



## Jenkins retires from Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission he helped found

By Heather Hatton, Public Relations Manager, Chinook Winds Casino Resort  
Dec. 31, 2018, was the last day for Lee Jenkins as a member of the Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission. Some people like sports, Lee Jenkins loves them.

When you talk to him though, you can feel his love of boxing. And as you talk to him among the three other commissioners – Lillie Butler, Gerald Smith and Barry Kessinger – you see the friendships and the camaraderie that has built over the years. They are a small but mighty group of individuals who work hard to keep sporting events safe for the participants and protect in terms of rules and regulations.

His passion is why in 1997 Lee helped create the Siletz Athletic Commission. He was instrumental in bringing in many fights over the years, including Sugar Ray Leonard, Butterbean, amateur boxing and his favorite, the Fernando Vargas vs. Winky Wright fight in 1999.

“That was my first fight as a commissioner. It was neat to be around all of those boxers. The energy was exciting,” said Jenkins.

Jenkins is turning in his commission gloves for much-needed time traveling with his lovely wife, Mollie.

Jenkins is an Army veteran of the Vietnam War. He is very humble in his answers when asked about his contribution to the commission. He started his love of boxing in the gym, helping youth build confidence and pride. Over the years he spent much of his time working with the City of Portland at a community center and also helped start the Vancouver PAL (Police Activity League) Boxing Club.

Jenkins started his time on athletic commissions by serving on the Portland Boxing and Wrestling Commission from 1985-1987 before the State Athletic Commission was formed. He was one of the first members of the Oregon State Boxing and Wrestling Commission and was actually appointed to that position by then Governor Neil Goldschmidt (secretary of state at the time was Barbara Roberts).

After serving a few years on the state commission, Jenkins became a founding member of the Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission. Bruce Anderson is the person who spoke with Lee to discuss the benefits of having the Tribe put together its own athletic commission for boxing and soon to be other major sporting events.

Jenkins loved to box and share his love of boxing with youth. Mike Darcy



Courtesy photo by Angela Ramirez

Lee Jenkins

and Reggie Butler met with Lee and they formed the first Siletz Tribal Athletic Commission in 1997.

Shortly after the commission was formed, the members set up several big fights. Commotion at the Ocean in 1999 is Jenkins' favorite fight.

“Those fights were fun meeting all of the boxers. The staff at Chinook Winds

were always great. The energy was great,” he said.

After the Commotion at the Ocean series, all of which were pro fights, the commission began a series of amateur bouts called Battle at the Beach.

“The amateur bouts are my passion. I had boxed since I was 8 years old and stopped when I was around 40. I coached and worked with youth athletes over the years and loved it,” said Jenkins.

He found that his passion was really in the youth arena, making sure they boxed safely. That's why he stayed with it for so long, it was for the kids. Some of his youth boxers started boxing in the pro arena in 2006.

“It was very exciting to coach them and see them turn pro to fight,” said Jenkins. He very seldom encouraged young people to turn pro unless they had performed to a high enough level in the amateur arena because he knows the difficulty of excelling in the pro ranks.

When asked why he is retiring now, he said, “In November 2016 I was diagnosed with prostate cancer. I went through surgery, radiation and chemo. In 2017 I wasn't

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Photo by Diane Rodriguez

General Manager Brenda Bremner (left) and Administrative Manager Sharon Edenfield (right) wrap Gregg Gubuan in a Tribal Pendleton blanket.

### Employee of the Year

Gregg Gubuan  
Chief Finance Officer

From the nomination form: The Siletz Tribe has greatly benefited from Gregg's hard work for almost 20 years. Throughout his years of service, he has saved the Tribe millions of dollars. He is instrumental in audit compliance, economic development, investments, banking and countless other areas. He is a selfless worker who has always been willing to take on duties and assist staff and departments in any way that he can. From Minor Trust to the Siletz Tribal Revolving Credit program, the list is countless. Gregg's dedication to the betterment of the Siletz Tribe, employees and the Tribal members has always been the priority in his working years here.

## Bipartisan bill to protect endangered salmon and steelhead passes Senate without objection

Passage of legislation underscores bipartisan urgency to protect ESA-listed salmon, steelhead from predatory sea lions threatening their existence

WASHINGTON – Critical bipartisan legislation led by U.S. Senators Jim Risch (R-ID) and Maria Cantwell (D-WA) to protect Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed tsalmon and steelhead from extinction has passed the Senate without objection.

The entire Northwest Senate delegation, including U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Ron Wyden (D-OR), Patty Murray (D-WA) and Mike Crapo (R-ID), have cosponsored S.3119, the Endangered Salmon Predation Prevention Act, emphasizing how critical this legislation is to the existence of salmon and steelhead in the interconnected Northwest waterways. The House was expected to consider the bill before the end of the year.

“Idaho's efforts to restore populations of endangered salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River has been significantly compromised by predatory sea lions,” said Risch. “Passage of this legislation will help ensure vibrant, healthy populations for years to come. I encourage my colleagues in the House to pass this bill expeditiously.”

“Wild salmon play a critical role in the economy, culture and Tribal treaty rights of the Pacific Northwest,” Cantwell said. “As endangered salmon face extinction, we must take steps to protect them. Science-based predation management will allow state and Tribal wildlife officials to protect vulnerable salmon populations and the orcas that feed on them.”

“Salmon are critical to Oregon's economy, culture and heritage, and it's clear that sea lions are creating a serious threat to the very survival of endangered salmon,” Merkley said. “I'm glad we could find a bipartisan path forward to address this problem in a targeted way that enables equitable Tribal management and does not materially impact sea lion populations.”

“For too long, predatory sea lions have been taking an unhealthy chomp out of Oregon's salmon and steelhead stocks. This bill applies a reasoned, collaborative approach to address, in a permanent manner, sea lion predation on endangered salmon and steelhead,” said Wyden. “This bill took a long time to negotiate. There were a lot of interests with stakes in this process, including multiple states and many Tribal nations. This bipartisan compromise shows that Congress can still function, in a bipartisan way.”

“Predatory sea lions on the Lower Columbia River have had a dramatic impact on the steelhead and salmon populations across the Northwest,” said Crapo. “This bipar-

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