

Memorial Day Address

(25 years after WW1 ended, date unknown)

Siletz, Oregon

President: Aurilla Tom

Salute to Flag

America: Audience

Opening Address: Abe Tom

Gen Order No. 1: Elmer Reed

Service Song: Boys and Girls

Gettysburg Address: Edmond Ben

Remarks: Supt. Wooldridge

Song: Gladys and Myrt Tom

Address of Day: Alfred Lane

Dedication: C. Thompson

Song: Abe Tom

God Bless America

Benediction

On this Memorial Day we bow our heads in homage to the memory of the thousands of honored dead that sleep in the American cemeteries of Europe, in the unmarked graves on Bataan, Corrigador and Guadalcanal, beneath the soil of North Africa and Alaska, in the jungle swamps of the tropics, beneath the waters of the seven seas and the thousands that sleep beneath the hallowed soil of our own country.

Memorial Day glorifies the ideals and principles that these men strived to protect and preserve. By our presence here today we recognize their devotion to duty, their courage, their patriotism and loyalty to their country's cause.

Since the days of 1776, each generation has found it necessary to make equal sacrifices for the principle of freedom and those ideals which we regard a sacred obligation of American citizenship. Only 25 years ago we were visitors on the battle fields of Europe in World War No. 1 and laid down our arms with the firm conviction that we "won the war to end all wars."

Unfortunately World War I was not fought to a complete victory. Americans withdrew to their homeland, turning their backs to the affairs of other nations and lived under the selfish impression that we could live in security by and for ourselves alone.

After the Treaty of Versailles, some of our far-sighted leaders saw the necessity of world cooperation while others insisted on a policy of isolation. In a few years, Japan invaded Manchuria, Italy conquered Ethiopia, Germany took Austria and marched into Czechoslovakia and we were only shocked. Not until Japan forced war upon us through its cowardly attack on Pearl Harbor did we awaken to the grim realities we now face.

It is hoped that victory has been won when in the global war that rages today, and the barbarous hordes of Germany and Japan are banished from the face of the earth, some form of world tribunal may

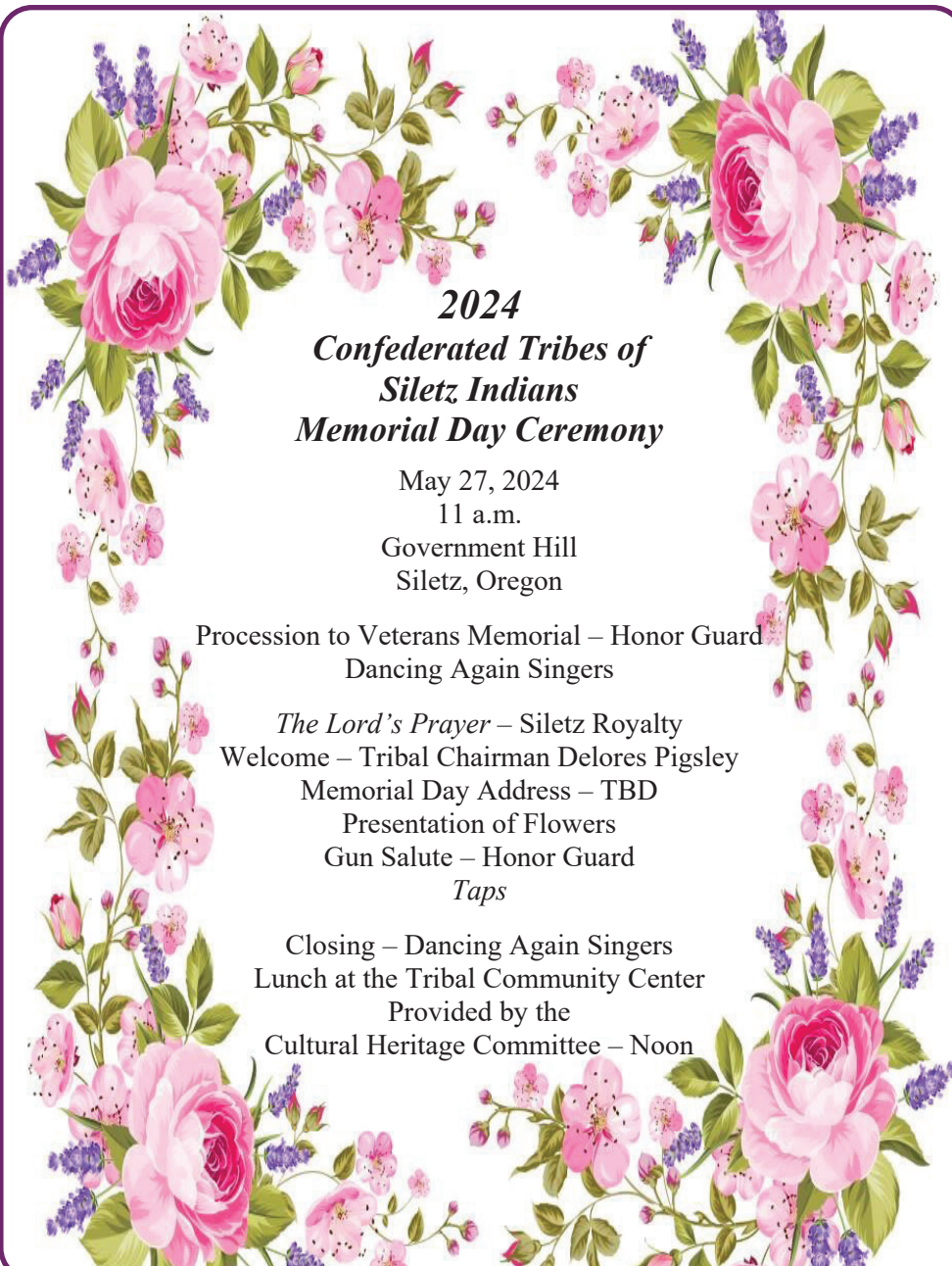
be established with the necessary power to stamp out any signs of aggression or political corruption among nations seeking to violate the peace of the world.

In this shrinking world where travel attains a speed of 800 miles per hour, the radio and long-range planes, no nation can close its frontiers to the rest of the world and hope to long live in peace and security. The time has arrived when the destinies of all nations are bound together.

We are proud of the young men of this generation and we honor them for the sacrifices they are making for the defense of their country and home. To the immortal names of Bunker Hill, Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Bull Run, Manila Bay, San Juan Hill, Argonne Forest and Chateau Thierry we add Guadalcanal, Midway, Alaska and North Africa. They are adding new and glorious chapters to our nation's history. It is hoped that Memorial Day will assume renewed significances as a day of solemn tribute to the defenders of our country rather than a day of revelry, games and other aimless celebrations.

With unyielding allegiance to the American creed and with complete confidence in democracy's strength, let us pledge anew our loyalty to the defenders of our country with the firm resolution that the purpose of their sacrifice will never be betrayed at this time when every American citizen is giving his full measure of strength and substance to the struggle which will determine the rights of man to live in peace and plenty. It is fitting that we give that to the stoic descendants of a people who called this land "home" long before it became the great melting pot of many nationalities.

A people who at one time roamed the hills and prairies of this great land independent and free, unhampered by laws, regulations and other political trappings. A people who have known joy and sadness, calm living and strife, heroism and sacrifice. A people who when asked



2024
Confederated Tribes of
Siletz Indians
Memorial Day Ceremony

May 27, 2024
11 a.m.
Government Hill
Siletz, Oregon

Procession to Veterans Memorial – Honor Guard
Dancing Again Singers

The Lord's Prayer – Siletz Royalty
Welcome – Tribal Chairman Delores Pigsley
Memorial Day Address – TBD
Presentation of Flowers
Gun Salute – Honor Guard
Taps

Closing – Dancing Again Singers
Lunch at the Tribal Community Center
Provided by the
Cultural Heritage Committee – Noon

of his race will reply with great pride "I am an American."

Compare the lot today of these original Americans with the privileges and courtesies extended to the most unwelcome visitors that stream into our ports from foreign countries. While we live in the richest and most powerful nation of the face of this earth, a nation which prides itself on justice, fairness and equal rights, and while the American Indian is under every obligation and shoulders every responsibility of other citizens, he is the victim of a political administration of Indian departments, Indian bureaus and Indian supervisors whose history reveals a record of gross exploitation rather than protection of the resources and rights of the Indian people.

Often Indians are put under the supervision of people morally inferior to themselves and with little sense of justice and responsibility. All that the Indian asks for the contribution he is now making to his government is justice, fairness, equal rights and freedom of the ever-changing policies of political bureaucracy.

Considering the small number of Indians here in our community, the war has

touched us heavily. Nearly all of our young men of military age that were physically able have gone to give if need be their "last full measure of devotion." It is not an easy matter for a young man to leave his peaceful fireside and familiar faces to plunge into the horrors of war. Little do we realize the extent of grief and anger which they must endure as they say good-bye to their loved ones.

For your comfort they write letters of content and good cheer, but deep in their hearts is that longing to be back home with their loved ones and friends. So let us be patient and keep our faith, looking forward to that happy day when we shall all be united again to enjoy the blessings of a lasting peace.

And now by the authority granted me by the thoughtful, energetic and strong-minded Ladies Club of Siletz, I hereby dedicate this service flag to the memory of our Indian boys that have gone to the front whose valor it commemorates. May it influence and enable this community and may we all gather renewed devotion to lead noble lives and emulate their heroic deeds.

By Alfred Lane

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