

# Six names added to West Valley Veterans Memorial

**MEMORIAL DAY**  
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thorization to care for its veterans locally. Now, he said, it's important to turn attention to ensuring that veterans have housing and other services available.

Six names were added to the six pillars at the West Valley Veterans Memorial, which commemorates the names of Tribal and community warriors from Grand Ronde, Willamina and Sheridan who served in the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine Corps.

Veterans Special Event Board Secretary and Tribal member Molly Leno, who served as master of ceremonies for the event, told the crowd there are now 2,391 names listed.

She read aloud the names that were added to the memorial this year: Tribal member Justin Foster (Army), Rick Sardegna (Air Force), and Bruce Cohen, Arthur Lamarche, John Pitt and Leo Seidel (Navy) joined the names of those listed.

"Today, we gather with solemn hearts and grateful spirits to remember those who fell," she said.

Memorial Day holds great significance in the hearts of Tribal people, she said, because "Native people have served at a higher rate than any other group. ... While history has not always honored Natives, we stand as a beacon of resilience."

Tribal Council Chairwoman Cheryle A. Kennedy, Vice Chair Chris Mercier and members Brenda Tuomi, Lisa Leno and Kathleen George attended.

Tribal member Anthony Quenelle drummed and sang a memorial song. For invocation, Quenelle sang "Soldier Boy." The Royalty Court performed the Lord's Prayer and the honor guard posted the eagle staff and colors.

Before sitting down for the ceremony in front of the memorial,



Photos by Michelle Alaimo

**Tribal member Anthony Quenelle sings and drums a memorial song during the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 26.**

lands of the Pacific, the jungles of Vietnam, the deserts of Iraq or the mountains of Afghanistan."

He continued, "But there are others we must remember, too. Those who came home bearing wounds we couldn't see. We remember the ones who took their own lives, burdened by the trauma too heavy to bear. Their names might not be etched on stone in Arlington, but their sacrifice is no less real. They died from war, even though the battlefield was within."

Klausen and Courtney Place Executive Director Andrew Holbert shared honors as the keynote speakers for the event.



**Vickie Rober, a member of the Willamina Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Post 4211, hands out poppies before the start of the Memorial Day Ceremony at the West Valley Veterans Memorial on the Tribal campus Monday, May 26. The red poppy is a symbol of remembrance, sacrifice and peace, particularly in relation to war and those who lost their lives in conflict.**

attendees enjoyed a lunch of lasagna, salad, bread and dessert in the Tribal Community Center at noon.

Alvin Klausen, Board President of Courtney Place Veterans Housing, said the celebrants gathered "not just as Americans but as members of a broader warrior tradition."

Memorial Day is "a day to honor the fallen," Klausen said. "The ones who never came home. The ones who died wearing the uniform of our country, whether in the is-

## Army Corps seeking comment on Detroit Lake drawdown and hydropower

PORTLAND — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is seeking public comment on two requirements: A deep drawdown for Detroit Lake in fall 2026 and studying a permanent end to hydropower production at Willamette Valley dams.

Comments will be accepted until Friday, June 6, and may be submitted by mail, email or in public meetings by filling out comment cards.

The Tribe has been demanding that the Army Corps follow congressional directives to study removing hydropower from its dams, and court and federal orders to implement more deep drawdowns to enable juvenile spring Chinook and winter steelhead to pass through the dams so they can migrate to the ocean. The measures are considered critical for the survival of both species.

To read more about this topic, visit [www.smokesignals.org](http://www.smokesignals.org) and type "The salmon situation," into the search bar.

Send comments to [Willamette.eis@usace.army.mil](mailto:Willamette.eis@usace.army.mil) or U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Attn: CENWP-PME-E/ Willamette EIS, P.O. Box 2946, Portland, OR 97208-2946. There will be an in-person meeting from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, June 3, at Broadway Commons, 1300 Broadway St. NE, Salem. ■



AGES  
10-18  
YRS

STRONG  
LEGS  
HEALTHY  
LUNGS

SUMMER WALKING CHALLENGE

Sign-ups open May 16th  
Close on June 5th

Friday June 6th 5pm-6:30pm come to the community center for a 5:15pm dinner and short orientation and pick up your FITBIT/or bring Fitbit, Bring Youth too.

Contact Shannon Lafferty to SIGN UP or if you have any questions  
cell # 971-901-1946 or Email: [shannon.stanton@grandronde.org](mailto:shannon.stanton@grandronde.org)

We support youth to make healthy choices, keep traditional tobacco sacred, and say "NO" to commercial tobacco & VAPING. Share the Native quit line with the people you care about 1-800-Quit-NOW

Thank you for respecting Grand Ronde Community & Culture by not displaying gang affiliation and by not bringing drugs, alcohol or weapons to this event.

10-WEEK  
WALKING  
CHALLENGE

KICK-OFF  
JUNE 7TH-  
AUG.16TH  
2025

BI-WEEKLY  
CHECK-INS  
PRIZES FOR THE TOP  
WINNER AT THE END  
OF 10 WEEKS  
WE WILL  
ANNOUNCE THE  
WINNERS AT THE END  
OF THE SUMMER BBQ  
BASH EVENT.

FITBITS FOR THE YOUTH  
THAT HAVE NOT  
RECEIVED ONE FROM  
OUR PROGRAM. IF YOU  
HAVE QUESTIONS, CALL  
SHANNON