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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Henry T. Locklear Day Scheduled as Part of Indian Heritage Month: Local Hero to be Honored in Hoke County

By: Connee Brayboy

November is Indian Heritage Month and many events are planned in observance. One of the most interesting and deserving is the Henry T. Locklear Day to be observed in nearby Hoke County. Locklear's Day will be observed November 8, 1996 at South Hoke Elementary School beginning with lunch at 12:00 p.m. Lunch will be followed by a program.

Why observe Henry T. Locklear Day? Because he is a war hero. One of the heroes of the Vietnam War. Locklear is the highest decorated Lumbee Vietnam Veteran and the second-highest decorated Indian in Vietnam.

The idea was suggested by Don Steed, Superintendent of the Hoke County Schools. Locklear, owner and operator of East Coast Steamway, has the contract for Hoke County Schools. He and the superintendent began talking one day and Steed realized that he was talking with a real hero. Locklear told Steed about his tour of duty with the United States Army and the medals he had won while serving two tours of duty in Vietnam. Steed thought that Locklear

was an excellent role model for children and felt that he had a lot of wisdom and experience, as well as exciting war stories to share with the students. From this conversation the concept of Henry Locklear Day was conceived.

Locklear was instrumental in the rescue of the twelve men who survived "Hamburger Hill." For his military action he has received 20 awards and honors, including two Silver Stars which he received for gallantry in action. A Silver Star is given only when a soldier endangers his own life. He also received two Bronze Stars (Valor) for heroism.

South Hoke Elementary was formerly Hawkeye School and Locklear is a 1963 graduate of that high school. He also has a degree in business management from the University of South Carolina.

Locklear spent 14 years in the United States Army and served two tours of duty in Vietnam, 1965-66 and 1968. When he left the Army in 1980 as a First Sergeant, he began his carpet cleaning business.

Born in 1945 to Howard Locklear, Locklear grew up in Maxton. He is

also the son of the late Gertha Jacobs Locklear. He was one of eight children born to this farm family. He and his wife, Sylvia, now reside in Lumberton, although he maintains ties to both the Prospect community and the South Hoke area, having attended school at Prospect also.

Locklear is very modest about all the attention being paid to him, but is proud of his military service and feels that it was his duty to serve his country. He is very adamant about the advice he has for children at South Hoke Elementary and all other schools. He advises them like this: "Stay in school. Don't discriminate and don't smoke or drink."

He believes that anything is possible, if you apply yourself and work hard.

He is proud to be a Native American and holds membership in the Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina. He is humbled, he said, by the opportunity to serve as a role model for children and is pleased that the event falls during Indian Heritage Month.

Among the honors and awards Locklear received during his 14 year career (1963-1977) are the follow-

ing: Combat Infantry Badge; Master Parachute Badge; National Defense Service Medal; four Good Conduct Medals; Expert Infantry badge; Vietnam Gallery Cross/Bronze Star; Ranger Honor Guard; two Silver Stars; Drill Sergeant-Honor Guard; Meritorious Service Medal; two Bronze Stars (Valor); two Army Commendations Medals; Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; five Vietnam Service Medals; Pathfinder-Honor Guard; Jungle Expert; and Distinguished Trooper Award.

During the day Locklear's medals and other memorabilia will be on display for the children to view.

When asked how he felt about being a hero, Locklear said: "I didn't start out to be a hero. I just knew that I was in the U.S. Army and I had been taught to do my very best. That's all that I did...the very best that I could...The heroism part just followed."

Among the planned program activities on Locklear Day will be a speech by Ret. Major Gen. Richard E. Davis and the Robeson County Honor Guard will present the Flag.

Also for the first time the Board of Commissioners will present a Hoke County Certificate of Honor for Heroism and Leadership. Locklear will be the first recipient. The Resolution of Honor will be permanently displayed at the Hoke County Board of Education and a portrait of Locklear will be unveiled to hang in South Hoke Elementary.



Bond Referendum Passage could bring \$64 Million for Schools

Civic leaders along with business and industrial leaders from across Robeson County met with members of the county's legislative delegation at a breakfast meeting held on October 8th to kick off the campaign for passage of school bonds and road bonds referendums during the November 5th election. Representative Ron Sutton explained to the group how both Houses of the Legislature were able to work in a non-partisan matter to get the issues on the ballot after which Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Public Schools of Robeson County, showed, by way of a

visual presentation, the great need that the county has of the almost \$64,000,000 which is would receive if the \$1.8 billion referendum passes. It would be used to make improvements at many of our schools, the majority of which are forty to over seventy years old. It would also be used to eliminate many of the 118 mobile classrooms now in use. Also on the program was Bob Nelson who represented the Department of Transportation and told the group how the \$1.775 billion to be derived from the Road Bond for Robeson County would be used.

Annual Spotlight on Women Conference Set

The 35th Annual Spotlight on Women Conference, sponsored by the North Carolina Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. (BPW/nc) will be held on Saturday, October 26, 1996, at the Holiday Inn-Four Seasons in Greensboro. Held at the end of National Business Women's Week, the Spotlight on Women Conference serves as an educational and cultural awareness symposium for working women, as well as a means of increasing awareness of women's challenges and responsibilities in our changing society.

This year's keynote speaker is Elaine Marshall, candidate for the

seat of Secretary of State in North Carolina. Marshall is an attorney, a former N.C. Senator who was instrumental in getting the Domestic violence bill passed, an active member of BPW/nc, and a member of the Bar Association. She will speak on the impact of women politically in the 21st century.

The conference is also the setting for announcing BPW/nc's 1996 State Career Woman of the Year. Nominees are chosen from all across the state and they represent women who have promoted the interest of business women and fostered a spirit of cooperation within their communities.



Student nurses from Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell received the award for best overall float at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Parade in Roswell recently. Shown on the winning float is Roderick Brewer of Pembroke, NC who is President of the Nurse Association of Eastern New Mexico University in Roswell, NM.

Brewer is the son of Patricia B. Locklear. A lot of heart went into the Eastern New Mexico State Fair Parade recently—and a lot of heart won it.

The award for best overall float went to the Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell student nurses for their float with two giant hearts on it.

As estimated 30,000 lined the Main Street Route to see the parade that kicked off the 74th Eastern New Mexico State Fair, the oldest fair in the state. Of the 89 entries, the ENMU-R student nursing float was one of the highlights.

Brewer said, "We're just so excited—this is awesome." He said this is the first year nursing had a float and he and his fellow students wanted people to know there is a nursing program in Roswell and the students are active.



Observes 85th Birthday

Mrs. Gretrude Canady Blanks, the wife of the late Prentis Blanks of St. Pauls, celebrated her 85th birthday at Ten Mile Center Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, Sunday, October 13, 1996. The honoree was given a birthday cake and a delicious dinner. Invocation was by Mrs. Hartman Hammonds.

Mrs. Blanks was born October 18, 1911 in the Lumberton area. She is the mother of three children: Willie Glenn Blanks, Mrs. Bertie Jane Barnhill and Mrs. Sharon Henderson, all of St. Pauls; five grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Many friends and relatives attended the event who wished her many more returns of the day. (Photo and text by Tech. Sgt. W.P. Revels)

Pembroke Housing Authority Activities

The Helping Hands Youth Choir from Pembroke Housing Authority was invited to sing at Union Chapel Holiness Methodist Church in revival on October 18, 1996. The Choir was invited by Sister Duffrena Locklear who also sponsors "Kids Time For Christ" each Thursday night at Maynor Manor Youth Center. The youth would like to thank Rev. Duffrena Cummings, Sister Duffrena and the Church for a wonderful and warm welcome.

The Youth Sports Program sponsored 39 youths from the different developments on an outing to the Lumbee Fall Pow Wow. Many of the youth had never been to a pow wow. After such an event they were more aware of their heritage and the meaning of pow wows. The youth were able to meet new friends from other

schools, many of them learned different dances, and they were able to appreciate the arts and crafts including pottery, which they have learned from the lessons taught by Karl A. Hunt.

"It is tremendously important for the youth to interact with others outside their communities. Events such as the pow wows help with their heritage recognition and increases their social skills," said Richard C. Jones, Cultural Program Coordinator. The Youth Sports Program would like to give a special thank you to the volunteers that helped with this event: Donna Campbell of Maynor Manor, Vicky Jacobs of Strickland Heights, and Jessica Locklear of Prospect.

If you or your company would like to be a volunteer or sponsor of any event, please contact Jones at 521-1030.

First Annual RCC Pow Wow Planned

The First Annual Robeson Community College Pow Wow, sponsored by Phi Tehta Kappa will be held December 7, 1996 at the College, located on I-95 Exit 22, Lumberton, NC.

Grand Entry will be at 10:00 a.m. All dancers and drummers must be registered by 9:30 a.m. Admission is

\$3 for adults and \$1 for students with RCC ID. Children under 6 will be admitted free.

Dance competition, traditional music, cultural demonstrations, native traders/vendors.

Vendors and traders will be by invitation only. For more information contact Micah Sampson at 738-7101 Ext. 175.

HOKE COUNTY CERTIFICATE OF HONOR FOR HEROISM AND LEADERSHIP

WHEREAS, Henry Thermond Locklear has served this community and county very well having been pronounced to be the "Highest Decorated Lumbee Indian in the Vietnam War"; and

WHEREAS, he has distinguished himself by heroic action, personal courage, and fearless leadership in one of the most unpopular wars ever in the history of our government except the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, he served exceptionally meritoriously in both combat and in peace time for all the citizens of this county to protect them from the hands of communism; and

WHEREAS, through the performance of his duties and responsibilities as the Boy Scoutmaster of Troop # 307, he took forty-one (41) boys from this community and won the State of North Carolina Scouting Championship; also himself recognized as the Scoutmaster of the Year 1974; and

WHEREAS, he is now the Executive Officer of the Robeson County Honor Guard which provides military funeral services for the counties of Robeson, Scotland, and Hoke, which is a public community service he does gratis for his fellow comrades; and

WHEREAS, he has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom he has come in contact and the affection of his fellowman (who are proud to call him "friend or pal,") regardless of race, color, or creed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that this certificate of honor is issued in recognition of the superb leadership and heroism of Henry Thermond Locklear. A copy of this certificate of honor for Henry Thermond Locklear shall be duly noted and entered into the minutes of this meeting of the Hoke County Commissioners.

NC Equity Honors Dr. Freda Porter-Locklear

(Raleigh) Each fall NC Equity honors individuals, organizations and businesses who have made significant contributions to advance the status of women in North Carolina. On Friday October 18, 1996 winners will be recognized at the seventh Carpathian Awards Event.

Dr. Freda Porter-Locklear is one of two individuals receiving the award for Speaking Out. Dr. Locklear has worked for more than ten years to build opportunities for women, especially Native American women, in the fields of mathematics and engineering and other sciences. She has been a role model and highly visible advocate for women and Native Americans within the university community and was instrumental in creating mentoring programs and workshops for girls to encourage and support women entering these fields.

Carpathian Awards were also given to Andrea Harris of the NC Institute for Minority Economic Development for Speaking Out; to Betty Lou Griffin of Clinton, NC for Per-

sonal Advocacy; to Dr. Beverly Malone of Greensboro for Health Advocacy; and to CAD Plus/Plain Paper Solutions headquartered in the Triangle for Corporate Advocacy.

1996 marks the seventh year the Carpathian Awards have been given and NC Equity's tenth year of work on behalf of North Carolina women. The Carpathian Award theme is derived from the Carpathian Women of Ancient Greece, known for their strength and leadership. They shared full responsibility for government, athletics, and commerce with men. Those nominated must be based in North Carolina or have significant contributions within the state.

NC Equity is a statewide, private, non-profit, public policy and advocacy organization which works for the economic advancement and well-being of women in North Carolina. Current NC Equity programs are: The Women's Agenda, Women of Color Program, Work and Family Center and the Economic Initiative.