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From the
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JANUARY
2014.

SMOKE SIGNALS

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Can you believe its 2014, wow where did 2013 go? Another year brings new and exciting adventures our way, are you ready? Remember Oklahoma trip in May, we are going to need to get started on some fund raisers, any ideas?

Our Christmas Breakfast was a huge success again this year. I would like to thank all the professional singers that showed up. It was fun, and everyone got to show off their talents, even Snake (several times). We want to thank Lois for strumming and singing for us again. Her willingness to sing for us is greatly appreciated. It's good to hear the classic songs brought out.

We presented a plaque of appreciation to Loren and Rebecca Corpuz in tribute for all their support and outstanding service to veterans. They not only support our organization, but they are very active with the Marine Corps League and the Lower Valley Veterans Organization. Many hours and miles are a testimony to their dedication; their efforts do not go unnoticed by us. Thnks.

Also, a hardy shout to out to Buddy Barron for heading up the sign and flag pole project. Good work Buddy.

I would like to challenge each of us to bring yung vet into our fold, as I look around I see lots of age in our ranks. Although each of you are handsome and good looking, there are signs of wrinkles. That being said, we want the Yakama Warriors Association to thrive and be around for future vets. Any way someone

has to take the watch some day so let's get to training them.

Ok, it's time to check out, wishing you calm seas and gentle breezes, smooth sailing and a very Happy new Year. Vic

And here were the details and events the **Warriors participate throughout the month of November and December.**

The November detail actually started when Mr. Ken Buckles invited Loren and Rebecca Corpuz to attend **The Living History Days November 4-7**, at the Evergreen Aviation and Space Museum. This year theme was **"REMEMBERING THE DEFENDERS OF BATAAN & CORRIGEDOR"**

Ken Buckles worked hard to get all these individuals to attend this years' Living History Days.

The attendees were:

-15 ex-POWS (all survived the Hell ships and slave labor camps)



Photo of Jan Thompson (Back) and the POWs, with the largest POW flag that is flying in Oregon.

-Highest Living Decorated American WWII Veteran Mel Garten
-Oregon's Last Living WWII Medal of Honor Recipient Robert Maxwell
-Tuskegee Airmen Alexander Jefferson WWII, Lt General R. Davis Washington D.C.
- Don Loudner, Korean Veteran National Commander American Indian Veterans
-Gunny Brandon, Vietnam Marine Veteran, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

-Bruce Runningcrane, Desert Storm Marine Blackfeet Montana
-five members of the United Mexican- American Veterans, Los Angeles, Ca
-Mescalero Apache Veteran Robert Delsi, Vietnam Marine Purple Heart Recipient Arizona
-Hanoi Hilton "EX-POW" Mike McGrath Navy Veteran Denver
-WWII 10 Mountain Division Frank Chuk who served under Commanding General George Hayes
-Judge Hal Pershall, Veterans of Underage Military Service, Kingman, Az.
-the daily posting of colors was by the Seminole Nation Veterans Honor Guard from Oklahoma.

What made this a memorable week at the Living History Days were the celebrities in attendance the one and only **Loretta Swit**, Multiple award-winning actress "Hot Lips" of Mash fame)

And **Jan Thompson**, three time Emmy Award winning Producer, Professor of Radio-Television at South Illinois University. Oregon's premier of her new documentary "**Never the Same,**

The Prisoner of War Experience.

The Living History Days started off at the LaQuinta Inn in Portland were all were guest at the hotel for the first night, with a dinner at the Shilo Inn, Airport where Loretta Swit arrived to meet and greet everyone in attendance.

Before the dinner Loren Corpuz played all the service songs for all in attendance He had the privilege of playing Happy Birthday song to and getting his photo taken with Ms. Swit. (As you see Ms Swit is sitting on Lorens' Wheel-chair) with Robert Delsi standing behind Loren)



After the meal Melinda Buckles sang songs to honor the veterans that attended the Living History Day.



(Melinda Buckles singing to Lt. Col Alexander Jefferson)

Monday's Opening Ceremony started off with Seminole Veteran Honor Guard posting the colors,



Melinda Buckles singing the National Anthem.



There were sessions and Key Note Speakers and Assembly of

Honor and Walk of Honor by all Veterans in attendance.

Tuesday on, after the Introductions and Presentations of Colors, Loren Corpuz, played the National Anthem daily. Tuesday evening the group were treated to a Trailblazers Game in Portland, were they received recognition.

This was an experience that one should not miss, to listen to these veterans tell it all.

As Lt. Col. Alexander Jefferson said "The way it really happen and not the Hollywood story. Example the movie "Red Tail".

Photo is the group picture of all the Native Veterans that were in Attendance Missing is Don Loudner (These are also members of the Yakama Warriors or will soon be getting the newsletter)



On Wednesday, Ken Buckles had arranged that each Native Veterans Group present a gift from their organization/tribe to all 15 of the POW that were present. Seminole Veterans presented them with the tribal veterans patch. Yakama Warriors presented them with a Warriors pen, pin and shirt.

Sioux National Commander Don Loudner for Native American Veterans, honored them with the National Native American Medallion, of which represents the 4 race colors that serve together, and the feathers represent honor. As a member of the Yakama Warriors, Don is on the advisory board of the National Veterans Committee he was also present when the 33 tribes were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington D.C on November 29th for there WWI, WWII service as code talkers.

Next Robert Delsi, Vietnam Veteran also a member of the Yakama Warriors presented each veteran with a necklace which he had made.



The quote I would like to end this is this one from Ken Buckles
"First time that I had to tell a Lt. General and Lt. Col. when and where to speak and be ready to go"
 Outstanding job Ken!!!!

Now the Warriors that stayed and participated in the details in the Valley.

November 7, Yakama Warriors were divided into two groups for the first Veterans Day details the month of November. It started off with Warriors attending the Satus Elementary School in Wapato at 8:30 then to Kirkwood Elementary in Toppenish for the 10 a.m. detail.

The second group started at Garfield in Toppenish at 9 a.m. then headed to Wapato Middle School for 1:30 detail.

There were quite a few veterans at each detail.

November 8, Friday again started with one group at Wapato High School for 8:45 a.m. The second group was at Adamsview in Wapato for 8:15 this group headed to Harrah School for 10 a.m.

November 9, Saturday
 Honoring Combat Veterans at the Toppenish Creek Longhouse, White Swan.
 -Pow-wow in the evening at the Longhouse

Saturday Afternoon
 Wanda Sampson and Melissa James invited the Warriors to Zillah Comfort Inn, to attend a memorial for James Olsen. Warriors that attended won a prize and were honored with a certificate of Appreciation for their valuable contributions and service to country. Sharon Hill shared a few words.



November 10, Sunday Lunch at the Toppenish Creek Longhouse White Swan for all Veterans.

November 11, Monday
 Detail started at the Agency at 8 a.m. with the flag raising, 21 gun salute and wreath laying.
 (Group Photo)



After the group photo they headed to the Wapato Long House, for flag raising detail before breakfast at 9 a.m.



Warriors were fed breakfast after the flag raising and honors given.

Vic Wood, Head Warrior loaded the bus and headed to Lucky Eagle Casino at Chehalis where the tribe invited the warriors to do a detail at their function.



Last minute instructions from Vic



Mr. Wood introducing the Warriors and the flags.

The Casino honored all Veterans in attendance by taking an individual photo.

A couple of the warriors won a suitcases, empty and no where to go except head back home to the valley.

As they returned through White Pass they stopped at the top for a group photo, so some of the members would remember where they were and what they did

there.



Vic Wood points to where they are on the board to John Smith who apparently gets lost most of the time



Some pictures can be deceiving

Just as we were passing Packwood, we saw this.



Can anyone guess what it is?

Your right it's an Elk.

Vic had to whistle for him to look at the camera.

November 17, Christian Life Centre, Yakima

Max Corpuz in his war bonnet lead the group of veterans carrying in the colors at the **Veterans Honoring Ceremony**. At this ceremony, warriors Mike Fairbanks, Fred McGeshick and Brian McCloud received the Civilian award the Distinguished Medal of Service from **Pointman Ministries** headed by Robert Lantrip. Unknown to these individuals as to why they were asked to be there, they were surprised when their names were called.



(photo is of all members of the Yakama warriors in attendance)

November 22, 25 & 26

Thanksgiving vouchers for turkeys were given out at the Veterans Affairs Office several days before Thanksgiving. I would like to Thank the Veterans Affairs Office and the Legends Casino for their donations. Hope everyone enjoyed their turkey.

December 5, Anniversary Dinner a Legends Casino for Vic and Joanne Wood

This was a surprise dinner gathering for Vic and Joanne Wood this evening. He thought that it was just going to be two couples enjoying a quite dinner but instead, word got out that we were having supper at the Casino this date. It was a night where friends got together and ate crab and lobster and help celebrate 39 year bliss for the lovely couple.



Joanne stuffing Vic with some chicken leg

Congratulations to Vic and Joanne

And Little Glen shedding tears of happiness



December 7, our Big Day Warriors Annual Christmas Breakfast

at the Eagles. The atmosphere at the breakfast could not have been any better. The opening prayer was done by Stan Miller and then the reading of the financial report by Pamela Mayhue.

Before breakfast Vic Wood had a presentation to Loren and Rebecca Corpuz. They were honored for their dedication and commitment to serving veterans. Here they were presented with a plaque from Head Warrior



The comradery was great, everyone had fun.

This year we have our own band, Sena Moreland wife of Joe Moreland, Loren Corpuz, Robert Ferguson, John Smith and Courtney Hall were there to play several tunes for us all.



Of course we cannot forget. The one and only yodeler Lois Thompson who dazzled the group with her yodeling and then tried to get the rest of the group to yodel.



Then the real competition started, the participants were divided into their military group and the civilians in the other. Each group sang a song that was picked out for them. We went with the oldest service.

THE ARMY



Then

THE MARINES



Then

THE NAVY



Then

THE AIRFORCE



Last but not least

THE CIVILIANS



The attendance was close to 100 this year, some forgot about the date of the breakfast. So! for sure we will have to send out a newsletter before the end of November to remind everyone.

December 16, last minute request for the warriors to be in attendance to the **Dedication/Honoring Ceremony** at the new Fire Management Facility, located behind the Yakama Corrections Building. On this date the new building was **Dedicated in honor of “Push wa” Max Corpuz Jr.**, for his years of service to his country, his leadership in fire management, his tenure in the tribal council.



Max with his fellow veterans

Quote from Max, *“I did not know that this building was being dedicated in honor of me, as they usually they dedicated a building to someone that had passed on. And I’m still alive, and he chuckled.”*



This is at the entrance of the building.

December 23, Warriors made there usual visit to the Emeral Care Nursing Home where they passed out scarf’s, and stuff animals to the residents of Emeral Care. They sang songs with the residents and watch as

students played the nativity scene.



Thanks goes out to Jose Herendaze, Corky Ambrose, Loren Corpuz and Mrs. Corpuz.

 News from the southern state of Arizona Robert and Josie Delsi, member of the Yakama Warriors Association have been very busy with Toys for Tots in Arizona, gathering and delivering presents to all that had applied throughout the state of Arizona. They delivered the presents throughout Christmas Eve and also into Christmas day.



A Heart full Thanks goes out for their hard work with Toys for Tots.

Another Thanks goes out to Buddy Barron of Sunnyside also a member of the Yakama Warriors Association, who has been working hard with the Sunnyside High School Mechanic class for the work they had done for the Warriors new sign and flag pole.



The students with their instructor working on this project

I would like to Thank Flem Otey from Salisbury, N.C. for his donation towards the Warriors Building Fund.

If you wish to make a donation towards the Warriors Building Fund, you can send your funds to: Yakama Warriors Association P.O. Box 920 Toppenish, WA 98948 and note it TO BUILDING FUND.

I want to send **Well Wishes** to:
 Lee Smith. Yakima
 Tom Redfeldth, Selah
 Chaz Wyman, White Swan
 Terry Piestewa, Flagstaff
 Max McHattons' friend Gloria Lee
 John Alberty
 Mrs. Ray James
 Loren Corpuz

October news flash, Lee Smith



and Eugene Lantrip recently were two of the veterans who went on the **HONOR FLIGHT** to Washington DC. Lee Smith and Eugene Lantrip are both members of the Yakama Warriors.

Lees' son Stephen went along as his Guardian. He said that the trip was hectic as they went from visiting several places in one day. They were at Arlington for the changing of the guard and wreath laying to the Museums WW2, Marine Corps, AF. Vietnam, Lincoln Memorial. They really enjoyed their trip and that they had 6 different police

departments escorting them through the DC traffic. Lee Smith was also featured in the Yakima Republic front page with regards to his service with the Marine Corps. As for now Lee is at the Landmark Recovery Home as he is on the mend from his fall last month.

Here's wishing everyone a Happy New Year. And upcoming birthdays a Happy Birthday and Anniversaries.

If You as a member of the Yakama Warriors Association would rather view the Smoke Signals on the Yakama Warriors Web sight, just give us a call then that way we won't have to mail you one as sometimes the mail is returned as undelivered. Then you can download it yourself. You can call Rebecca at 509 480-6593 Thank you