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# The Charlotte Post

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## Chambers Fined Over \$53,000 For Lawsuit

RALEIGH (AP) --- Civil rights attorney Julius Chambers and members of his former law firm have been ordered to pay more than \$53,914 for pursuing what a federal judge called "frivolous" allegations in a race discrimination lawsuit against Fort Bragg officials.



Chambers

Judge James C. Fox's order, which required an additional payment totaling \$30,000 by two plaintiffs in the case and levied fines of \$250 against several lawyers, apparently was unprecedented in the Eastern District of North Carolina.

"The wholesale, long-term waste of physical, mental and financial resources engendered by the extraordinarily reckless, frivolous conduct of both plaintiffs and their counsel mandate a substantial monetary sanction against both," Fox wrote in the 482-page document, filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Raleigh.

"A mere slap on the wrist or minor fine is unacceptable for reasons of both general and specific deterrence," Fox wrote.

The lawyers represented black civilian workers at Fort Bragg

who filed two race discrimination suits against the Army in 1980 and 1981. The suits were filed under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of race. The suits were consolidated and tried in 1984.

The suits alleged discriminatory practices in the merit promotion process in areas including evaluations, Reduction in Force procedures and disciplinary policies. Plaintiffs also alleged that when they voiced their complaints they were harassed and subject to retaliation.

Army attorneys had asked Fox to impose sanctions on the plaintiffs and their lawyers.

Fox's order assessed \$30,000 against Chambers, lead counsel in the case and attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. But Fox said none of that money should come from the NAACP or its legal defense fund, saying he wanted no diversion of funds from its "crucial mission."

Fox also ordered lawyer Geraldine Sumter to pay \$12,500, and assessed \$5,000 each against Gilda Glazer and Penda Hair, who also participated in the case. The balance of \$1,414 was assessed against the Charlotte law firm of Ferguson, Stein, Watt, Wallas and Adkins, where Chambers formerly was a member and where the other lawyers in the case practice.

## Lawyer Says She Will Appeal Judge's Penalty

RALEIGH (AP) ---A lawyer penalized for pursuing what a federal judge called a "frivolous" discrimination suit said she still believed blacks at Fort Bragg faced racial discrimination and that the decision would be appealed.

Geraldine Sumter of Charlotte maintained in a telephone interview and in a prepared statement that blacks had been discriminated against at Fort Bragg by not being admitted to the higher civilian pay grades.

"In light of the history and then existing practice of racial discrimination at Fort Bragg .... we felt then as we do now that the black employees had sound bases for pursuing their claims," she told The News and Observer of Raleigh.

She also said the judge's ruling will have a chilling effect on other suits.

"It says to litigants that you cannot pursue your federally protected rights without run-

ning the risk of having to pay a defendant large sums of money," Ms. Sumter said. "Whenever you have the imposition of sanctions, there is a chilling effect on anybody else who would bring a lawsuit."

But a former lawyer for the U.S. Army, which had sought nearly \$84,000 in penalties against the lawyers and two plaintiffs, say the fines will not discourage people who have legitimate cases.

U.S. District Judge James Fox assessed \$53,914 Monday against Julius Chambers, director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Ms. Sumter and two other lawyers, all members of Chambers' former law firm in Charlotte.

He also imposed penalties of \$30,000 against two plaintiffs in the lawsuit, which had been filed by black civilian employees at Fort Bragg.

See Sumter On Page 2A

## Racist Leader, Family To Take On New Identities

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) ---White supremacist Glenn Miller and his family will assume new identities under the federal government's witness protection program, acting U.S. Attorney Doug McCullough says.

In a related development Monday, Miller, who threatened a race war last spring, was sentenced in federal court to five years in prison. He had entered into a plea-bargain arrangement in which he agreed to become a government informant and pleaded guilty to mailing a "declaration of war" and illegally possessing hand grenades.

Miller will probably end up serving 2 1/2 to three years of the sentence, McCullough said.

U.S. District Judge Earl Britt sentenced Miller to five years on the charge of mailing a threatening communication and gave him a 10-year suspended sentence on the weapons charge. He ordered Miller to remain on probation for five years after serv-

ing his active sentence. Miller could have faced 15 years in prison and fines of \$100,000.

"It is not easy to minimize the extent of the wrong you have committed," Britt told Miller before sentencing.

"Many of the things you have said and done may have been bluffs as far as you were concerned, but to the impressionable people who may have been following you, they were not threats, they were not bluffs, they were not boasts," Britt said. "They were calls to action."

Miller's attorney, Thomas C. Manning, had asked that Miller be put on probation.

Miller was released on \$25,000 secured bond and ordered to report to prison on Feb. 26, McCullough said.

The race-war threat was issued after Miller disappeared while an appeal of a contempt conviction was pending. The hand grenades were part of an arsenal of weapons found in a Missouri



Nasif Majeed is accompanied by his wife as he files for the office of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners for District 2. The west side businessman is flanked by his supporters

from the community: Isaac Heard (far left), (l-r) Ron Leeper, Rev. Leon Riddick and A.J. Scoggins.

## Blacks File For Offices

By Herb White  
 Post Staff Writer

The Mecklenburg political season officially got under way this week with blacks filing for county commissioner, school board, the N.C. General Assembly and district judgeships.

With all seven county commissioners' seats up for election, the most interesting race may shape up in District 2, where a political newcomer, Nasif Majeed, will try to succeed incumbent Bob Walton.

Majeed's Monday entry into the District 2 race guaranteed a challenger to Walton, should he decide to run for another term.

Majeed, 42, owns a Burger King restaurant on Beatties Ford Road and is active in Charlotte's black community as a member of Project Catalyst, the West Trade-Beatties Ford Road Merchants Association and the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Authority.

Walton, who has served five terms as a commissioner, has not said if he will file for reelection although he has sent questionnaires to gauge public support for another campaign.

Cedric Jones, a retired Garinger High English teacher, filed for one of the three at-large seats. Jones, 70, was unsuccessful in a similar bid, losing in the 1986 Democratic primary. No black

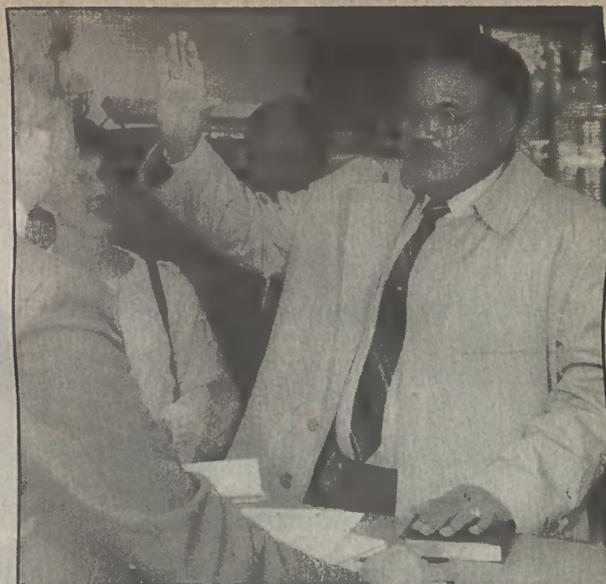
has won an at-large county seat. Jim Richardson, a Democrat, filed for reelection to his seat in District 33. Richardson, who was elected to the senate in 1986 after serving as a state representative, is probably best known for pushing for passage of bills to strengthen city council's affirmative action policy in awarding contracts. He also supported the council's bid to allow the county to assess a real estate transfer tax.

Richardson, 61, is a retired postmaster.

Cunningham represents District 59 in the N.C. House. A 57-year-old Democrat, Cunningham sponsored a bill last year to curb racial violence and intimidation. The legislation, which passed the General Assembly last July, allows victims of racial harassment to file civil suits in local court instead of trying cases under federal jurisdiction.

Cunningham also owns the Excelsior Club on Beatties Ford Road.

Maggie Nicholson is trying to win a seat on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School Board. Nicholson, who has run in every school board election since 1974 without success, is 81 and a Democrat.



Senator Jim Richardson files for the office of State Senator in District 33.

## King March Scheduled

People United for Justice will lead its annual march in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Sunday, January 10.

The march will begin at corner of LaSalle St. and Beatties Ford Rd. at 3 p.m. and end at West Charlotte High School.

The theme for the march will be: "Sleeping in Times Like These." Former city councilman Ron Leeper will be a guest speaker.

er. March officials are asking black leaders of the community to take a stand in 1988. They state, "Our goal is to get 100 people to take a stand for peace, justice, love and freedom."

It is People United for Justice's hope that all will march together in honor of Dr. King this year and pledge to fight to keep the dream alive throughout the year.

## Dixie Must Go, Ala. Rep. Says

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP) --- The state president of the NAACP said Wednesday he will personally haul down the Confederate flag atop Alabama's Capitol if Gov. Guy Hunt does not do so by the Feb. 2 start of the 1988 legislative session.

State Rep. Tom Reed, D-Tuskegee, who directs Alabama operations of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, also said news reports incorrectly stated that he wasn't joining a regional campaign to remove Confederate flags from several Southern statehouses.

He said he would join the campaign announced by the Southeast regional NAACP director, Earl Shinhoster.

Reed said that for procedural purposes, the matter would be

considered at the next meeting of the state NAACP board of directors.

"This flag is obnoxious to me and to all black people," said Reed. "It should not fly over the state Capitol. I'm asking Gov. Hunt to have the flag removed. If he does not remove it by the opening of the regular session of the Legislature ---that's noon on Feb. 2 ---then I will physically remove it myself as a citizen of this great state."

Hunt said Tuesday the Legislature, not the governor, should settle the issue. His press secretary, Terry Abbott, said Wednesday that Reed's statement probably would not change the governor's stand.

"His position all along is that See Flag On Page 2A

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