

The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, NC

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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LRDA Prepares for Congressional Hearing on Lumbee Recognition Bill

The Lumbee Regional Development Association met Tuesday night. They heard a report on federal recognition by Dobbs Oxendine, Chairman of the Federal Recognition Committee. He reported on a visit to Washington for three days by himself, James Hardin, executive director, and Ruth Locklear, director of the tribal enrollment office.

Locklear then reported on the Congressional Hearing to be held Thursday and Friday, June 6 and 7 on Federal Recognition. The hearing will be held at the James B. Chavis Student Center and is open to the public. It will not be the kind of hearing whereby anyone in the audience may address the Committee. Only those selected as witnesses will make oral presentations. Others will be allowed to present written testimony to be included in the record of the hearing.

Locklear reported that a panel of elders, including Mr. Claude Lowry, Mr. Johnny Bullard and Rev. Welton Lowry will be held. This panel will speak to the history, community and kinships of Robeson County Indians. Linda Oxendine of PSU will moderate this panel.

Local ministers and committee members will meet for breakfast and discuss the organization of Indian churches and schools. Sec. of Admin. James Lofton will testify on behalf of the Lumbee instead of Governor James B. Martin.

The Congressional Committee and Secretary Lofton will be the guests of PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine for lunch. A community dinner will also be held at the Cultural Center with invited community persons and a tour of various Indian communities will be conducted.

Executive Director James Hardin told the board that he and board members James Sampson, A. Bruce Jones and Dobbs Oxendine had met with Jonathan Ed Taylor, chief of the Cherokees and other Cherokees at the beach recently. This meeting, he reported was moderated by Patrick Clark, Chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs. Hardin stated that the lines of communication between the two tribes had been opened and that they had agreed to meet again. It was reported that Taylor "would admit that the Lumbees were Indians" which is something that he had refused to do previously.

Emma Locklear questioned spending \$1000 for a meeting at the beach by LRDA.

A. Bruce Jones responded: "This time as we are seeking federal recognition, the Cherokees have not written a letter opposing it... We can't put a price tag on

trust... We are all looking for a basis of trust... This is the first time in history that the two tribes have set up official dialogue between the two tribes... We have begun to forge and establish a tribal relationship."

Locklear was still not pacified. There has been much disagreement in the past between the Cherokee and the Lumbee. The last time the Federal Recognition Bill was being considered, it died in Committee mainly because of opposition from the Congressman who represented the Cherokees.

Emma Locklear responded to Jones: "I don't feel that we are under any obligation to Ed Taylor to sit down and talk... We want federal recognition... He's got something he wants."

IN OTHER MATTERS...

The Board employed Ralph Hunt as a consultant to develop a minimum of three redistricting plans for the LRDA board elections according to the 1990 Census figures.

Agreed to extend the deadline for write in candidates for those wishing to seek a seat on the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs Board of Directors. Paul Brooks who serves now, will face the expiration of his term in June.

Discussed freezing LRDA board elections and extending the board members' terms for five years instead of three. No action was taken on this issue.

Approved the purchase of a mini bus for the head start program for \$24,000.

Authorized the executive committee to award the bid for building Smyrna Head Start Center.

Heard a report about an Adult Education Grant which will be used for the GED program beginning July 1 in the Smyrna, Rex Rennett and Evans Crossings Communities. Three instructors will be hired for this project from the three communities to be served.

Denied a request to endorse a group who is making a 52 minute video on Lumbees.

Agreed to accept 20 applications for a Junior Miss Pageant to be held in September and screening the applicants to "not fewer than ten."

Appointed Sybil Bullard to the Indian Housing Board.

And voted to have Chris "War Eagle Chavis," Lumbee professional wrestler serve as co-Grand Marshal along with the Lumbee Persian Gulf vets in the upcoming Lumbee Homecoming Parade. Chavis will be wrestling at Purnell Swett High School July 6th during the Homecoming Weekend.

REFLECTIONS

By Alta Nye Oxendine

Thanks to both the editors of the Carolina Indian Voice, Bruce Barton, then Connie Brayboy, for allowing me to write whatever I believe in. Here I go again.

IMAGES

Has My Image Been Turnished?

Through the years I've made my share (or more) of mistakes. I've let people down--again and again--even though I did not mean to do so. From time to time I've felt like everyone was against me--because I was not doing what they expected me to do.

The most difficult time was when I stepped "over the line" back in 1959 and married a person of a different racial background. In fact, I spent my entire marriage (until the accident which claimed the lives of my husband and two sons) assuming that the whites of the world (with only a handful of exceptions) had turned their backs on me. Too late. I learned that this was not true. Many who had said nothing had actually accepted our racially-blended family. But, for some, I was likely a "rebel" or a "radical."

Now I've become apparently one of those dangerous, stereotypical "anti-communist crusaders" out to rid the world of communists as well as the unique system/religion of communism.

This has been my image of "Anti-Communists in the past. And I never intended to become like "them." In fact, if I had seen someone else studying, and sharing the truth about the Communist way of life here in Pembroke and Robeson County, I'm sure I would never have bothered to do any personal research myself. I can think of a hundred other activities I'd rather spend hour after hour doing. One of these is to be a home-maker. (Or, since I have no family here depending upon me daily, to be a home-keeper.) Or a teacher or social worker. Or a rural church worker, like I was when I first came to Pembroke.

But someone needs to be studying the movements (including "New Age") in the world around us. I finally decided I could not just take someone else's word, that "I'd have to check things out for myself."

In the process, I've gotten acquainted with a number of other "conservatives" who want to conserve the good things about our government and our American way of life. I've decided there's no such thing as a typical "anti-communist." I don't know why we assume that they are all "racists" or hard to get along with, or whatever. They do seem to be individuals who care about their country. Only a few (it appears to me) are fanatics like the group portrayed in the NBC movie "In The Line of Duty: Manhunt in the Dakotas."

IS STILL CARE ABOUT PEOPLE

This is, in fact, the main reason I made the decision to get involved, and then to stay involved, in such a difficult hunt for the truth.

Marx, Lenin, and others may have been sincere in believing they had discovered a way to help people. But the "Marxian Experiment," as it used to be called, seems to have backfired over and over and over again. I do not want to get rid of the persons who are under the control of Communism. But I would like them to do as many before them have done--search for a better way of life, one that will never let them down.

I TRY TO THINK FOR MYSELF

I do not automatically accept someone else's ideas. When I read a statement written by a "conservative" writer, for example, I mull it over, and then compare it with a variety of other sources. If I had been satisfied to believe what other "anti-communists" believe, I wouldn't have needed to subscribe to such news publications as *US News and World Reports*, *Fellowship*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, or even the *Robesonian*. Or to read such other viewpoints as *Teh National Alliance* and *Soviet Life*.

I have tried to apply the methods of investigation, learned as a sociology major, to an objective comparison of reports regarding Communism, and other forms of Socialism. This is why I normally spend hours and hours and hours of study before commenting in my column on a particular issue.

TRUTH SEEKERS

I would like to invite you to become an active "truth seeker" too.

First, consider Eternal truth. As I've said before, that's the only kind that matters now for the men in our family who have left this life.

And then, try studying and comparing different view points regarding our country and our world. And, before you join a group which promises to solve your problems, make sure the promises are sincere and realistic. Some things are "too good to be true!"

MEMORIAL DAY

As a high school student during the World War II years, then as a college student from 1945 to 1949, I considered myself a pacifist. If only the world would stop fighting wars our problems would all be solved, I thought. Veterans did not interest me much, unless I happened to know them personally.

In more recent years, I've decided that there are some things, such as freedom, that are worth fighting and dying for. I've often wondered whether I, as a Christian, would have the courage to die for my faith.

Today I'm thankful for those who have fought, and died, to make it possible for you and me to have the freedom to think for ourselves and to believe as we feel led.

Just as the Pilgrims came to these shores in order to practice their faith in God freely, people from around the world keep flocking to this country for the chance to worship God freely.

MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY HELD IN PEMBROKE

A Memorial Day Ceremony was held in the Pembroke Town park on Monday, May 27, 1991. The event was sponsored by the Pembroke VFW Post #2843. Post Commander is W.D. Oxendine and Quartermaster is Ardell Jacobs.

Special guest speaker was MSG Easter Jahn, United States Army.

Her speech follows:

I am deeply privileged to have been asked to take part in this ceremony today. I can think of no higher honor than to represent the men and women who proudly wear the uniform of this great country. Memorial Day is a day that we have set aside to honor those who gave their lives in defense of our freedom [way of life]. It is important for us each year to remember their sacrifices and to reaffirm our commitment to freedom and democracy around the world. Abraham Lincoln said it best in his Gettysburg Address, "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain." We here in Pembroke, today, are like so many other communities remembering our fallen heroes.

On Memorial Day we honor nearly 400 comrades who died to free the people of Kuwait from the tyranny of Saddam Hussein. The war in the Persian Gulf brought home many memories of past wars and conflicts for many of us. The lonely soldiers wondering if anyone back home remembers them. Or if anyone really cares about them. Waiting for the next mail call to see if anyone has taken the time to write. Writing to loved ones telling them all the things that you had never thought to say to them before. Telling your children that you will be home very soon and not really knowing when you will be coming home or if you will be coming home at all. We here at home were wondering if our loved ones were safe and thinking of all the things that we wanted to say to them when they finally came home.

I along with other men and women of the uniformed services supported our men and women in the Persian Gulf. I saw the country stand united behind them. We were all anxious to learn about the most recent events. I remember seeing 28 news correspondents from around the world living and sleeping on the floor in the hallways of the Pentagon waiting for the next story to break. They were there throughout the war. They saw the reports of the first casualties come in. This was the most difficult part of their job--telling the American people that brave men and women would not be coming home. I remember one of the first casualties, Capt. Jonathan R. Edwards, USMC, age 35. He was the first to be buried in Arlington National Cemetery. I have often visited Arlington National Cemetery. My most vivid images is that of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier guarded by a lone sentry who watches over this most hallowed ground. In separate tombs a nameless soldier from World War I, World War II and Korea is buried. In honoring these Americans we honor all the men and women of the United States Armed Forces who answered their country's call and gave their

lives on our country's behalf. As one stands and looks across Arlington Cemetery, the rows and rows of white markers on the surrounding hills are constant reminders of our commitment to freedom and democracy. You cannot help but be struck by the magnitude of their sacrifice.

We who remain and enjoy the fruits of their ultimate sacrifice owe it to these brave Americans to continue our effort to preserve the American ideals of individual liberty and equality of opportunity. Ours is a great nation. It is our obligation to respect the qualities which have made it great and to do our utmost to make it even better. The liberties we sometimes take for granted should be cherished. Only thus, will our character as a free nation, which has been honorably defended for more than two centuries, persevere and be worthy of the sacrifices of those veterans that have served her so honorably--in both peace and war. Today we are again at peace.

Americans are not engaged in combat on foreign soil. Yet our peace is not without its tests and tensions. To maintain the peace, we must--and we will--maintain the strength and the readiness of our armed forces. To me, Memorial Day is bitter sweet. While it is a day to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for their country, it is also a day to rejoice in the fruits of their sacrifice. Every Memorial Day is time for all Americans to rededicate themselves to preserving the American ideals of individual and equality of opportunity. Memorial Day helps to remind us that we should make the time given to us here on earth meaningful. The future will offer many challenges to the cause of freedom. Americans must be prepared to face them and be worthy of high honor--and the unavoidable responsibility of standing in the forefront of the free nations. Because of the sacrifices made by those we honor today we are a free nation. Let us resolve today to always remain free.

In conclusion, as we stand by this flag pole, and under the American flag that now flies over us, let the Town of Pembroke and all its citizens know that all of the military services, men and women alike are committed to safeguarding our country's freedom and our way of life. American Armed Forces are highly dedicated, motivated professionals that are fully trained and prepared to defend our country. Remember that those in uniform cannot do it alone. We must be united together, working together toward preserving the American way of life. May God bless America, those that have protected our country in the past, and those that today [at sea, in the air or on distant shores] stand ready to protect her again-- should the need arise. May God bless the United States of America and may her flag and the spirit of her people always fly free.



MSG Easter Jahn, guest speaker at Pembroke's Memorial Day Ceremony. (Photo by TSgt Wm P Revels)

Tuscarora POW Wow Deemed Successful

by I.H. Hawk

May 17-19 was the weekend for the Tuscarora Nation Pow Wow at Drowning Creek. Feathers were flying, dust was rolling and feet were keeping beat with a fancy dance war song. 35 to 40 dancers were there on Friday evening. All of them in good form. There was good food making your mouth water, blue grass music which including some good guitar picking, fiddle and banjo playing along with Chief Leon Locklear on his Dobro. There was gospel singing and the word of God was preached at the Sunday morning worship service.

The pow wow was a wholesome family event. There were lots of jewelry, t-shirts, craftsmen and traders. There was also a genuine expo of American Indian culture which the it turned out to be. Leon Locklear and retha Locklear produced another great pow wow. Buddy Big Mountain attended. He is an Indian puppeteer. The children all loved him.

Our Men In Uniform

TSgt Larry Strickland, son of John L. Strickland of Maxton and Marl Strickland Deese of Maxton has returned to civilian life following active duty in support of operation Desert Shield/ Desert Storm.

The 916 Air refueling Group trains more than 750 reserve personnel in civil engineering, security police, medical services, aircraft maintenance, and aircrew operations. In the event of war or national emergency the 916th augments active duty forces within the Strategic Air Command.

TSgt Strickland is returning to his reserve KC-10 crew chief job with the 916th Consolidated Aircraft Maintenance Squadron. About 280 maintenance personnel were called to active duty on December 29, 1990 and came under the direction of the active duty 68th Air Refueling Wing's maintenance squadron. Two-thirds of the reserve squadron deployed to Western Saudi Arabia, Spain, and other overseas locations in support of the Air Force's tanker task force.

In civilian life he is employed with CP & L of Raleigh, NC and is a 1972 graduate of Carolina Military Academy, Maxton, NC