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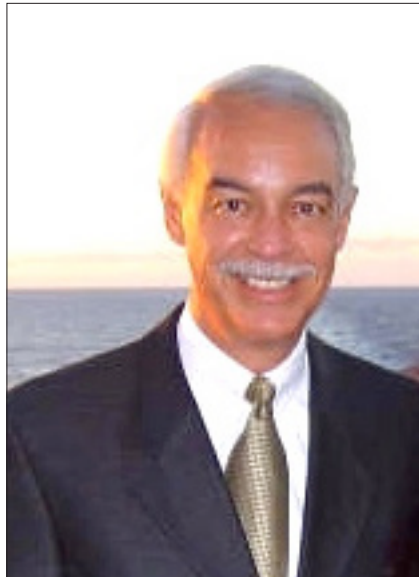
## CONTROLLER OF THE NAVAJO NATION APPOINTED BY THE NAVAJO NATION PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz. – Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye and Vice President Jonathan Nez are pleased to appoint Jim R. Parris as the Controller of the Navajo Nation. Parris is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and a tribal member of the Osage Nation and the Cherokee Nation.

Parris has over 35 years of experience in accounting, auditing and management in tribal, federal and private sectors across the United States. Parris was the first Controller for the Osage Nation. He also served as the Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer for the Cherokee Nation.

Aside from tribal experience, Parris worked many years at the U.S. Department of the Interior. Parris was the first Native American CPA to work for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior. He initiated the very first external audits by independent auditors to audit tribal: Individual Indian Monies, Alaska Native Escrow, Contributed Trust funds held by the BIA. He also contracted the first investment professionals to invest the BIA's trust investment program for tribal trust funds, including establishing the first Master Trust System to account for trust funds held by BIA.

Parris transitioned into the private sector as a sole practitioner in public accounting and consulting primarily supporting tribes. He has served on numerous Boards as the



Treasurer for Native American Finance Officer's Association, InterTribal Monitoring Association, Council of Energy Resource Tribes for Cherokee Nation, and the Indian Land Working Group. More recently, Parris has assisted over 20 tribes across the United States from Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arizona, California, Wyoming, Oregon, Montana, Washington, South Dakota and Wisconsin in trust litigation resulting in numerous successful settlements, including the Navajo Nation.

"We welcome Jim to the Navajo Nation. We know his experience and knowledge is vital in overseeing and protecting the Navajo

Nation's finances and assets and in helping build the portfolio of the Nation. It became challenging for our Administration in finding the right Controller as there are very few Navajo CPAs. Many are still sitting for their exams and most have just started in their career and wish to seek experience before returning home," said President Begaye.

Vice-President said that our objective is to not only bring home Navajos but train our Navajo people to give them more opportunities. Parris has made that commitment to the Navajo Nation. This is not a long-term career move for Parris, he is here to develop our Navajo people, help those who are seeking their CPA and accounting degrees and mentor the next Navajo Controller.

"I am happy to help and honored to be appointed as the Navajo Nation's Controller. This Administration has great vision and I am glad to be part of the team. Over these next few years, I will focus on mentorship and training for those within the Office of the Controller to be the next Controller for the Navajo Nation. I hope to see promotion within OOC, it is good to bring our Native people home, but we can't forget those here, said Jim Parris

Parris is also a Veteran, having served in the United States Navy from 1973 to 1976.

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