

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



The Navajo Nation has a higher per capita COVID-19 death rate than any U.S. state, with 26,383 infections and 919 confirmed deaths as of Sunday

Veterans 5-9 and The Reveille Foundation along with the help of several other companies are answering the call to help the Navajo Nation

Tucson, AZ (1/18/2021) – Even without a pandemic, the Navajo Nation struggles with a 40% unemployment rate, and a similar number earning less than \$12,760 a year. Medical facilities, even running water, are severely limited. Multi-generational families often share living space making two important recommendations for safety from the virus, hand washing and social distancing, impossible.

Native Americans also have an incredible military tradition with the largest percentage of military and combat service in the United States. The Navajo Nation is the largest Native American reservation by area and population; it supports the largest veteran population on a reservation in the country; with at least 15,000 men and women who have served.

Clearly, relief is crucial. Phoenix Truck Driving Institute, Veterans 5-9, and The Reveille Foundation have put together an action plan with the help of many other organizations to answer the call for relief. With the stay-at-home order being put into place our goal to deliver food, supplies, and PPE by tractor trailer to the reservation in early December was pushed back to early February.

Specific needs include safety and personal protective equipment, firewood, clothing and nonperishable food items including a traditional basket called a Shepherder Special. The traditional basket includes a 5-Gallon Drum of Water (Winco), Coal (NNVA), Wood, Blue Bird Flour, Salt, Lard, Coffee, Spam, Baking Powder, and Potatoes. Any monetary donations received will be used to purchase more of the above items.

Won't you join us in filling trucks and trailers chock full of essentials for the Navajo Nation? Food, PPE, supplies and essential items can be dropped off, following distance and safety guidelines, at Phoenix Truck Driving Institute at 2621 S. 51st Ave.

Tax deductible donations can be made to Veterans 5-9 by following this link.
<https://veterans5-9.com/fundraisers/>

We're proud to be a BWF local partner. Our thanks to the Bob Woodruff Foundation and Craig Newmark Philanthropies for this funding to help us in our efforts to combat food insecurity among service members, veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

The following organizations are also supporting this event.

- Phoenix Truck Driving Institute
- The Reveille Foundation
- The Better Business Bureau
- Dine Naazbaa Partnership
- West Valley Mavericks Foundation
- Veterans 5-9
- Phoenix Indian Center
- The Refinery Church
- The Church at Litchfield Park
- Crescent Crown
- Swift
- HDS Truck Driving Institute in Tucson
- Yuma Truck Driving School
- Phoenix Truck Driving School in Albuquerque
- Phoenix Truck Driving School in Kingman

Be generous. Be brave. We'll get through this.

About Phoenix Truck Driving Institute:

Doug Prall, founder of HDS Inc. and affiliates, the parent company of Phoenix Truck Driving Institute, looks to continue to provide quality education to men and women interested in obtaining their CDL. Having a CDL opens up many different career opportunities within the transportation industry. Our mission is to offer students the opportunity to develop both the technical knowledge and the personal skills vitals to employment in the ever-changing world of truck driving.

Phoenix Truck Driving Institute is a private, post-secondary educational institution serving men and women of all ages. To learn more, visit PhoenixCDL.com or call (888) 398-8859.

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