

# SILETZ NEWS



Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians  
Vol. 37, No. 6 June 2009

Siletz News  
Confederated Tribes of  
Siletz Indians  
P.O. Box 549  
Siletz, OR 97380-0549

Delores Pigsley,  
Tribal Chairman  
Brenda Bremner,  
General Manager  
and Editor-in-Chief

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## Nine New Tribal Flags Dedicated at State Capitol

### Annual Tribal Information Day Now Known as Tribal Government Day

by Brent Merrill

In Oregon, the exception to the rule is the rare event that brings elected officials from all nine federally recognized Tribes together at the same place at the same time.

This year's Tribal Government Day on May 14 at the Oregon State Capitol in Salem not only featured a lineup of Tribal Council members from all nine Tribes, but the governor and secretary of state joined the gathering as well.

The day started with a breakfast reception on the east side of the Capitol Galleria and each Tribe set up informational tables. The event used to be called Tribal Information Day and this year for the first time and from this year forward will be known as Tribal Government Day. The theme of this year's gathering was Tribal Governments: Before Oregon.

A mixture of Tribal Veterans representing each Tribe formed an Oregon Tribes Honor Guard led by Ron Brainard of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw. They led the opening of the Flag Ceremony that started the event with a traditional Veteran's opening.

Unique to this year's event was the dedication of nine new Tribal flags installed on the Capitol grounds in the Walk of Flags area of the west lawn. The leaders of Tribal government and state government each took turns explaining the importance of the gathering and sharing their pleasure with the flags being dedicated.

Three Veterans from each Tribe gathered at the base of each Tribal flag pole and one-by-one unveiled their colors before attaching them and raising them to the top simultaneously.

The theme of the day for Tribal leaders seemed not only to be pride in the raising of the flags, but also in having a platform with Gov. Ted Kulongoski that recognized the government-to-government relationship between the Tribes and the state established by former Gov. John Kitzhaber.

In a radio interview the day before, Siletz Tribal Vice Chairman Bud Lane explained the history of Tribal Government Day and explained how the event was established by an Executive Order under Kitzhaber's leadership.

"The day was set aside for Tribes to come together at the Capitol and for the citizens of Oregon to have the op-



The Siletz Tribal Color Guard, including Heather Walker, Clint Muschamp and Ed Ben, leads a group of people carrying 100 United States flags across the Yaquina Bay Bridge in Newport, Ore., during the Call of the Flags - A Walk Across the Bay. This event took place as part of this year's Loyalty Days celebration in early May. The Color Guard and the people carrying the flags eventually made their way to the Field of Honor, a field of 1,000 flags that flew for five days on Port of Newport property near the Hatfield Marine Science Center. Please see additional photos on page 24.

Photo by Diane Rodriguez



Jay Minthorn, Chairman of the Commission on Indian Services, introduces Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley during Tribal Government Day ceremonies.

Photo by Brent Merrill

portunity to learn more about the Tribes and the various programs we offer our memberships," said Lane. "It's all about government-to-government. It's a good way to have a dialogue."

Lane explained the benefit of the government-to-government relationship is an ongoing dialogue between the state and the Tribes that he said was "improving."

"We don't always agree, but it's important to have a dialogue," he said.

Kulongoski was introduced by Secretary of State Kate Brown. Brown was mistakenly introduced by Umatilla Tribal

See Tribal on page 5.

## Greg "Illmaculate" Poe: The Respectful Battle Rapper Mom Wanted Him to Become a Teacher, He Dreamed of the NBA

by Brent Merrill

The remote mountain valleys of the Coast Range are the homelands of the people of the Siletz Tribe. The beauty of green trees, Elk populations and still-wild rivers are a world away from the concrete, glass and high-rise buildings that make up the landscape of the city of Portland.

Yet these two areas of Oregon have something in common - world-class, award-winning battle rapper Greg Poe.

Let's be clear, Poe has rarely been to Siletz. Most Tribal members in Siletz have never seen where Siletz Tribal member Greg Poe lives in the St. Johns area of Portland either. But they have a common thread - and it's more than their bloodlines.

We all dream.

Some kids growing up in Siletz dream of seeing the city, maybe even living and working there someday. Poe grew up in the city, but just like the kids in Siletz, he dreamed. He wondered.

"I was an emotional kid," said Poe in an interview in Portland at the Native American Youth Association (NAYA) center where his mom works. Poe's mom is Tribal member Tamra Russell and his grandma was the late Bernadine Washington. "I felt different and I didn't hang out with other kids."

Poe explained that his dad and uncles were his childhood companions and that his first memory was his parents breaking up when he was 3. He was always close to his mom.

See Poe on page 12.

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