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NEWS

Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon

Vol. 31, No. 5 May 2003

Tribal Veterans Honored with Memorial

Five black monoliths stand in the Paul Washington Cemetery in Siletz, Ore., honoring 273 tribal members who have served in the Armed Forces. Each Memorial Day, it's tribal tradition to honor veterans with a ceremony that includes singing, speeches, a color guard, a 21-gun salute, and a meal at the Siletz Tribal Community Center.

The original "Memorial to Our Veterans" monument – three monoliths and two marble flower vases – was built in 1987. Newsletters at the tribe's area offices included the following:

"The Siletz Tribe is proud of the accomplishments of tribal members who have served in the Armed Forces and the Siletz Tribal Council has committed to build a permanent monument to our veterans. Resolution #86-188 defines tribal veterans as 'any person who has been or is currently in the Armed Forces'..."

"This marker will be a permanent monument to tribal veterans and will be erected on Government Hill for all to see."

The monument was updated in 1996 when two monoliths, two marble vases, and a bench were added. The 273 individuals whose names are on the memorial are from the following branches of service: U.S. Army, 146; U.S. Navy, 56; U.S. Marine Corps, 43; U.S. Air Force, 15; Coast Guard, 6; National Guard, 3; Merchant Marines, 3; and Seabees, 1.

The Paul Washington cemetery was named and dedicated in honor of a Siletz Tribal member who was killed in France on Sept. 28, 1918, during World War I.

A double funeral service, described as the largest ever in Siletz, was held on May 24, 1919, for Pfc. Paul Washington and his brother, Andrew, who had died in Colorado of tuberculosis while returning from the war. Paul and Andrew were the sons of Isaac Washington Sr., who was the son of a Shasta headman (chief) named Pish Wash (or Percy Wash).

Paul and Andrew are indicative of the commitment and bravery that the Siletz people and tribal people across the nation have always shown in protecting their homes, families, tribes, and nation. Whenever the call has come for service, our tribal people have stepped forward in great numbers, risking health and safety in order for all of us to continue to live free.

Some return home safely, highly decorated and able to fulfill other commitments to family and community. Sometimes our men and women do not return home safely or healthy – sometimes making the ultimate sacrifice.

We have a long tradition of honoring all those who have served our people and country in times of need.



The Veterans Memorial in the Paul Washington Cemetery

Council Approves Computer Purchases for 2003

Because of the success of last year's computer project, Tribal Council has allocated funds from the 2002 excess pledge gaming revenues to purchase computers for tribal member households in the fall of 2003. Depending on the final purchase price, it's estimated that another 1,000 computers will be distributed this year. This is the final year, however, that council will distribute computers.

Applications will be mailed to tribal member households and children in out-of-home care. If you don't receive an application or if you know of children who reside with non-tribal parents, please call us at 1-800-922-1399, ext. 305, or 541-444-8305. We will mail an application out as soon as possible.

Deadline for submission of applications is 4:30 p.m. on July 15, 2003.

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