



Siletz News
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STAHS meets capital campaign goal to build museum, A Place for the People

By Teresa Simmons, STAHS Vice Chair
“We did it ... we are thrilled ... we are ecstatic! We have met our pledge of \$2.5 million to build the museum. We don’t know when the Tribal Council will begin construction, but we have been working with an architectural firm and have shovel-ready plans for the project,” said Gloria Ingle, chairperson of the Siletz Tribal Arts and Heritage Society.

After a rough start, The Campaign for A Place for the People successfully completed its \$2.5 million capital campaign to secure funding for construction

of Ghii Dee-Ne Dvn. The capital campaign concluded on June 1, 2022, with approval by the Business Council of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community of a grant for \$250,000. A total of \$2,541,000 has now been raised to support the campaign.

In January 2020, the STAHS Board of Directors contracted with Stephen Reichard as the capital campaign executive director. The campaign launched in February 2020 with high hopes that were quickly dashed with the arrival of the coronavirus pandemic.

STAHS was only able to raise about \$100,000 in 2020 as the attention of the world – and funders – turned to the pandemic. 2020 gifts included support from the Oregon Cultural Trust (\$35,000) as well as the Spirit Mountain Community Fund (\$50,000).

As the impact of the pandemic became clear, STAHS elected to suspend the campaign in September and did not restart the campaign until January, as vaccines became more widely available.

Fortunately, 2021 was a banner year. It started off with a decision by the Oregon

State Legislature to support the campaign with a \$750,000 grant funded by lottery dollars. That was followed in short order by grants from the Spirit Mountain Community Fund (\$100,000), the Collins Foundation (\$300,000) and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians’ own carry-over funds (\$200,000), together with a host of smaller grants from Oregon-based foundations.

Those included a \$50,000 grant from the Roundhouse Foundation, which came

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NMAI to dedicate National Native American Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day

WASHINGTON – The Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian will dedicate the National Native American Veterans Memorial on Friday, Nov. 11. The dedication ceremony will take place on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., as part of a three-day event (Nov. 11-13) to honor Native veterans. A Native veterans procession will take place before the start of the dedication ceremony.

“The dedication of this memorial is an opportunity to gather and reflect on the extraordinary service and sacrifice of Native veterans and their families,” said Cynthia Chavez Lamar (San Felipe Pueblo, Hopi, Tewa and Navajo), the museum’s director. “I hope everyone will join us for this momentous occasion, so together we can offer them our thanks for their contributions to our country.”

Events on Nov. 11 will begin in the afternoon with a Native veterans procession, which will make its way along the National Mall to the dedication ceremony. Viewing areas will be located along the procession route for supporters to gather to honor the participating veterans and watch the ceremony.

Throughout the weekend, the museum will host special programming in honor of the dedication of the memorial, including hands-on activities, films in the Rasmuson Theater, performances in the Potomac Atrium and a dedicated veterans hospitality suite. The museum will remain open until 8 p.m. on Nov. 11.

Visitors can also visit the exhibition *Why We Serve: Native Americans in the United States Armed Forces* on the museum’s second floor. The exhibition, which tells personal stories of American Indian, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, brings long-overdue recognition to those who have served their country selflessly and with honor for more than 250 years.



Photo by Andy Taylor
The Siletz Tribe’s last two World War II veterans were honored with Tribal blankets at the Memorial Day Ceremony on May 30. Bud Lane (left) accepted the blanket on behalf of his late father, Alfred Lane Jr., who walked on shortly before Memorial Day. Ed Ben, now the Tribe’s lone WWII veteran, accepted the other blanket.

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Siletz Tribal offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of the Fourth of July holiday.