

Veterans Organizational Meeting

Are you a veteran? If so, we need your participation in the forming and organizing of a Northwest Indian Veterans Association (NIVA) Chapter for our community.

Several of our tribal member veterans have expressed an interest in the need for access to veterans benefits information. With our own NIVA Chapter we can provide this information.

We have already had a couple of informational meetings on this matter. However, we have scheduled a meeting for Thursday, December 5, 1991 at 6:00 pm in the Tribal Council Chambers. Refreshments will be served.

Please plan on attending and providing any input you can. Having a NIVA Chapter will be very beneficial to all of our veterans.

If you cannot attend this meeting and have any information or questions regarding veterans benefits please call Lydia Mathena, co-chairperson, or Michael Larsen, co-chairperson, at 879-5211.

No More Walk-ins

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) will no longer serve food at the warehouse on a walk-in basis.

Tribal members may not receive food stamps and commodities at the same time. Due to recent violations a new policy has been adopted.

As of Oct. 1, 1991 no one will be able to receive commodities unless they have their social security number verified first.

Members may call in advance for verification. If you live in or around the Salem area, you may go into the Salem area office at 420 Pine St. N.E. or call at 588-4428. They will call the food stamp office and write you a verification to bring to us at the warehouse.

Any violations of fraud could result in a suspension of eligibility of six months to a year, as well as an over payment.

The December dates are:

Salem - Dec. 3, 4, and 5 until last appointment

Siletz - Dec. 10, 11, and 13

Food will not be distributed after Dec. 13, so please keep your appointments.

New Grant for HIV/AIDS Education

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) was awarded a \$64,000 grant to organize a summit meeting on HIV/AIDS education.

During the hearings, the goal of the 15 member Planning and Advisory Committee (PAC) will be to review AIDS related issues and to formulate strategies on how to effectively combat the spread of the disease.

The PAC will be made up of representatives of tribal and urban communities, and from the American Indian AIDS service organizations throughout Indian Country.

There will be five regional meetings tentatively scheduled to be held in San Francisco, CA; Oklahoma City, OK; Minneapolis, MN; and Washington, DC.

The results of the regional meetings will be discussed at the National American Indian Summit Meeting on HIV/AIDS and then published in a "findings and recommendations document" which will outline the overall scope of HIV/AIDS in Indian Country.

For more information, contact Gay Kingman or Don Allery at NCAI (202) 546-9404 or Kevin W. Nephew at Support Services (301) 587-9000.



ABOVE: Merle Leno carries the flag of The Confederated Tribe during the Grand Entry at the Veterans Day celebration at Chemawa Indian School.



RIGHT: Left to Right, Buddy Haskins, Jack Quincy, and Earl LaBonte preparing for entry at the Veterans Day celebration

Women Veterans-- Reason to be Proud

Of course we're proud to be women veterans... and there are a lot of reasons why. Love and loyalty to one's country have never been the exclusive attributes of men. Women, too, throughout America's history, have given concrete evidence of their devotion. American Women have always taken their full share of responsibility.

Women have served beside men in military and non-military roles since the beginning of our country's armed forces in 1776.

During the Revolutionary War, women often accompanied men on military expeditions as laundresses and nurses. In battle, they helped to reload rifles. One of these women, Molly Pitcher, took over the duties of her husband when he fell mortally wounded. She manned (or womanned) an artillery piece until she was severely wounded. Captured by the British, she became one of America's first women prisoners of war. She was later honored by both Americans and British for her courage and bravery. This example is well known, but many other women were casualties in these early conflicts.

When women were not accepted to fight during the Civil War, many of them disguised themselves as men to fight. Over 400 served in the Union Army alone.

Dr. Mary Walker, who served as a contract surgeon with the Union Army, is the only woman to receive the Medal of Honor.

During World War I, women served in the Army Nurse Corps and the Navy Nurse Corps. Women also served as telephone workers, and were credited with the successful communications between the Allied Expeditionary Forces. By the end of World War I, women had been awarded almost every military decoration, including four Navy Crosses for gallantry and heroism.

At the outbreak of World War II, there were 110 military nurses in the Philippines. Before Bataan and Corregidor fell to the Japanese, 33 nurses were evacuated to Australia. The other 77 remained prisoners of

the Japanese in Manila. One of these women now lives in Oregon.

Late in World War II, a unit was formed to evacuate the wounded. This unit, the Aviation Flight Nurses, became the Air Force Nurse Corps when the Air Force was established in 1947.

Unlike the World War I, women remained in the service after the guns were silenced. In smaller numbers they continued performing vital roles during the occupations of Germany and Japan. During the Korean Conflict, women served in front line MASH units, and again gave their lives. This dedication and devotion to our nation continued through the Vietnam War, where over 10,000 military women served and 8 gave their lives for their country.

Women continue to serve proudly. Women were on the beaches at Granada, piloted refueling planes bombing Libya and bravely performed their duties in Panama during Operation Just Cause.

During the Persian Gulf War, over 35,000 women served in the Gulf. They flew support aircraft, worked in supply units, missile units, and aboard Naval vessels. Eleven women were killed, and two were taken prisoner of war.

Women have served in every military conflict of our Nation's history. Women have a right to be proud. **WOMEN ARE VETERANS, TOO!**

(Reprinted from the Oregon Women Veterans Newsletter)

