

President signed Restoration Bill in 1983

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push us forward.”

After Termination, many Tribal members were forced to relocate from Grand Ronde to survive.

“Termination took away our place as being recognized as a Tribe in this country,” she said. “Today, we have members who have survived that. I know what it is was like to no longer have that identity, not to be eligible for health care or Bureau of Indian Affairs scholarships, or to sit in my homelands. It was all stripped away.”

On Nov. 22, 1983, everything changed when President Ronald Reagan signed the Tribe’s Restoration Bill into law.

Kennedy acknowledged longtime Tribal Council chairwoman and key Restoration figure Kathryn Harrison, who attended Sunday’s event.

“She served the Tribe for many years and helped lead this fight,” Kennedy said.

She then asked everyone in the audience who had been helped by the Tribe’s health care plan, college tuition funding or housing assistance to stand.

Nearly everyone in the room did so.

“I am doing this to recognize that none of these services would have been provided for you had we not been restored,” she said.

Kennedy also thanked Grand Ronde and Veterans Royalty members for their hard work representing the Tribe at various events in Oregon, as well as departments within the Tribal government and Tribal Elders.

“Being respectful and dignified is the way of the Grand Ronde people,” Kennedy said.

In addition to Harrison, Kennedy thanked former Tribal Council Chairman Mark Mercier, who was instrumental in the passage of the Grand Ronde Reservation Act in 1988, as well as longtime Tribal Council member Reyn Leno, who served five years as Tribal Council



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Tribal Council Secretary Jon A. George, left, and Tribal Council member Steve Bobb Sr. announce a winner in the raffle during the 35th Restoration Celebration held Sunday, Nov. 18, at Spirit Mountain Casino.

Most who attended Restoration received a gift box with salmon, beef jerky, a note pad, magnet and salmon-shaped gourmet chocolates.

During lunch, raffle prizes including backpacks, purses, Tribal blankets, Pendleton coffee mugs, stuffed animals, body pillows, a 43-inch flat screen TV, N7 hats and shirts, gift bags filled with goodies and other items were given away.

After lunch concluded, Jon A. George announced that a life-sized, bronze statue honoring Kimsey, Provost and Holmes would be created by Bobb and placed in front of the Governance Center. He then unveiled a preliminary sketch of the statues.

Bobb is a lifelong artist who also created the sculpture at the West Valley Veterans Memorial, which features a man and woman dressed in traditional Native regalia reaching toward the sky surrounded by four black pillars representing the branches of the armed forces – Marine Corps, Army, Navy and Air Force.

“It is an extreme honor for me to be able to contribute to this,” Bobb said. “We have talked about doing it for several years and so far we have everything in motion to make it happen. Margaret, Marvin and Merle kept everything going and never gave up.”

Former Congressman Les AuCoin, who introduced the Grand Ronde Restoration Bill in the House of Representatives in 1983, was presented with a canoe paddle by Tribal Council. The paddle was created by Tribal Artisan Brian

Krehbiel.

“I remember the hard work your leaders went through,” AuCoin said. “Creating Restoration, then a Reservation and a gaming facility ... The work you do here, there is good that has been accomplished and it will live on without end. It is wonderful to come together with you and see from your Trail of Tears to now and march with you on this great trail of success.”

AuCoin’s former Press Secretary John Atkins gifted Tribal Council with a 1/24th replica of the 15.5-ton Tomanowos meteorite, which crashed to earth some 13,000 years ago and eventually came to rest outside of what is now West Linn near Willamette Falls.

The meteorite collected water that the Clackamas Chinooks believed was invested with divine qualities. It became a sacred site for western Oregon Indian Tribes, who believed it was sent to Earth by the Sky People. The meteorite is currently housed at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City.

Atkins collaborated with the West Linn Chamber of Commerce to create the scale replica, which included scanning an image of the meteorite and then using that information to create a mold of plastic with iron inside.

“It is close to the same coloration and all of the crevices and fissures are exact,” Atkins said.

Kennedy thanked him for the gift,

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Kyoni Mercier leads the Canoe Family dancers in the Paddle Dance during the 35th Restoration Celebration held Sunday, Nov. 18, at Spirit Mountain Casino.

chair.

After a short video created by Tribal Deputy Press Secretary Sara Thompson detailing the Tribe’s successful efforts at constructing a fishing platform at Willamette Falls in October, Jon A. George gave an invocation and a catered buffet lunch was served that included baked salmon, chicken breast, pot roast, garlic mashed potatoes, wild rice pilaf, roasted butternut squash, green salad, fruit salad, rolls, mini huckleberry pies, cheese-cakes and Nanaimo bars.



Fancy dancer and Spirit Mountain Casino Marketing Director Shawna Tom, center, and fancy dancer Perry Thompson, right, Navajo, were the lead dancers for the powwow grand entry held during the 35th Restoration Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 18, at Spirit Mountain Casino.