

NOTE.—DO NOT USE THIS ROUTE SLIP TO
SHOW FORMAL CLEARANCES OR APPROVALS

DATE

7/21/65

TO:

AGENCY BLDG. ROOM

Miss Laura Gilpin

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| ☐ APPROVAL | ☐ REVIEW | ☐ PER CONVERSATION |
| ☐ SIGNATURE | ☐ NOTE AND SEE ME | ☐ AS REQUESTED |
| ☐ COMMENT | ☐ NOTE AND RETURN | ☐ NECESSARY ACTION |
| ☐ FOR YOUR INFORMATION | | |
| ☐ PREPARE REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF _____ | | |

REMARKS:

Dr. Charles S. McCammon, Assistant Indian Health Area Director, Window Rock, Arizona, asked us to send you some material on Mrs. Annie Wauneka. We hope the attached will be helpful.

(Fold here for return)

To Mrs. Jean M. Nowak, Chief, Office of
From Information Services, Div. of Indian Health
PHONE BUILDING Willste Bldg. ROOM
7915 Eastern Avenue
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

FORM HEW-30 REV. 11/56

ROUTE SLIP

GPO : 1956—O—409606

PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM AWARDED ANNIE D. WAUNEKA

Mrs. Annie D. Wauneka, a member of the Navajo Indian Tribe who lives on the Navajo Reservation in northeastern Arizona, was one of three American women named by President Kennedy on July 4, 1963, to receive the Presidential Medal of Freedom. It was the first time women had been included in the list of those receiving this highest civilian peacetime award.

Established in 1945 by President Truman, the Freedom Medal gives recognition to the work of persons who contribute significantly to the quality of American life. In President Kennedy's words, the careers of those selected "demonstrate freedom's rich resources of men and women endowed with creative capacity and dedicated to the highest standards of human achievement." The honors list this year included 31 persons. The awards will be made at a special White House ceremony.

Mrs. Wauneka is being honored for her work in helping to improve the health of the Navajo people. The daughter of a noted chief and leader of the Navajo Tribe, Henry Chee Dodge, Mrs. Wauneka broke tribal tradition 8 years ago to become the first woman elected to the Navajo Tribal Council. It was as chairman of the council's Committee on Health and Welfare that Mrs. Wauneka became interested in health problems and began her work of trying to win the confidence of her people in modern medical practices.

Working first to gain the trust of the medicine men, Mrs. Wauneka taught them in their own language about the wonders of modern science. She then began to work on the problem of run-aways from tuberculosis hospitals and clinics on the reservation. There is no word for "germ" in the Navajo language, and these people did not realize that they were exposing others to this highly contagious disease. In the sanatorium everything was strange to them—the treatment, the equipment, the food, the faces, and sometimes even the language. Homesick for family and friends, many of them ran away at the first opportunity. Mrs. Wauneka traveled about the reservation acting



Mrs. Annie B. Wauneka, 1 of 31 persons awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963, visits a tuberculosis patient at a Public Health Service Indian Hospital on the Navajo Reservation.

as a link between home and hospitals and bringing news to each. She worked with doctors in the production of movies acted by Navajos and spoken in the Navajo language to show to patients and families. With the decline of tuberculosis death rate from first to seventh place among the Navajo, Mrs. Wauneka is currently emphasizing dysentery, a serious ailment among Navajo children.

Mrs. Wauneka, who is the mother of eight children and still dresses in traditional tribal costume, has her own radio program over station KGAK at Gallup, N. Mex.

Mrs. Wauneka was given the Josephine B. Hughes Memorial Award by the Arizona Press Women's organization in 1958, and in 1959 received the Indian Achievement Award, which her father received in 1944, of the Indian Fire Council, a national organization with headquarters in Chicago and an award from the Arizona Public Health Association as "outstanding worker in public health."

For several years Mrs. Wauneka was a member of the Surgeon General's Advisory Committee on Indian Health.