

Subject: MARY-- PLEASE READ. (FROM STEVE AND AMANDA)

To: info@pownetwork.org

02/14/2008

Hi Mary~

I just wanted to take a few minutes to touch in and let you know how sorry I am that I failed to respond to the note that you sent me several months ago when you let me know that Gerald Smith ("Smitty") had resurfaced with additional false POW claims. Life was really hectic for Steve and me both, and it was all we could do to keep up with our daily routine, much less anything else. Things are settling down now, so I truly do want to be brought up-to-date about all that has come to light with the others who have been exposed in addition to Smitty.

After he was initially exposed in 1999, I became inactive in the pow wows shortly following all of the uproar that ensued after the research that you and I did together regarding his background. Not out of intimidation, but due to family responsibilities with my mother who was becoming older and developing quite a number of health difficulties. Around that same time, the case of James' crew from "Spooky 10" was being closed out with the inconclusive group burial at Arlington, and our family had quite a number of crises on our hands from several directions at once. To be honest, I put my pow wow involvement on the back burner for several years due to sheer disgust and burnout.

In 2005, I returned for a small, informal gathering at McIntosh Reserve in Whitesburg, Georgia for the first time in 6 years. Smitty wasn't present, so I was relieved that the weekend went smoothly and without any risk of confrontations. I assumed that he'd gradually "faded away" over the years as a result of shame and embarrassment. Obviously, I "assumed" too quickly.

Later that same year, I returned again for the annual pow wow and was accompanied by my mother and Steve. Although Mom was in a wheelchair by that time, she still welcomed the opportunity to attend and participate. It had been a long time for her also, and it lifted her spirits immensely to be able to get out and be a part of it again. Steve was new to them altogether, and I was thrilled that he felt so comfortable and at home there.

As we approached the Circle, one of the first people that we saw was Smitty. My first impulse was to turn and leave, but you already know that I'm not a person who backs down easily. Someone nearby asked me how I intended to handle the situation. After giving it a few minutes of consideration, I finally replied, "I'm going to forgive the lying skunk... I'm going to leave it between him and God... and I'm going to go on and enjoy the day."

We exchanged a few brief, casual words, and no mention was made of our previous confrontations, nor (thankfully) did I hear any further POW claims.

Since it was my first time back after so many years of absence, I remained quietly "on my guard" but didn't feel at liberty to re-challenge his presence at that particular time. At the very least, I was hoping that he had long-since been severely reprimanded and was only being allowed to participate as a dancer of no special status as long as he "behaved himself." I did notice that his regalia had changed and that it didn't bear as much Veteran and POW/MIA-related symbolism as it did in earlier years, so I was relieved to see at least that much improvement.

But I've been browsing the Network's website over the past few days-- including the "Phonies & Wannabes" link, and I see that his charade is still alive and well in this area along with several other dancers that I've known for many years.

God, it broke my heart to see the names and faces of the ones who have been added to the list in addition to Smitty. Of all people~

Fire Joyner... Joey Pierce...

I am absolutely sick to my stomach.

I'll admit that I've personally heard Joey state that he was involved in "many controversial and secret operations" during his Vietnam service, but I've never been able to keep him on the subject long enough to get any major details from him. I hear the term "Special Ops" spoken in reference to him quite a bit by other Veterans and dancers, but whenever I've inquired about additional details, no one has ever been sure of "the full story". Like Smitty, he's another (outwardly) loveable person-- but contrarily, I seldom see him dance in the Native Circle. Generally, he stays close to the booth from which he sells his handcrafted jewelry and other Native, Veteran, and POW/MIA-related items.

In regard to Fire Joyner-- I had never questioned the legitimacy of her military service until the pow wow of November of 2006. She's been involved as a highly-respected dancer for many years, but Steve and I only recently got a chance to discuss her military service with her on a one-on-one basis a little over a year ago.

Our conversation was brief, and she was very evasive.

She carried the POW/MIA flag during the Veterans' Dance, and Steve approached her in order to introduce himself as James' brother and to thank her for her support of the POW/MIA issue and for her own years in Vietnam. He was moved to the point of tears, and the three of us spent time sharing our feelings about the war and the men who were missing-- including James and the other crew members from his incident.

Fire went on to state that she was a retired Marine Corps Colonel and a female Vet who spent two (or was it three?) tours in Vietnam. I've heard it both ways on numerous occasions over the years.

Retired? Can you look this up through St. Louis and see if she actually spent 20 years in the Marine Corps? Would also like to know more about her alleged MOS. On the "Phonies and Wannabes" link, she's mentioned as making claims of being a "medic" who was wounded while treating injured military personnel on the battlefield.

Contrarily, she stated to me that she trained female Marines for Combat. I wish I had more info to provide, but that's all I've ever been able to get from her.

Now on to her claims about her alleged reasons for such loyal POW/MIA support at the pow wows. Steve and I both openly shared details of James' loss incident, and she stated that she "had served" with several vets who are still listed as POW/MIA. Ok, nothing unusual there as far as I can see. Many returned vets served with the men who are missing. But when I asked her to share their names so that we could research their losses, she refused to provide them.

I can't quote her response verbatim, but it was something to the effect of, "I'm not at liberty to divulge their names due to security purposes. And even if I could, my religious beliefs wouldn't allow me to vocalize them because they're so sacred to me."

Alright, that clinched it. You and I both know that there's no "security block" on the identities of ANY missing servicemen. Further, I'm aware of absolutely no legitimately-recognized Native American religious belief that prohibits the vocalization of names of missing or deceased individuals regardless of the circumstances behind their loss or death, whether war-related or otherwise.

In regard to the following request that's posted under the link to her name:

**<<Wihuna "Fire" Joyner
from Qualla Boundary but now living in West Georgia
10/2007 - If you know the where-a-bouts of this woman - please [notify us](#) ASAP.
They moved within days of receiving the letter below - owing rent.>>**

She's still listed in the local phone book under the name of her husband, George Joyner, who, by the way, also goes by the name of "Tachi". The last I was aware, they were in Villa Rica, Georgia and had been there for quite some time. Phone number is listed as: (678) 840-5383. I dialed it shortly after reading the info about her, and it's been disconnected with no forwarding number provided. Same for her cell phone-- (678) 772-6870. Haven't tried her e-mail address yet, but I have it in my address book as fire_prayers@yahoo.com.

She also used to maintain a lovely website with an immense amount of excellent Native American info and photos of her family, but that's been removed from the internet altogether.

God help us all.

I thought we'd seen the last of it, but there's no end to it, is there.

It's despicable enough for the Native community to have to put up with all of the grandiose claims that we hear from "Native American Wannabes." ("My great-grandmother was a Cherokee Princess"... "I'm a direct descendant of Pocahontas", etc.). But when Native Americans themselves lie about their military history-- and right to the face of people like Steve who truly has a brother who is missing-- Well, never mind. Give him a few days to cool down and re-gain his composure. He wants to share his own thoughts as James' brother personally, and you're more than welcome to post them on the pages of Fire, Smitty, Joey, Keith, and anyone else who surfaces in this area.

Stand by and I'll send some more photos that you can post if you'd like to use them.

Thanks for bringing all of this to light, Mary. I honestly had no idea. And to think I had embraced every one of these people as "friends". It hurts enough to learn of it myself. But it infuriates me to know that they've lied directly to STEVE'S face.

Photos on the way in a minute.

God bless~
Amanda

Subject: PHOTOS OF GEORGIA PHONIES-- AND MORE INFO
To: info@pownetwork.org

Here are some additional photos that you're welcome to include on the pages of Wihuna "Fire" Joyner, Gerald (Bluefeather) "Smitty" Smith, and Joey Pierce, aka Pierce, Pratt, Joseph E.

So far, I don't recognize the name of Keith Smith, but I've viewed his page and his face looks familiar. I know that I've seen him at pow wows quite frequently. I've made a mental note of his name and will definitely be on the lookout for him. Obviously he lives nearby and is in close association with Fire, Joey and Smitty.

Scroll down for additional pictures. All were taken before Steve and I found the recent info about their exposure. Needless to say, the sentimental attachment that I had to these photos has now completely vanished, but I'm glad I've held onto them just in case you'd like to post them.

Amanda



Left: Veteran and regular dancer / participant at the pow wows around the West Georgia area. Keith Smith. Recently exposed for false claims of being a Navy SEAL...

Center: Steve

Right: Wihuna "Fire" Joyner (aka Grace Edna Lane, Grace E.H. Lane, Edna Lane, & Grace W. Lane.) Recently exposed for false military claims. Former friend who has now lost my and Steve's trust and respect permanently. Photo taken April 3, 2005. McIntosh Reserve. Whitesburg, Georgia.



Alright, now this one breaks my heart. Taken on September 23, 2006-- one week after my mother passed away. Steve and I attended together and danced in Mom's honor. Fire (far right) later carried the POW/MIA flag during the Veterans' Dance. Steve (center) looks as if he's smiling, but he's just barely recovering from tears of emotion after thanking Fire for her support of James and all of the other men who are missing. This was the year that I questioned her about her MOS and the names of the POWs that she knew while in Vietnam. It was also at that time that she stated that she was a retired Marine who had trained female soldiers for combat and could not divulge the names of the POW/MIAs due to "security and religious reasons."

The young girl on the far left is Fire's goddaughter, Daisy. She's about 23 years old and probably has no clue of the deceit and controversy surrounding Fire's military service. Daisy worships the ground she walks on and my heart breaks for her as much as it breaks for us.

It still hurts, but after Smitty's charades, I've basically toughened up to this sort of mess over the years. It just infuriates me that Fire, Smitty, Joey, and all the others have had the gall to parade their crap right in front of Steve... pose for pictures with him... and shake his hand while telling them how supportive they are of James and the entire cause in general.



Daisy-- Left. Steve-- Center. Fire-- Right. McIntosh Reserve. Whitesburg, GA. 2006. Only a few minutes before our conversation during which she shared (and failed to share) details about her service. When she isn't dressed in her buckskin regalia with the shawl and military pins / awards, she wears this camouflage outfit.



Fire-- from another angle. September 2006.



Daisy-- Left. Me-- Center. Fire-- Right. Does the man in the background look like Keith Smith to you? Do you have other photos of him besides the one on the page where he's standing beside Fire and her husband George (Tachi)?



This is Joey Pierce and his "Significant Other"-- Jannell ("Dink") Wilder. September 2006. I'm not sure if Dink is aware of Joey's false claims or not. She doesn't appear to be, and I'm not sure if she knows how to research his background or not. Smitty's wife Donna is still in denial to this day.



Joey Pierce from another angle. September 2006.

And the charade continues... Take a look below at the schedule for this year's upcoming pow wows of 2008.

Be especially sure to note the following:

March 8-9: Head Man: "Smitty" Smith.

April 5 & 6: HEAD VETERAN: "Smitty" Smith.

June 28-29: Head Man: (Not listed yet, but will bet it'll probably be Smitty.) M/C: Gary Smith.

I don't know much about Gary's military service, but he does claim to be a vet. HEAD VETERAN: Keith Smith. (Listed as one of the recently exposed phonies. The one who responded with the challenging letter to the Committee to Restore Honor to Veterans-- posted here: [Keith S](#). Read on... Smitty's planning a grand ol' time... Keith and Smitty are both scheduled to be honored at least once as Head Veteran.

So far, looks like Joey and Fire have dropped off the edge of the earth, but Joey's girlfriend (or at least she was as of 2006) is listed along with a phone number. She might be able to shed some light on how to reach Joey.

This makes me sick all over again. Just downright vomiting sick. Not so much for myself, but because they will actually do their grandstanding right in the face of Steve-- the brother of a legitimate missing serviceman.

Mary, would it be too much to ask if you, Steve Robinson and the members of CRHV really stay on top of this? I never imagined it was this bad down here. Perhaps a little later I can join in too, but right now, Steve and I have our hands full with several other issues. Don't worry. Our marriage is fine. Just trying to deal with some "difficult" relatives right now. James' children are about to drive us both nuts. More on that particular saga later.

Georgia's 2008 pow wow schedule is below along with all its denial and false glory.

Amanda

Georgia Powwows

Dates & places may change. Contact event for confirmation.

Add your event [here!](#)

March 8-9, 2008

Clinton Farms 4th Annual pow Wow

Head Man "smitty" Smith

Head Lady Stacey Pye

M/C Gary Smith

AD Peter Kassars

[Drum](#) Dog River

Flute Frank Taylor

All [Dancers](#) and Drums welcome

admission General \$3 Seniors\$2 kids 10-15\$1

10-6 Daily

Grand Entry Sat Noon Sun 1pm

Bring Your Chairs Enjoy the Day

"dink wilder 770-296-3097 or amndn@mindspring.com

April 5 & 6, 2008

Unicoi State Park Intertribal Pow Wow

Head Man: Robin Jumper

Host Drum: Dog River

Head Lady: Donna Redfeather

Head Veteran: "Smitty" Smith

MC: Joseph French

AD: Soco Cody

GUEST DRUMS WELCOME

ALL DANCERS WELCOME

Indian Foods, Native American [Crafts](#) & Arts Education Programs, Drumming, Dancing, Arts & Craft, Flutist, Demonstrators Vendors, Food, Auction
Gates Open Sat. 10 am to 7 pm - Grand Entry: 12 noon / Sun. 10 am to 5 pm - Grand Entry: 1 pm
Admission Saturday & Sunday Adults: \$ 5.00 Elders (60 plus): \$ 3.00 Children (6 to 12): \$ 3.00 Children 5 and under: Free
Unicoi State Park has a \$ 3 per day vehicle parking fee.
Bring your lawn chairs and spend the day.
Information Larry at 770-823-7650 or Robin at 706-969-3245

April 26-27, 2008

Native American Heritage Celebration

Little Bear Longbow, 678-200-0379

May 3 & 4, 2008

Coosawattee Native American Pow Wow & Gathering- 2nd Annual

Ellijay, Ga.

Headman- Alex Schrader

Headlady- Nadja Schillinger

MC-Steve Mansfield

AD- GT Martinez

Drum-All Nations Warriors/NC Cherokee

Flute- Tommy Wildcat

Concert- Bill Pound

Special performances by Jose Rico/Aztec Bobbie Orr/Salish- plus many more

All Dancers and Drummer Welcome

Grand Entry 1:00pm Sat and Sun

Admission 5.00/4.00/3.00 Adults/Seniors/Kids 6-12

Camping Area- 7.50 for Tents 15.00 for RV's

Bring Your Chairs, Your Family, Enjoy the Weekend!

Fry Bread/Indian Taco's/Auction/InterTribal Dancing and Specail Demonstrations plus Story Telling

Trina Mansfield-770-655-5909 or Monika Arrington- 770-402-8288

May 24-26 2008

American Indian Festival

THIS IS A CONTEST POWWOW

ALL DRUMS AND DANCERS IN PROPER REGAILA INVITED.

THIS EVENT IS HELD TWICE A YEAR MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AND THE FIRST FULL WEEKEND IN OCTOBER.

AT THE GWINNETT COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN LAWRENCEVILLE GEORGIA AND HAS BEEN SINCE 1992.

FOR TRADER OR VENDOR INFO CONTACT TOADIE EDDY AT 770-791-0066. EMAIL AT VITWIND@ALLTEL.NET

OR WWW.VITWIND.COM

WE WILL HAVE LOWERY BEGAY AND OTHERS AS ENTERTAINMENT THROUGHOUT THE WEEKEND.

SAT,SUN,MON 10AM TO 9PM?

June 7 & 8, 2008

2nd Annual Sweetwater Creek Intertribal Powwow

Pow Wow Gates Open Sat. 10 am to 7 pm - Grand Entry: 12 noon (Indian Time) Sun. 10 am to 5 pm - Grand Entry: 1 pm (Indian Time)

Admission: Adults: \$5.00 Elders (60 plus): \$3.00 Children (6 to 12): \$3.00 Children 5 and under: Free

Sweetwater Creek State Park has a \$3 per day vehicle parking fee.

HeadMan:

HeadLady: Karen Cooper

AD: Peter Kassars

MC: Gary Smith

Head Veteran: Keith Smith

Host Drum: DOG RIVER

ALL DANCERS WELCOME

GUEST DRUMS WELCOME

Drumming, Dancing, Arts & Crafts, Flutist, Demonstrations, Vendors, Food, Auction

Bring your lawn chairs and spend the day.

Information Larry at 770-823-7650 or Robin at 706-969-3245

June 28-29, 2008

Walnut Grove 4th annual Pow Wow

H/m "Smitty" Smith

H/L Gwen Babb

A/D Peter Kassars

Head VET Poppa Jim Webb WWII

M/C gary Smith

Drum Grandfather Strongheart

10-6

Grand Entry noon Sat 1pm Sun

admission \$5 single \$10 per Car

held at Whippoorwill Organic Farms Hwy 138 12.3 Miles North of Exit 82 I-20

"dink" wilder 770-296-3097 or amndn@mindspring.com