

for future grand entries



Kaikanim Mercier gets support from her parents, Amanda and Jordan Mercier, as she dances in the Tiny Tots special during the 2016 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 9.



Kaikanim Mercier dances in an InterTribal dance during the 2016 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 9.

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performed three InterTribals before giving way to the Grand Ronde Royalty members who performed a dance special for Tribal youth Saige Selwyn, who walked on in 2015 after a tragic car accident on Grand Ronde Road.

The idea to honor Saige with a dance special at this year's Veterans Powwow was credited to Junior Miss Grand Ronde Isabelle Grout and Little Miss Grand Ronde Kaleigha Simi.

The dance special featured three songs with the first song being dedicated to Saige's family.

"The first dance was for the family as an honor song for Saige," said Tribal Council Administrative Assistant Shannon Simi, Kaleigha's mother, who also helps with Royalty events.

The second dance was just Royalty and the third dance was a competition special open to junior and teen category dancers of all styles.

Royalty members (Grout, Simi, Amaryssa Mooney and

Iyana Holmes) and Amelia Mooney judged the dance special and picked the top three dancers.

Tribal member Kailiyah Krehbiel, Kaylee Johnson and Jazmine Barney were the winners and they each received bracelets that said "In Loving Memory of Saige" on them.

"The girls on Royalty were really good friends with Saige and since Saige was a fancy dancer the girls wanted to do something special for her," said Simi. "Saige is from the Norwest family. We thought it would be an appropriate time to honor the family and have all

the girls dance fancy, which was her style. It was the girls' way of remembering their friend and doing something for the family."

Leno said hearing about the dance special for Saige made him proud to be a member of the Tribal family.

"I'm proud to be part of a Tribe that steps up and they help people and they don't forget about them, and they really help the family

work through these things," said Leno. "At the end of the day you never want to forget somebody. You always want to be able to remember them and honor them the best you can. That's always our commitment. We will never forget you."

Isabelle Grout put that commitment into action when she wore Saige's fancy dance shawl on to the arena floor. She remembered so we can all remember. ■

Photos by Michelle Alaimo



Veterans Special Event Board Senior Queen Makenzie Aaron, left, and her sister, Veterans Special Event Board Junior Queen Madison Aaron, take their honor dance immediately following being crowned the 2016-17 queens before the start of the 2016 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 8.