

Celebration of Honor features Field of Honor, medal ceremonies, free buffet and glass float drop

LINCOLN CITY, Ore. – For the past 14 years, Chinook Winds Casino Resort has spearheaded the annual Celebration of Honor, an event that honors active duty personnel, military veterans and their families.

This event takes place Sept. 13-17 at Chinook Winds and includes the Field of Honor, with 1,000 flags overlooking the ocean; the Oregon KIA Memorial Wall; Wall of Honor (Iraq and Afghanistan); Living Military History Weapons Display; Spirit of 45 (collecting WWII photos); uniform display (convention center); and a veterans services information tent for veterans and their families.

This year we have a life-size wood statue of the raising of the flag at Iwo Jima (lobby). Opening Ceremonies are at the Field of Honor in the open field behind Chinook Winds on Friday, Sept. 15, at 5 p.m.

This year we offer a free live concert with one of the best Elvis impersonators in the world, Cody Slaughter. He performs in the Chinook Winds Showroom at 8 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 14.

The show is free to all veterans and active duty military (receive two tickets). Guests will be asked to present any form of ID to show their service.

Slaughter is hailed as one of the most talented young actors, singers and Elvis tribute artists in the country. Born and raised in Harrison, Ark., Slaughter began entertaining at the young age of 13. His passion for Elvis' music and memory has directed his career path.

Slaughter has performed all across the country as Elvis in the traveling production of the Tony Award-winning sensation *Million Dollar Quartet* and was nominated as best featured actor for his role.

He has performed in many theaters in Branson, Mo., as well as in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., where he was the featured entertainer at The Tennessee Shindig for more than a year at age 17.

On Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16, Easton Corbin performs live, with \$1 from every ticket going to Northwest Battle Buddies.

With two No. 1 singles, multiple awards and nominations, Corbin is lauded for his traditional country sound, authentic lyrics and mastery of understatement. *American Songwriter* says, "Easton Corbin has one of those rare, glorious voices that was made – just made – for singing country music."

Northwest Battle Buddies' mission is to "empower combat veterans with PTSD to regain their freedom and independence by partnering them with professionally trained and specifically matched service dogs at no charge – serving our veterans who served us all." Visit the group's website at northwestbattlebuddies.org.

On Wednesday, Sept. 13, veterans and active duty personnel eat free during open hours at the Siletz Bay Buffet. Veterans and active duty personnel must stop by the Winners Circle to register and show proof of military service (DD-214 or other Military ID) to receive this benefit. Only one free voucher per person.

The Oregon Veterans Medal Presentation Ceremony will take place at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16, at the Field of Honor just behind the casino.

Friends and family members of service men and women killed in action will post flags on behalf of their fallen heroes at the beginning of the medal ceremony.

The Oregon Veterans Medal is a custom-designed medal that signifies Oregon's appreciation for the service and sacrifice of veterans. To qualify for this medal, an application form must be completed in advance with proof of military service attached.

Forms are available at the Field of Honor, starting at noon on Wednesday, Sept. 13. For more information, visit veteransoforegon.com or call 971-806-0882.

The rededication of the Desert Storm Memorial will take place in front of the casino at 5 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 16. The Siletz Tribal Honor Guard and Tribal drummers will start the dedication. State Rep. David Gombberg is the keynote speaker.

On Sunday, Sept. 17, the Run for Honor 5K and walk will take place. See story on opposite page for details.

Many veteran services have joined the event to provide services and information to veterans and their families. Confirmed attendees include My Healthy Vet, Vet Center (readjustment counseling service), Vets Helping Vets HQ, Veterans Benefits Administration, Northwest Battle Buddies, Umpqua Valley Chapter 905 (Agent Orange), PTSD Foundation (Portland), Lincoln County Veterans Services, Oregon Spirit of 45, Notes from Home, Purple Heart, OMSN, Combat Veterans International and Lines for Life.

The veteran services tent will be located in the parking area across from valet. The tent will be open Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15-16, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Contact Bill John for more information at 541-996-5815.

Your casual stroll on the beach could provide a hidden treasure – a red, white or blue glass float that was carefully placed by Lincoln City Visitor and Convention Bureau volunteers. This is part of the critically acclaimed Flinders Keepers community program.

Your participation in Celebration of Honor is welcomed – contact Heather Hatton at 541-996-5766 or heatherh@CWResort.com, or Bill John at 541-996-5815 or williamj@cwresort.com for more information on how to get involved with this annual event.

There are many ways for individuals, families, youth groups, businesses and organizations to become involved with the Celebration of Honor. A fundraiser for a veterans group; a special or discount at your business for veterans and their families; red, white and blue decorations or kites at your store; displaying the American flag at your home or business; shaking the hand of a veteran or active duty person and offering a "welcome home" or "thank you"; or planning an event are just a few ways you can become part of this year's celebration.

To the editor:

I AM NATIVE

While looking at my reflection from the stream that's running through our land and in trying to find meaning to my life, I try to imagine how familiar I look to my ancestors.

I would have loved to live in their lifetimes and been able to share and experience the ways of our people. I am afraid that our culture is being lost to time.

I feel a warrior's voice deep in my soul with his piercing war cries. I can hear our people singing our sacred songs to our Mother Earth and Father Sky, to the spirit of our grandfather and to our loved ones we miss so much. My heart is in harmony with the beat of our drums. My lungs are filled with the rich strong sacred smoke, my veins run full with my people's medicine.

So while searching through the windows of my soul I am proud to say that I have found myself because I AM NATIVE.

I wrote this in dedication to my family – Rochal, Nikita, Cristobal, Jackie, Carlos, Edelio, Mariah, Cristobal Jr. and Sonya Moody-Jurado. Thank you all for not giving up on me and you all mean the world to me as well.

I would like to reach out to all our Tribal members. I have been incarcerated



for many years now and I am a little bit over a year from being released. I would like to make and build some positive friendships while being given the opportunity of meeting new people.

I really enjoy writing a lot and I am interested in learning more about our Native culture while sharing our ways and knowledge with all the other Native Americans who are incarcerated with me. In the past it has been difficult for me to ask for help, but today I am humble to reach out and ask. So please, feel safe and comfortable in writing me.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Francisco Moreno, SID# 15554476
3405 Deer Park Drive SE
Salem, OR 97310

Tribal RV parks have space available for you

Logan Road RV Park, Lincoln City, Ore – loganroadrvpark.com or 877-LOGANRV
Hee Hee Illahee RV Resort, Salem, Ore – heeheeillahee.com or 877-564-7295

Information for Tribal veterans

Vet rep asks Tribal veterans to call in. All Siletz Tribal veterans are asked to call Tony Molina, Honor Guard director and Tribal veterans representative, to verify their DD214s and enrollment numbers so he can process their names to be placed on the Veterans Memorial on Government Hill.

Siletz veterans office open daily. Tony Molina is available for all Siletz Tribal veterans. He is in the Tribal administration building in Siletz on Monday-Friday to help you get information for your VA benefits. Additionally, he needs your help to update our veterans' roster, especially for those currently serving. See below for contact information.

From our veterans representative, Tony Molina: All of our veterans and families can call me 24/7 at home at 541-444-2828 or on my cell at 541-272-2818. This will help since I'm only in the office part-time. My office number is 541-444-8330 or 800-922-1399, ext 1330. I thank all of our veterans for their service to our nation.

Siletz News Letters Policy

Siletz News, a publication of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, is published once a month. Our editorial policy encourages input from readers about stories printed in *Siletz News* and other Tribal issues.

All letters must include the author's signature, address, and phone number in order to be considered for publication. *Siletz News* reserves the right to edit any letter for clarity and length, and to refuse publication of any letter or any part of a letter that may contain profane language, libelous statements, personal attacks or unsubstantiated statements.

Not all letters are guaranteed publication upon submission. Published letters do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Siletz News*, Tribal employees, or Tribal Council.

Please type or write legibly. Letters longer than 450 words may be edited for length as approved by Tribal Council Resolution #96-142.

Please note: The general manager of the Siletz Tribe is the editor-in-chief of *Siletz News*.

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