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veterans Honored at Memorial Rededication

by Teresa Simmons

Aug. 27 was a windy and somewhat chilly day for the rededication ceremony of the Gulf War Memorial. This annual event is part of the Run for the Wind Motorcycle Rally at Chinook Winds Casino Resort.

Each year the content of the ceremony varies, but it never fails to remind us of the sacrifices made by so many who have served their country during a time of war.

People gathered near the monument in front of Chinook Winds Casino to remember the veterans of all the wars that this nation has known and to honor those who are serving in the military at this time. The stars and stripes were flying at half-staff for yet another young Oregonian who had been killed in combat the previous day.

Siletz Tribal elder and Tribal Council member Phil Rilatos Sr., U.S. Navy retired, opened the ceremony and Rev. Jean Celia gave the invocation.

Tribal elder Ed Ben, dressed in full regalia and carrying the eagle staff, led the color guard, followed by the Siletz Tribal and Siletz VFW honor guards. Next in line was the Chinook Winds honor guard and the Oregon Coast Veterans.

The ceremony opened and closed to the sound of the Siletz Tribe's Round Stone Singers, with the beat of the drum and the cry of their voices flowing on the wind. Collective memories, emotions, and thoughts surrounded us as in silence we listened to World War II veteran George Rankin sing the national anthem with only the ocean surf to accompany him.

Roger Robertson was the master of ceremonies and near the end of the ceremony, with the assistance of Tony Molina, Roger read the names of all Oregon servicemen who have died in combat during the Iraq war.

R.C. Collins, president of the Oregon Coast Veterans Association, gave a short speech, as did World War II veteran Don Foelker.

Special tribute was given to Siletz Tribal elder and Army Staff Sergeant Eddie Collins, veteran of World War II who served 24 years in the military, and Siletz Tribal elder Ed Ben, who served in the Navy also at the end of World War II.

Other honorees at the ceremony were World War II veterans Bill Foelker and Don Foelker. Both men served as officers in the U.S. Marine Corps in the South Pacific at the end of World War II and today are the two oldest commissioned officers living in Oregon who served in the South Pacific.



Eddie Collins, Jean Celia, Bill Foelker, Roger Robertson, and Don Foelker at the rededication of the Gulf War Memorial at Chinook Winds

Tribe Starts Native Oyster Restoration Project

by Marika Pullam, Siletz News Intern

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has awarded \$47,352 to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians for a community-based project to restore native shellfish to Yaquina Bay, Ore.

The project is funded by the Community-based Restoration Program within the NOAA Fisheries Service and is the first native oyster restoration project funded by NOAA in Oregon.

Oysters play an important role in estuarine ecology by filtering plankton and providing habitat for juvenile Dungeness crabs and many fish species.

In the Pacific Northwest, harvesting during the late 1800s and early 1900s diminished native oyster (*Ostrea lurida*) populations. Native oyster restoration projects have been initiated in San Francisco, Puget Sound, and now the Oregon Coast to restore the once plentiful populations that inhabited bays and estuaries from San Francisco Bay to British Columbia.

Tribal project personnel include Stan van de Wetering, summer intern Brett Blundon, Dave Rollins, and Coby Retherford. Local partners include Liu Shin, owner/manager, and Miguel Correo of Oregon Oyster Farms; Dick Vanderschaff of The Nature Conservancy; Sue Cudd, owner of Whiskey Creek Oyster Farms; Ford Evans of the Hatfield Marine Science Center; and Dennis Tufts, a Siletz Tribal member and a retired shellfish biologist.

"The commercial oyster folks, Liu, Miguel and Sue, as well scientist Ford Evans and Dick Vanderschaff have been especially helpful to the tribe and its efforts. Whiskey Creek Hatchery, The Nature Conservancy, and Ford Evans provided all their assistance at no charge. Oregon Oyster has been a tremendous help to our project in providing dock space and professional knowledge. And they are all just great folks to work with," said Stan.

After receiving the government funding in late 2005, the project to restore native oysters to the central Oregon coast, specifically in the Yaquina estuary, began in earnest May 2006.

The first step was to find brood stock, which Dick collected from Netarts Bay.

The adults then were transported to the Whiskey Creek hatchery, where they were spawned.

After spawning has taken place, the larvae begin to grow an eyespot and foot. The foot is used to crawl around and try to find a place to lie on hard substrate where they begin to grow. Next they undergo a metamorphosis and transform into what professionals call spat. Once they are in the spat stage and have grown for two weeks in the setting tanks, they are transferred to the field.

Our oysters were transferred to Oregon Oyster's facility. Miguel and crew cared for the juveniles for a few months. While Sue and company were busy getting the Netarts stock ready, Ford's crew simultaneously spawned oysters from the brood stock Miguel had collected from Yaquina Bay.

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