

Santa Ysabel Veterans Day 2008

By Roy Cook



This is a National day of respect for our Korean War Veterans and military warriors everywhere. This Santa Ysabel Tribal tribute is tied together with traditional tribal hospitality and generosity. Indian events on Indian land for and by Indian people are the best times. The Iipai Nation of Santa Ysabel Tribal council welcomed all to this Veterans Day ceremony.

Chairman Johnnie Hernandez gave a short introduction and turned it over to Bonnie Salgado and the committee to continue. Santa Ysabel Tribal Warrior, Arthur L. Bruce, USMC is being honored. A family member accepted the beautiful Pendleton wool blanket in his honor. Ron Christman provided a blessing for this day of remembrance.



Ral Christman, Stan Rodriguez and Ron Christman sang four Honoring Tucuk Bird songs. It is always very touching and emotional when Stan Rodriguez reads the muster roll call of all the Santa Ysabel Veterans. Then as the Santa Ysabel fallen warriors are remembered, Tribal member and US Navy Boson (ret.) Jerry Reed rings a ships bell for each Warrior that is no longer with us. Finally, to complete this tribute, Taps are blown for all those Veterans who have fallen.



Each year we look forward with anticipation and respectful responsibility when we are invited to participate in the Santa Ysabel Veterans Day activity at the Tribal cemetery. American Indian Warriors Association Honor Guard posted all our flags for an outstanding showing.



We extend our appreciation to those AIWA members and family who represented the AIWA organization in respectful attendance and service to our Indian Tribal community: Santa Ysabel AIWA members, Jerry Reed, Colin Reed, Stan Rodriguez also Ivan Sam AIWA President, Roy Cook, Henry Mendibles, Ronnie Murphy, Jerry Starnes, George Hyde, Joaquin Sandoval and volunteer Artudo Tisnedo. Later, as a unit, AIWA appreciated the invitation and opportunity to visit the Santa Ysabel Casino for lunch and a bit of entertainment.



We must always remember that our Indian Warriors who gave so much so that our Indian people may enjoy the freedom to be ourselves. Our Indian land is forever Indian land. It matters little what others say or what paper labels nor what legalism defines or fences separate. It is all Indian land. We, Indian Warriors, are a band of brothers that are the protectors of our Indian land. Mehan, Aho, thank you.