

'This is the most impressive and sincere honor'

POWWOW continued
from front page

Jr. 88, Navy, 1942-45. In addition, warrior Don Cook also received the Tribe's thanks and numerous presents, starting with a traditional Pendleton blanket.

Also honored for service during World War II were Navajo code talkers Peter McDonald Sr., 85, USMC, 1944-46, and Bill Toledo, 89, USMC, 1942-45.

The Tribe wrapped the men in traditional blankets and presented them with the Native American Medal of Valor.

"This is the most impressive and sincere honor that we have received to date," said McDonald, "with love, respect and honor in the traditional way of our people."

McDonald then presented Grand Ronde Tribal Chair Reyn Leno, a Marine Corps veteran of the Vietnam War, with a code talker's medallion.

Navajo code is considered the most successful military code ever invented and remained unbroken by the Japanese throughout World War II.

All veterans received pins, a patch and a T-shirt with this year's powwow logo designed by Tribal Elder and Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. with input from Leno and Social Services Manager Dave Fullerton.

The logo will be used for future Veterans Powwows, Bobb said.

The Tribe also honored 19 wildland firefighters who perished on July 1 fighting the Yarnell Hill fire in Arizona. Eleven Grand Ronde wildland firefighters, wearing their red shirts, joined Leno in honoring the group.

"When the time comes," said Leno, "you have to meet the call. These firefighters met the call."

An honor song by host drum Red Hoop, from Reno, Nev., followed a moment of silence for the fallen.

Award-winning musician Jan Looking Wolf Reibach played taps on Native flute.

Loren Corpuz, Yakama, USMC



Nikia Mooney, 15, left, dances a fast and fancy shawl dance during the 2013 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13. In the foreground is Kailiyah Krehbiel, 11, and in the background on the right is Isabelle Grout, 9.

1963-69, wore a jacket with a "Yakama Warriors Association" patch across the back and held a trumpet in his hand. When he lifted it to his lips, he played the traditional song from each branch of the military.

Powwow events included four grand entries - 7 p.m. Friday, 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday. Events also included the naming of new Veterans Queen Savannah Ingram, 17, and Prin-

cess Amelia Mooney, 10. Outgoing Queen Iyana Holmes, 13, held a giveaway for children that included toys and candy.

Grand Ronde and Siletz Royalty also participated this year.

An exhibition dance raised funds for former Grand Ronde Tribal Royalty member Nakoosa Moreland to help pay for her college education beginning in the fall. She will be attending the University of Minnesota.

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Among the women warriors was Air Force veteran Linda Woods (Ojibwe), from Michigan, who also carried the eagle staff for the first Saturday Grand Entry and who presented blankets to honored World War II veterans.

In addition to Woods, Wayne Chulik (Tlinget), Vicor A. Ganuela and Charlie Tailfeathers (Cree/Blackfeet), one of the organizers of this year's Veterans Summit, also carried the eagle staff over the weekend.

In line with the Tribe's efforts to broaden cultural outreach for Tribal members and connect with Tribal communities, the Land and Culture Department sponsored several activities for the Veterans Summit and powwow this year, said Land and Culture Department Manager Jan Looking Wolf Reibach.

Staff members created a special exhibit for veterans and there was a Veterans Honor Necklace Station at the department booth as well. Staff and volunteers, including Tribal Council member Jon A.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

George and Tribal youth, taught veterans how to make dentalia and beaded necklaces with service campaign ribbon colors for each branch of the service.

Veterans and their families crowded the tables. Veterans from across time sat next to each other and made necklaces. Hundreds of these specially made necklaces were given to veterans over the



Tribal Council members June Sherer, right, and Jon A. George gift Tribal Elder and World War II veteran Allen (Biff) Langley with a Pendleton blanket during the 1 p.m. Grand Entry of the 2013 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13. Tribal Council also gifted fellow Elders and World War II veterans Eugene Hudson, left, and Herman Hudson Jr., standing behind Eugene, with blankets.

weekend.

Native veteran Charlie Running Horse served in both Korea and Vietnam. With his granddaughter helping to make his necklace, Running Horse said, "This is wonderful. The Grand Ronde people understand honor. Thank you."

Other activities in the Land and Culture Tent included weaving and beading demonstrations by Tribal members Connie Graves and Greg Archuleta. The Culture Committee coordinated special craft tables for Tribal youth. Committee Chair Betty Bly and other volunteers helped the children with cultural craft projects.

"This event is a great example of

the Tribe's Circle of Culture," said Reibach. "Staff worked side by side with Tribal Elders, youth workers, Culture Committee members and volunteers to help the Tribe honor our vets."

All of the department's staff put in hours at the booth, Reibach said. Cultural Outreach Specialist Bobby Mercier and Cultural Education Specialist Brian Krehbiel worked nearly around the clock to support the event. They provided several sweats, drumming, exhibits at the carving shed and hosted events at the plankhouse.

Sharon Norwest, widow of Marcellus Norwest, who walked on in 2011 and for whom the powwow is named, hosted a tiny tots special dance.

Deitz and Rose Peters hosted two dance specials: a veterans golden age men's traditional, won by Tailfeathers, and a veterans golden age women's traditional, won by Linda Meanus (Warm Springs).

Chet Clark (Diné) sponsored a gourd dancing event in the arena to honor all veterans.

Guam Native Islander Ken Vilante prepared and served 325 breakfasts and 350 dinners for those in attendance.

On Sunday, Peter Nelson hosted a round bustle chicken dance special in honor of a feather that dropped on Saturday. He honored the feather because it symbolizes a warrior who fell in battle and Nelson wanted to honor all who have lost their lives in battle.

Raffle prizes this year included a bicycle, barbecue, generator and Pendleton blankets, to name a few.

Also this year, in order to facilitate a single theme, the Grand Ronde Honor Guard wore new ribbon shirts and regalia made by Tribal Elders and sisters Marilee Norwest and Marcella Selwyn. Norwest has for many years been making ribbon shirts and regalia for Tribal members, honor guards and veterans.

Wink Soderberg, Gene LaBonte, Michael Lane, Raymond Petite and Al Miller made up this year's Grand Ronde Honor Guard.

Clark's Jóhonaaéí singers from Salem were named honorary drum. Other Native drums performing included 4 Directions, Moose Knuckle, West Coast Boys, One Skunk, Sacred Earth, Turquoise Pride, Young Bull, Awakening Thunder, Aninigi, All Nations and the Grand Ronde drum, Woodsmen.

More than 20 vendors worked the powwow, said Chulik, who is a member of the Veterans Special Event Board with responsibility for vendors.

Nick Sixkiller (Cherokee) was again master of ceremonies for the powwow.

Deitz (Grand Ronde) and Rose Peters (Shoshone) were head man and head woman.

Tony Whitehead (Siletz) was Arena Director.

Thanks go to powwow sponsors, including the Tribe and the Gresham-based Native Wellness Institute, the Veterans Special Event Board, Tribal Public Affairs Department and to Fullerton.

"This is very sacred ground to us," said Leno of the powwow grounds. "We had villages on this ground." ■



Jeremy Ojua, fourth from right, Tribal silviculture/fire protection technician and member of the Grand Ronde Tribe's wildland firefighters, introduces himself as he and other members of the firefighting crew take part in the 1 p.m. Grand Entry of the 2013 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13. Before each of the firefighters introduced themselves, a moment of silence was held in honor of the 19 wildland firefighters who recently perished fighting the Yarnell Hill fire in Arizona.



Newly crowned Veterans Queen Savannah Ingram, left, and Veterans Princess Amelia Mooney participate in the 1 p.m. Grand Entry of the 2013 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13.