



PHONE: (202) 546-7711
FAX: (202) 546-1755
WWW.INDIANGAMING.ORG
224 SECOND ST. SE
WASHINGTON, DC 20003
MEDIA@INDIANGAMING.ORG

For Immediate Release



POARCH CREEK, VIDEO GAMING TECHNOLOGIES, AND ROCKET GAMING HOST USS MIDWAY RECEPTION FOR INDIAN GAMING 2014

San Diego's famous aircraft carrier kicks off Indian country's biggest event.

San Diego, CA (May 17, 2014) - This year, the **Poarch Band of Creek Indians**, **Video Gaming Technologies (VGT)**, and **Rocket Gaming Systems**, in conjunction with the Chairman's Welcome Reception, embarked upon a spectacular event to celebrate another record-breaking year in the Indian gaming industry.

On May 11th, the 972-foot USS Midway Museum aircraft carrier served as the venue for the opening ceremonies of **Indian Gaming 2014** tradeshow and convention in San Diego, California.



Jerry Danforth, Ron Harris and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

There was a special ceremony honoring military veterans by Rocket Gaming's **Jerry Danforth**, who served in the United States Navy from 1964 - 1994, including service in Vietnam and Desert Storm. Mr. Danforth along with NIGA Chairman **Ernie Stevens Jr.** called to the stage **The Pokagon Band of Potawatomi US Air Force Veteran, Chief Master Sargent Scott Brewer.**

"This is a moment to reflect on of how interconnected we are to our many generations who have served and those who are currently serving," **Chairman Stevens** said. "This honor is not just for **Scott Brewer** and **Jerry Danforth**, but also for all of you who understand the challenges of being a military family. We are all there for you and we will always grateful of our service members."

More than 1,400 attendees aboard the ship enjoyed food, drinks, awards and performances by Sycuan Tribal Chairman Daniel Tucker's **DT and the Love Po'Shun** and country comedy duo **Williams and Ree.**

The Poarch Band of Creek Indians, Video Gaming Technologies (VGT), and Rocket Gaming generously sponsored the event.

"We are proud of our long term commitment and ongoing support of Indian gaming and happy to be a part of this incredible event. On behalf of all of tonight's sponsors, we're particularly proud of the many veterans that were recognized this evening. This event not only recognizes the significance of Class II gaming to Indian country but also pays tribute to all the Native Americans who have given so much to our country through our armed services," Rocket CEO/President Ron Harris said.

The evening also acknowledged the passing of **Charlie Hill** and the Chairman invited to the stage family members of the comedy legend and longtime friend to Indian country.

"We honor Charlie's memory who was always there for us, taking us to a better, happier place, interrupting the mundane and historical bitterness through his comedy. As a stand-up comedian Charlie's quick wit, Indian humor and Native wisdom touched all of our spirits and reminded us that we could change the world one laugh at a time. Charlie always advocated for Native American artisans to be in more involved in Indian gaming."

With the Hill family, Chairman Stevens announced that the National Indian Gaming Association would create the "**Charlie Hill Entertainer of the Year Award**," in recognition of Native artists and entertainment industry experts who have shared their passion and continued support of Indian country.

This year, the **Charlie Hill Entertainer of the Year Award** went to Cree singer-songwriter, musician, composer, and social activist **Buffy Sainte-Marie**, who surprised the audience when she took the stage.

"Charlie wanted to let us know that he loved his life, and that he loved us, and I thank you all very much and this now will be a treasure in my life," **Buffy Saint-Marie** said.

As the sun set over the bay, **Buffy Sainte-Marie** gave an amazing performance in honor of Charlie Hill.

###

www.indiangaming.org