



Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs

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RALPH BURNS TO RECEIVE NEVADA HERITAGE AWARD



June 14, 2010

Carson City, Nev. Ralph Burns, of the Pyramid Lake Museum and Cultural Center will be presented with the 2011 Nevada Heritage Award at the Stewart Father's Day Powwow on Saturday, June 19, 2010 at 4:00 p.m. The powwow takes place at the Stewart Indian School located at 5366 Snyder Avenue in Caron City.

Nevada Arts Council Board Chair Tim Jones will present the award, joined by former Arts Council Folklife Program Coordinator Jeanne Harrah Johnson, who wrote the nomination and Rebecca Snetselaar, Folklife Program Associate.

This award honors Nevada folk artists and tradition bearers who are the finest and most influential masters of their particular art forms and who have had a significant impact on the people and communities of the state.

Ralph Burns is a member and respected elder of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. He is a gifted performer and teacher of the Northern Paiute language and oral traditions as well as a veteran of the Vietnam Conflict who served in the 2/8 Infantry, 1st Cavalry Division. Burns is a skilled interpreter of the history and environment of Pyramid Lake.

Nevada Heritage awardees are among the state's living cultural treasures. They embody the highest level of artistic achievement in their work and the highest levels of service in their communities and in their commitment to ensuring that their traditions stay strong.

The Nevada Arts Council commemorates the honor with a cobalt blue glass plate with a silver dichroic map of Nevada, created by Carson City artist Jarill Ristine.

The Nevada Arts Council is also premiering a new traveling exhibit, "What Continues the Dream: Contemporary Arts and Crafts in the Powwow Tradition" at the Stewart Indian School during the powwow. The exhibit, part of the Nevada Touring Initiative, will then go to the Nevada State Museum, where it may be viewed through August.

The Nevada Arts Council is a division of the Nevada Department of Cultural Affairs. The Department serves Nevada's citizens and visitors through cultural and information management, preservation and promotion of cultural resources, and education. The Department also includes the Division of Museums and History, State Historic Preservation Office, State Library and Archives, Comstock Historic District Commission, Literacy Coalition, and the Commission for Cultural Affairs. For more information, visit the department's website at www.NevadaCulture.org.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact: Teresa Moiola 775-687-8323