

I here with a World War II veteran'



right, waves after Veterans Special Event Board, honored him with the with a two-night's stay at the Marcellus Inn on Saturday, July 8.

Visit the Tribe's **facebook** page to see more photos



Newly crowned 2017-18 Junior Veterans Queen Tasina Bluehorse, left, and 2017-18 Senior Veterans Queen Hailey Lewis-Little, right, take their honor dance after being crowned at Uyxat Powwow Grounds on Friday, July 7, just before the first grand entry of the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

tilla) and Linda Meanus (Warm Springs) were head dancers.

Bobb delivered the invocation and Leno gave a welcoming speech. George then presented Leno, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Marine Corps, with a necklace to thank him for his military service and 21 years on Tribal Council.

"He had asked me to make a necklace actually for somebody else," George said. "But when I was doing that, I thought of him, too. This gentleman has been a leader here of this Tribe for 21 years. He has decided to kind of retire from us here, but he's not going away as he tells us. ... Today, I would like to honor him though with a Vietnam veteran's necklace that he so richly deserves."

Approximately 30 veterans lined up to introduce themselves be-

fore powwow dancing started to the Native songs pounded out by Bad Soul, Turquoise Pride, Johannaai Singers, Big Eagle Singers and Awakening Thunder. Friday night's dancing continued until 10 p.m., Sixkiller said.

Saturday afternoon popular

Saturday afternoon's Grand Entry more than doubled the number of veterans who lined up to be honored by a much larger crowd and included Eugene-area Tribal Elder Monty Parazoo, who served in the Navy from 1960-66.

Russell received a special medal of valor, as did veteran Andy Gomez, who lost two legs and an arm in Vietnam. Gomez received a Purple Heart pen to go along with his Purple Heart.

All veterans received a medal of valor distributed by the Tribe's

Veterans Special Event Board and the Yakama Warriors distributed "welcome home" pins and a Vietnam War veteran eagle pen. The Medal of Valor read "awarded for valorous service to a grateful nation" on one side and featured a bald eagle head and U.S. flag on the other side.

Tribal Elder and former Tribal Council member Wink Soderberg, a Navy veteran from the Korean War era, was honored by the Veterans Special Event Board with a two-night's stay at the Inn at Spanish Head in Lincoln City.

The Veterans Powwow, which recently has been held in torrid heat or rainy, cool conditions, experienced temperate weather with highs only reaching the low 80s, which was quite comfortable for attendees under the shade of the arbor canvas.

"This is great weather for powwowing," Leno said during his Friday night welcoming speech. "This is about as good as you can get."

Grand entries also were held at 7 p.m. Saturday, July 8, and again at 1 p.m. Sunday, July 9. Other drums that performed during the four grand entries included Woodsman, Warm Springs Junior, Sage Pointe, Red Nation and Northern Blackhorse, Sixkiller said.

The Veterans Powwow attracted

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, left, and Tribal Council Chair Reyn Leno hug after George presented Leno, a Vietnam veteran who served in the Marine Corps, with a necklace to thank him for his military service.

people from far and wide. Tony Spotted Elk (Oglala/Lakota) said he came from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota to honor veterans and see the arbor for himself.

"I've always wanted to visit your new arena," Spotted Elk, 55, said on Saturday afternoon. "We've seen it in the paper and online. We're just glad to be here, basically. Real excited."

"The enthusiasm was good," Bobb said. "The powerful impact of the Pearl Harbor survivor and the Vietnam veteran amputee brought the reality of what war does physically to people and what those of us who witnessed these events live with every day."

"Veterans deserve respect and recognition, but mankind deserves a world surrounded by love, peace and caring."

In both of his welcoming speeches, Leno honored Army veteran Marce Norwest, who walked on in 2011, for starting the Veterans Powwow.

"I love this powwow and we always got to acknowledge Marce Norwest," Leno said on Saturday afternoon. "I was one of them ones (who said) 'Yeah, I'm a veteran,' but I didn't do much. He was the one that actually said, 'No, if you're a veteran, you need to let people know you're a veteran.' So with that Marce and Steve and I and a bunch of us got involved and we did that beautiful memorial down at our Governance building. ... Marce had our first Veterans Powwow. I don't think he ever probably thought we'd be in this beautiful arbor doing one, but I know he is looking down and proud of each and every one of our veterans." ■

Includes information from the Albany Democrat-Herald.

