



## 23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Council observes Domestic Violence Awareness Month



**PHOTO:** Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty recognizes “Walking the Healing Path” founders John L. Tsosie and Ernest Tsosie and “Amá Dóó Átchíní Bighan, Inc.” director Lorena Halwood during the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session on October 17, 2016.

**WINDOW ROCK** – During the opening day of the 2016 Fall Council Session, the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council observed Domestic Violence Awareness Month by recognizing domestic violence awareness advocates of “Walking the Healing Path” and “Amá Dóó Átchíní Bighan, Inc.” In observation, the Council members wore purple ribbons, the color of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, to raise awareness and to promote efforts to end violence.

Council Delegate Amber Kanazbah Crotty (Beclabito, Cove, Gadi’í’áhi/To’Koi, Red Valley, Tooh Haltsooi, Toadlena/Two Grey Hills, Tsé ałnaoz’t’í’í) recognized John L. Tsosie and Ernest Tsosie, founder and co-founder of “Walking the Healing Path,” and Lorena Halwood, executive director of “Amá Dóó Átchíní Bighan, Inc.” Applause filled the Council Chambers when the three individuals were awarded for their courage, dedication, and service to provide awareness, prevention, and intervention for domestic violence victims and survivors.

“October is an important month to remember and to advocate for families and children who are vulnerable to domestic violence. This epidemic is an increasing problem within the Nation. As leaders, we must continue to work on policies to protect our Navajo families and children,” stated Delegate Crotty.

Founded in 2003, the “Walking the Healing Path” seeks to create solutions and interventions to end domestic violence, child abuse and neglect, and violence against women. The organization has completed five awareness walks, a total of over 2,000 miles, to raise awareness throughout Indian country.

“Domestic violence is a personal issue for me. I see the damage it does to families. As a founder of Walking the Healing Path and as a member to the Arizona’s Governor’s Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women, I seek to develop legislative and policy recommendations to prevent violence and expand services for victims,” stated John L. Tsosie.

Ernest Tsosie added that domestic violence is a serious issue on the Nation and Navajo fathers need to protect their families and children.

“Amá Dóó Áłchíní Bígħan, Inc.” is a non-profit organization and community-based domestic violence and sexual assault crisis intervention program that provides advocacy, prevention, intervention, and direct care services in Chinle, Arizona.

“Taking the role to protect families and children from domestic violence is a tough job. Domestic violence is a never ending cycle and it hurts emotionally to see this problem within our Nation. Continue to pray for families and the children that see this at home. I want to thank the Council for recognizing this important month,” stated Halwood.

Delegate Crotty stated, “On behalf of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Navajo Nation Council, I will continue to stand strong for our families and children. We need to protect our children from this problem because they are crucial to our future. As parents and leaders, we must continue to show love and respect to our partners and children. We must restore Hózhó.”

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