

## Letters to the editor

### **Doo-Dah! Doo-Dah! Doo-Dah! POINT [BLANK.COM!](http://blank.com)**

To the editor, I've read and seen much in my life time but not another bad detrimental decision that will have a negative long term effect on thousands of Dine' youth in the future! The reality is our "God appointed" Navajo leaders should never choose between Dine' traditional cultural property. A very sacred federally protected ancient Dine' burial sites at Fort Wingate Army Depot and NELI land! Why couldn't you "NAVAJO LEADERS" have fought harder for the right to solidify a joint effort instead of fighting against one another?

Twelve long years to find resolve with this very important issue. Eighty-eight counsel delegates, three term Navajo presidents Joe Shirley Jr. and Ben Shelly has come and gone. Who dropped the ball? We protested the reduction of 88 to 24, the \$10,000 pay hike and the gold rings for the council, yes means no and no means yes! Twenty-four counsel delegates and this current Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye. There should be absolutely "NO" choice. We should have been protected by the Native American Graves Protection Repatriation Act of 1990, American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978 and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966! The United States government has the ethical legal duty and the great Navajo Nation has a moral obligation and human responsibility for the Navajo youth point [blank.com!](http://blank.com)

This is the most heart wrenching "letter to the editor" that I have ever written! Today is my birthday and as I try to celebrate my precious life, I find myself in tears because I remember when we walked from Fort Defiance, Arizona, to Fort Sumner, New Mexico. I was singing the Navajo flag song and crying a death cry as I walked straight up to New Mexico Sen. Pete Domenici in the middle of his speech. I cried and yelled "WHY!" during the commemoration of "Hwe'e'ldi." This is the same hurt as I sit and ponder the hardship of the Navajo families devastated by colonialism. I watch and wonder which of our current Navajo leaders will honestly display the gull and utmost disrespect to "spit and trample" on Dine' sacred burial sites! It's never, ever too late for true honor and justice.

Speaker Bates I have never met you but Leonard Tsosie I have. IF you both get your way with bullying tactics and give our Navajo land away to the Zuni tribe, I will be my own lobbyist and let the state legislators of New Mexico know grassroots Dine' people are against this legislation and will protest in full force! Mr. Tsosie I have witnessed first-hand of your vigor, strength and professionalism speaking in the roundhouse of Santa Fe for various issues. (You reminded me of a Navajo Dennis the Menace) As a women warrior I certainly was very proud of you. We are not here on this earth to empower our name, title or person but to serve the Navajo people with a humble heart. I implore you "PLEASE" you have a 20 percent chance of preventing a spiritual tragedy and save Dine'Bike'Yah Landmarks of ancient Dine' burial sites, ceremonial sites, shrines, hogans, sweathouses and locations of where newborn umbilical cords have been placed or buried at Fort Wingate Army Depot. "SAVE" FORT WINGATE FOR THE DINE' PEOPLE!

Sincerely, a pro-active Navajo registered voter Nicole Walker Churchrock

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