

TRIBAL MEMBER NEWS

Butler, Nez Get Married

Sage Bruce Butler, Siletz and Turtle Mountain Chippewa, and Sherrie Ann Nez, Navajo, are proud to announce their marriage on Oct. 27, 2008.

Sage, of Siletz, Ore., is the son of the late Snowball Butler and Vicky Robideau. He happily married Sherrie of Flagstaff, Ariz., the daughter of Jane and Kee Nez.

"May we walk together forever in beauty with Creator's holy and sacred love and the blessings of our ancestors ... Man and Woman, as one."

Send Us News

Siletz News is looking for information about Tribal members similar to the articles you see on these pages, positive news about you or someone you know.

Here's an example of what we'll include on these pages: births, graduations, awards, the Armed Services, weddings, anniversaries and deaths.

Contact information is on page 2.

Merrill Joins Culver City Council

with love from Mom and Dad, Kristie, Jack, Mark and Lexie

Congratulations to Ty Merrill for winning a seat on the Culver City Council in Culver, Ore. When you made up your mind to get involved in your local community, it changed your life. We are so proud of you.

Honoring Stanley William Strong

with love from the Strong family

Our dad, Stanley William Strong, was born Nov. 9, 1908, to Norman and Mamie (McDonald) Strong in Siletz, Ore.

In earlier years he boxed locally in Portland, Seattle and San Francisco, then at Madison Square Garden.

He served in both the U.S. Army and Navy. He was discharged Sept. 30, 1945.

He was awarded with the following: five Battle Stars, Purple Heart, Silver Star, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, Bronze Arrowhead and Good Conduct Medal.

Our dad and mom, Wilma Rose Washington, married July 26, 1949. Together they had eight children.

Our dad was a quiet man, but a great man of faith. He was a prayer warrior. He started the day with prayer and ended the day with prayer.

Our dad suffered from diabetes, heart disease and Parkinson's disease. Dad passed away Dec. 31, 1986.



We miss you, Dad, and love you. One day we will all be together when we meet in heaven.

Living History Day XIII at Milwaukie High School

by Tony Molina

First, we from the Siletz Honor Guard – Ed Ben, Gilbert Towner, Alan Fish, Clint Muschamp and I – wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to Ken Buckles and his entire staff and students for such a brilliant and outstanding Veterans Day program on Nov. 3, 2008.

Last year's program paid a special tribute to Vietnam-era veterans and invited everyone to attend. This year's theme was to pay a special tribute to all Native American Tribal Honor Guards. Those in attendance included:

Washington: Yakama Warriors

Oregon: Burns Paiute/Shoshone, Chinook, Siletz, Umatilla and Warm Springs

Idaho: Nez Perce

North Dakota: Arikara and Three Affiliated Tribes-MHA

Minnesota: Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, Anishinaabe

New Mexico: Apache and Navajo

Montana: Assiniboin, Blackfeet, Three Affiliated Tribes-MHA, Northern Cheyenne

Arizona: Mescalero Apache, Pima

Oklahoma: Apache Tribe Oklahoma, Comanche, Creek, Kiowa/Delaware, Pawnee, Hopi

It's hard to put into a few words the experience and the wisdom we gained by attending this great event. If you can imagine entering their large gym without a clue there would be more than 600 veterans and family members standing on the main floor and at least 700 students standing throughout the bleachers – all applauding us, about 100 veterans from the various Tribal Honor Guards.

It was such a feeling of pride; we could never begin to fully explain this feeling of warmth within our very souls.

To be among so many great veterans and family members was very rewarding.

I will try to explain just some of the beautiful people we met and who are now family to us all.

Terry, Percy and Carla Piestewa

First we met Terry and Percy Piestewa and their granddaughter, Carla, who is in the third grade.

Lori Ann Piestewa, Carla's mom, was a member of the 507th Maintenance Company along with Jessica Lynch. Their vehicle was ambushed and Lori was killed in action March 23, 2003. She was 23 years old and a member of the Hopi Tribe from Tuba City, Ariz.

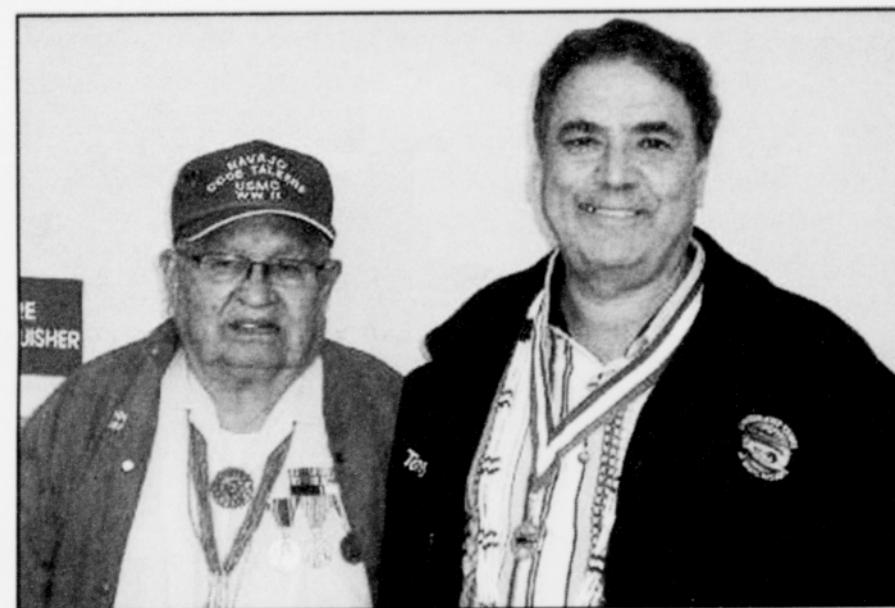
Part of our day was going to various classrooms to share our stories with students or to listen to other veterans. I just never imagined that one day in my life I would be sitting next to Lori's parents and hear them share about their beautiful daughter and then to hear Carla recite her mom's favorite poem. It was a moment in my life I will never forget and will cherish forever.

Samuel Sandoval, Navajo Code Talker

Later we met Samuel Sandoval, a Navajo code talker. He shared many stories about his life and about his grandfather. He told us there were originally about 400 code talkers and today there are only about 50 still alive. And they were not debriefed until 1968, so now they are only allowed to tell us some information about the code because no one to this day can break the code and they will take this secret to their grave.

He told us that even today, experts with their computers and experts in

Samuel Sandoval, Navajo Code Talker, and Tony Molina



various languages have tried to break the code but have been unsuccessful. He said – with a chuckle – that even if his fellow Navajo friends were to hear him converse with another code talker, they would think we were loony!

Another veteran we met was Miguel Encinias, who told us his story about being a WWII pilot while only 18 years old (originally, you had to be 21 years old and have two years of college). But as the war progressed, President Roosevelt decided our country needed 75,000 more pilots.

Encinias's dream to become a pilot was finally fulfilled. He was shot down later and spent time in a German prison camp called Stalag #1. When WWII was over, he stayed in the service and later became a pilot for the Korean War and then the Vietnam War.

I also had the privilege in meeting Alexander Jefferson, Roger Terry and Bill Holloman. These men were some of the first African Americans to become pilots during WWII.

Later, I met Phillip W. Coon, an 89-year-old Native American from Oklahoma who survived the Bataan Death March.

I have come to realize it's so important to have celebrations for veterans so their memories can live on forever. Veterans are very important people. They are the people who keep freedom alive and well.

Such a person is Ken Buckles's great-uncle, Frank Buckles. He is the last surviving WWI veteran and lives in the Pacific Northwest. He is 107 years old and he was proud to say, "I'm a Democrat and I'm voting for Barack Obama."

Thanks to Siletz Valley School

In closing, I do not want to forget to thank my favorite school, Siletz Valley School. For more than 20 years we have worked together to create a special Veterans Day program for our Lincoln County veterans.

Ed Ben, a WWII veteran and an Elder of the Siletz Tribe, was our guest speaker. He also is an alumnus of Siletz School.

I want to thank Bob Line and his entire staff, teachers and students for making Nov. 10 an extra-special day in our veterans' lives. And I wish to thank Violet and The Round Stone Singers for making this day even more special.

Thank you.