



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

Grand Ronde Veterans Honor Guard member Raymond Petite posts the American flag during Grand Entry on the second day of the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow held at úyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13.

‘They saved our traditional way of life’

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(Klamath Modoc) before the Saturday afternoon grand entry. “It feels good on the knees. It’s real cushy. I really like this. It’s bouncy. It’s all even, too. With grass, you get bumps and you can twist an ankle. This is all level and smooth.”

Ryan Hill (Klamath Modoc/Paiute), 35, echoed Gallagher’s assessment. “I love it. It’s a great experience. It’s just welcoming and it feels good. It’s smooth and it has got some give to it. There’s no lumps, no holes.”

Grass dancer Aiden Warren (Karuk), 15, had a different reason than less wear and tear on the joints for liking the new turf.

“The footwork is a little bit dif-

ferent (on artificial turf),” Warren said. “It’s a little bit more slick, but not too much and it feels good on your feet. I like it because it’s kind of bouncy, too, which kind of helps.”

Grand Ronde Tribal member Ty George, 20, also said he likes the new turf. “It was amazing,” he said. “I love it. ... The grass was pretty hard on us last year because of the mole holes and people getting hurt. I like the artificial turf and the Tribe did a good job on it. It’s a lot

better than the grass.”

Although the dancers raved about the new surface, it did prompt some concerns during the partly sunny Saturday afternoon grand entry when master of ceremonies Nick Sixkiller (Cherokee) abandoned the tradition of having the approximately 60 veterans in attendance introduce themselves individually and state their military branch and years of service.

Instead, to expedite getting the elderly veterans off the turf and out of the sun, Arena Director Anthony Quenelle and Sixkiller announced the separate branches of the armed forces – Army, Marine Corps, Air Force and Navy – and veterans stepped out when their branch was called and received a collective round of applause, as well as a

souvenir baseball cap from Tribal Royalty.

Saturday’s grand entry opened with Public Affairs Administrative Assistant Chelsea Baranski smudging the arena with sage. As host drum Red Hoop started pounding out an honor song, Tribal Elder Alton Butler, Wayne Chulik (Tlingit) and Robert White (Potawatomi) entered the arena carrying eagle staffs.

They were followed by Tribal Elders Raymond Petite and Steve Bobb Sr., Tribal spouse Richard VanAtta and Al Miller carrying the U.S., Grand Ronde, MIA/POW and Oregon flags, respectively.

Next came the flags of the armed forces, carried by Anthony Texeira (Air Force), Allen Truesdale (Marine Corps), Louis Rober (Navy), Ken Rober (Army) and Ron Schlitzkus (Coast Guard).

Tribal Council members Jon A. George, Denise Harvey, Michael Langley, Kathleen George and Jack Giffen Jr. then entered and were followed by a long line of dancers.

Bobb, who also sits on Tribal Council, delivered the invocation after Dirty Moccasin drum performed the victory charging song and the colors were posted.

Bobb took a moment to remember Willamina High School classmate Bobby Buswell, who was killed in Vietnam in July 1969. Buswell was a Navy corpsman attached to a Marine Corps detail who stepped on a land mine and was killed.

Bobb asked the audience to consider all that is lost when a young man dies in war. “The things they could have done. The things they could have been,” Bobb said. “They



Traditional dancer Marcus Gibbons (Klamath/Grand Ronde) participates in an intertribal dance on the second day of the Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow.

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