

‘She was the spirit in Spirit Mountain Casino’



Former Oregon Gov. Barbara Roberts speaks during the memorial service for Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison held at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Event Center.



Tribal Council member Michael Cherry speaks during the memorial service for Tribal Elder Kathryn Harrison held at Spirit Mountain Casino’s Event Center.

Photos by Michelle Alaimo

HARRISON continued from page 8

45-year friendship with Harrison, provided a video salute while former Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski and current Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek submitted written statements.

“She lit up the lives of all who knew her,” AuCoin said. “Born into humble beginnings, she inspired countless souls with her unforgettable example of compassion, benevolence and goodwill. ... Now Kathryn’s work on Earth is done. She sits with her forbearers watching to see if we will follow her example. We will, Kathryn. You are the newest star in the sky and we will always see your light.”

“She was the spirit in Spirit Mountain Casino,” Kotek said.

Tribal Lands Manager Jan Michael Looking Wolf Reibach, a multiple Native American Music Awards recipient, performed “We Are All One Family” on Native flute accompanied by Robin Gentlewolf and Lori Sandall.

Tribal Council member Michael Cherry, who is a former director of Spirit Mountain Community Fund, talked about Harrison’s desire to see her succeed in her new job in 2017 and how proud she was of Cherry when she was elected to Tribal Council in 2021.

Four students from Kathryn Jones Harrison Elementary School in Corvallis discussed meeting Harrison in 2022 when the Corvallis School District renamed one of its elementary schools after her. All four students talked about how honored they were to meet “Mrs. Kathryn.”

Harrison biographer Kris Olson discussed her interviews for the book “Standing Tall: The Life-way of Kathryn Jones Harrison.” She said Harrison had lived long enough to abandon all signs of pretense and was able to tell her life story without glossing over the bad times, such as being raised in an abusive foster care home or being married and having 10 children with an alcoholic husband.

Olson added that Harrison had an extensive memory for 1960s rock song lyrics, particularly Janis Joplin’s “Mercedes Benz.”

The final video tribute came from American Museum of Natural History Director Lisa Guggenheim. Harrison was on Tribal Council when the Tribe negotiated an agreement with the New York City museum that allowed Tomanowos – the Willamette meteorite – to remain at the museum in exchange for annual ceremonial visits by Grand Ronde Tribal members to the sacred object.

The ceremony concluded with a blessing from Cherry and fellow Grand Ronde Tribal Council member Jon A. George and a closing drum and song by the Grand Ronde Singers.

“She was a true warrior,” Bobby Mercier said before beginning the final drum.

Following the memorial service, attendees were invited to stay for a 1 p.m. salmon luncheon.

Harrison’s extended family and Grand Ronde Tribal members held a private ceremony at the achaf-hammi plankhouse on Saturday, June 3, that included traditional ceremonies and was not open to the public or media.

Harrison was buried at the Grand Ronde Tribal Cemetery on Sunday, June 4. Pall bearers were Bobby Mercier, Jordan Mercier, Michael Van Pelt, Robert Van Pelt, Gary Tarr and Frank Rich.

At the time of her walking on, she was a resident of the Tribe’s Adult Foster Care Elk Lodge.

The memorial service also was streamed on the Tribal governmental website www.grandronde.org and watched by 55 people. ■

Tribal Veterans Service Office

2023 Claim Appointment Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Thursday
By scheduled appointment only	By scheduled appointment only	Walk-in claim appointments

To schedule a claim appointment:

call (503) 879-1484 or email

CTGRTribalVSO@GrandRonde.Org

2023

Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow

Uxiat powwow grounds
9600 Highway 22 (hebo rd.)
Grand Ronde, Or 97347

HOST DRUM:
BAD EAGLE

Vancouver, Canada

Emcee: Nick Sixkiller

Arena Director: Carlos Calica

Men's Traditional Special

1st 800 2nd 600

3rd 400 4th 200

sponsored by
The Liebelt Family
& Veteran's Board

Out Going Queen Special

Jingle All Ages

1st 300

2nd 200

3rd 100

Sponsored by
Tasina Bluehorse
& Family

Friday July 7

•Veterans Summit

•Royalty Pageant 11am

•Coronation 5pm

•Grand Entry 7pm

Saturday July 8

•Grand Entry 1pm

•Grand Entry 7pm

Sunday July 9

•Grand Entry Noon

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF GRAND RONDE

Raffle Prizes

Vendor Contact
Levi Liebelt
9719015146
leviliebelt@yahoo.com

Powwow contact
Molly Lewis
5039636790

Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde's Tribal Community and our Culture by not displaying Gang affiliation or by bringing alcohol/drugs or weapons to this event