

2024 Veterans Powwow



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

From left, Ila Mercier, 10, Chánah Blackhorn, 8, (Northern Cheyenne/Navajo) and Shirleen Norwest, 10, (Klamath) compete in the junior girls team dance special during the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13. The team took first place and the special was sponsored by Little Miss Veterans Queen Ulali Quenelle and her family.

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Bad Soul was the host drum group. Battle Stone, War Face, 4 Directions and Northwest Connections also drummed and sang. Ed Wulf (Yupik and Athabascan) was the arena director.

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy gave the invocation Friday evening. Tribal Council Vice Chair Chris Mercier, Tribal Council Secretary Michael Cherry

and Tribal Council members Jon A. George, Matthew Haller, Denise Harvey and Brenda Tuomi also participated in the grand entry.

On Saturday, Jon A. George gave the invocation and he, Mercier, Cherry, Kathleen George, Haller and Harvey participated in the 1 p.m. grand entry.

Veterans led the procession into the uyxat Powwow Grounds arbor, followed by the Tribal Council, Veterans Royalty and dancers, as the audience stood in respect.

On Friday evening, Tribal Veterans Service Officer Ramona Quenelle (Pit River), a Navy veteran herself, told the audience that she wanted to “invite any veterans in the audience to walk in the grand entry tomorrow.

“You will not believe what you feel when you come up here,” Quenelle said. “As Cheryle said, these grounds are healing grounds.” After grand entry concluded, veterans were invited to introduce themselves to the audience.

Powwow weekend began with the Veterans Royalty Pageant held Friday morning at the Gover-

nance Center Atrium. The results were announced by Jon A. George at a coronation event held at the powwow grounds just before that evening’s 7 p.m. grand entry.

The 2024-25 Veterans Royalty Court consists of Tiny Tot Princess Elesia Crawley, Tiny Tot Warrior William Craig, Little Miss Veterans Queen Ulali Quenelle, Princesses Harper Hernandez, Elizabeth Ulestad and Emmalynn Warren; Junior Miss Veterans Queen Leloo Quenelle and Senior Miss Veterans

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Tribal Elder and Air Force veteran Jerry George is gifted a blanket by Senior Miss Veterans Queen Sophia Grout during the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13. The blanket, a water bottle and T-shirts were some of the items veterans in attendance received.



The Grand Ronde Honor Guard leads the 1 p.m. grand entry during the 2024 Marcellus Norwest Memorial Veterans Powwow at uyxat Powwow Grounds on Saturday, July 13.