning Committee and local elders, we decided to memorialize Mr. Price for his lifelong work such as being the first medicine man to dedicate the original Fort Defiance Hospital in 1938."

From 1863-1868, Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson led a brutal military campaign against the Navajo that resulted in their forced 300 mile march to Bosque Redondo known as the "Long Walk."

"The atrocities our people suffered at the hands of Kit Carson are significant, yet, we as a nation have remained strong," said Delegate Freeland (Becenti, Lake Valley, Náhodishgish, Standing Rock, Whiterock, Huerfano, Nageezi, Crownpoint). "Embodying that strength is Pete Price, who preserved the ceremonies that define us as Diné."

Born in 1868, Pete Price (Hastiin Tsé'baí/Hastiin Łitso) was a well-respected medicine man and spiritual leader (Hodiyinii Nat'aanii) known for his knowledge in many complex Navajo ceremonies. His legacy of practicing and preserving traditional Navajo ceremonies serves as the basis of renaming the road to commemorate a leader who dedicated their life to the health and well-being of the Navajo people.

"No road on the Navajo Nation should carry the name of the man who enacted such violence on our people, but rather an individual who exemplified the teachings and values of our ceremonies," said Speaker Seth Damon (Bááhaalí, Chichiltah, Manuelito, Red Rock, Rock Springs, Tséyatoh). "Delegate Stewart's legislation is a positive step forward in remembering our elders and who we are as Diné."

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