

# Northwest Indian Issues

and HR 679, that would make 20 acres near the Chemawa School "freely alienable" so that it could be used as collateral.

Efforts also are underway to create "a treaty trail," commemorating the 1855 treaties between the U.S. and Northwest Tribes; and creating a Hatfield Scholarship, though in the current fiscal environment, both would have to be funded by cuts elsewhere in the budget, said Worden.

From the audience, a woman raised the issue of Indian Trust Funds with Worden. "The purchase price has been paid," she said, "by treaties. It doesn't matter that the government doesn't have the money. Take

this back and give them the fire and brimstone, and you're going to be a fine son for us all."

Educators from half a dozen Northwest colleges and universities described their commitment to serving Native students. They

described Native programs that they make available to students.

7.2 percent of the faculty at Evergreen State University in Olympia, Washington, for example, is Native, and six percent of its graduates are Native.

"We see the value of ATNI because it's specific to the Northwest," said Sheker. "Because we're so much alike, we see a lot of people who understand what we're going through, and then we really get their support." ■

▲ Many Tribal Elders participated in ATNI's winter conference, including above from left around the table: Linda Brandon, Pat Allen, Rebecca Crocker, Pearl Lyon (hidden), Janet Phillips, Cookie Jensen, Ruby Begoni, Diane Locklear and Bernadine Shriver.



Photo by Ron Karten

## ATNI Honors Elizabeth Furse

■ Grand Ronde sponsors the awards banquet honoring the Tribe's long time friend.

By Ron Karten

On Tuesday evening, February 13, the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde hosted the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Awards Banquet Honoring Elizabeth Furse. The event came on the third evening of the five-day ATNI 2007 Winter Conference.

Furse, a lifelong advocate for peace and justice causes, a former Oregon Congresswoman and continuing Executive Director of Portland State University's Institute for Tribal Government, was instrumental in helping the Grand Rondes win restoration for the Tribe.

She also played a vital role in helping the Coquille and Klamath Tribes regain federal recognition.

Tribal Vice Chair Angie Blackwell introduced and welcomed Furse, and invited ATNI attendees to share stories about their experiences with her.

Tribal Elder and former Tribal Chair Katherine Harrison offered the invocation and remembered the red-eye

flights back to Washington, D.C. both with Furse and to meet Furse and other members of the Oregon delegation.

Tribal Elder Margaret Provost, who worked closely with Furse during the Restoration effort, described their many meetings over the years, and how well they worked together. Provost presented Furse with a beaded medallion made by Tribal Elder and Culture Committee Chair Pat Allen.

Furse also received ceremonial Pendleton blankets and a handmade walking stick.

Alan Parker (Chippewa Cree) called her "a woman warrior."

Furse and husband, John C. Platt, co-own the Washington County, Oregon-based Helvetia Vineyards. Platt talked about the mentors the two had found along their individual ways as activists. He described the voyage of their lives as "a tough trip through paradise."

Tribal Elder and Tribal Council member Cheryle Kennedy led the program to honor Furse.

Furse said that the time she had spent fighting for Indian causes had helped her discover "what it means to be truly human, and I thank you all," she said. ■



Photo by Ron Karten