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# CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Pembroke

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1992

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## A Life of Service

### Madie Rae Locklear...on the go

By Bruce Barton  
Madie Rae Locklear seldom sits still. After a life of service, she seems constantly on the go. She loves helping people, and her job as Supervisor for Four County's Red Springs Neighborhood Service Center affords her the wonderful opportunity to "help people who really need it."

She continues, "I believe her voice, Ms. Locklear does not disagree when the interviewer suggests compassionate about people-oriented the daughters (and granddaughter) problems, and can relate to individual needs...a board member that is also familiar with the struggle involved in running a household, meeting monthly bills in a timely fashion, and in just making ends meet. That's me!"

Ms. Locklear is married to William Locklear, Jr. who is self-employed, and they are the proud parents of two daughters, both now married and successful in their own right. The oldest, Selena, is a health inspector with the Robeson County Health Department.

She is married to Nick Drakos, who operates the New York Restaurant in Fayetteville. They have one daughter who is two years old. Sophia is married to Horace Oxendine and is a counselor at St. Pauls High. With obvious pride in

weatherization project, one of the first ones in the area. Ms. Locklear says simply, "We mostly help people--no matter what their race is--who need us."

The Locklears attend New Prospect Methodist Church and live in the Prospect community. Ms. Locklear likes to "dapple in real estate and practice the piano when time permits. She also visit the sick as often as time permits.

As one of her associates recently exclaimed, when she was asked about her, she is "...a woman who has helped a whole lot of people." That seems like a great testimony for Madie Rae Locklear: a life of service on the go.



Madie Rae Locklear

## Locals assist victims

Although donations of all kinds have also been made to the homeless, battered, and weary victims of Hurricane Andrew we the people of Robeson County have given support and for the families in need. Special Prayers along with commodities. The thanks to Maria Jacobs for her donation of 53 cans of food.



Students of Purnell Swett High School

## "Forgotten veterans" reunion: a time of healing

by John R. Brayboy, Vietnam Veteran

The Carolina Vietnam Veterans had their annual Labor day reunion on Monday, September 7, 1992 at the N.C. Indian Cultural Center. This was the second event and will continue as an annual observation.

During the years since the Vietnam War, the Vietnam veteran has often been referred to as the "Forgotten veteran." After Desert Storm and the celebration that followed the returning home of the Desert Storm Troops, some of the local Vietnam veterans decided that it was time to help their own. Daniel Jones, Rudy Locklear, Marshall Locklear, and other Vietnam vets met and discussed having a Vietnam veterans reunion in Robeson County. The first reunion was held Labor Day, 1991 and it was a great success.

Vietnam veterans served in a war that was unpopular, misunderstood and politically motivated. Today a lot of these vets still wonder why we were there and wonder if it was worth the sacrifice. These vets served during a time of turmoil, change and confusion in our country. It was the sixties. Rev. Martin Luther King was fighting for civil rights for all people here in the states. There were flower children and other movements. We were in a conflict with Indochina that no one wanted, nevertheless, the American military men answered the call to serve their country in Vietnam. It is a sad reality, but most of our fighting men who were fortunate to return to the United States did not receive a hero's welcome.

This unusual "tour of duty" in the jungles of Vietnam and the reaction of the general public has caused many to suffer and hurt, not necessarily from wounds received in battle, although there were many who suffered those physical wounds; but most suffered from men-

tal anguish and stress of conflict that was more horrible than most vets can bear to talk about. Some of this was mental anguish and stress from a conflict that public opinion in this country was against. Unlike Desert Storm, during which most Americans

publicly supported the effort, there was very little public support of the Vietnam conflict or our men in uniform. Therefore, for many years the Vietnam veteran has felt that he has been forgotten.

Many veterans believe that part of the problem with the Vietnam veteran is that they will not talk about their time in the war zone, therefore adding to the stress and mental anguish of the ordeal felt by many Vietnam vets. Out of this need to talk about the horrors and thereby begin a healing process both mentally and emotionally came the plan for the Carolina Vietnam Veterans Reunion. It is hoped that the reunion and the sharing with others who have suffered the same horrors will help Vietnam vets to deal with the war induced problems. In any event, it is a healing process that has begun and can only help.

Speakers at the reunion included Linda Gurganus, a POW-MIA activist; Major Joe Anzaldua, a Vietnam POW; the Honorable Dexter Brooks, Superior Court Judge and Vietnam veteran; Ret. M. Sgt. Fred W. Zabitosky, Congressional medal of Honor Winner; and Ret. U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Henry T. Locklear Silver Star Winner. Ms. Linda Gurganus spoke to Pow-Mia situation and the frustration of many Americans, family & friends and how that now that there may be hope that the Pow-Mia situation may be very close to the answer that many have been seeking for over twenty years.

Major Joe Anzaldua talked about being a POW in Vietnam and how his father opened the door for

him to go to the Army and how that door was left open for him to return. On the other hand many Vietnam Veterans did not have that open door, he said. He stated that the love and support of his family made his survival possible.

Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks relayed his personal experience as a young man in Vietnam. He stated that he had always felt that a citizen should always give something back to society and serving in Vietnam was his way of repaying his obligation to America.

He spoke emotionally about being in the War zone when he learned that his friend, Bradley (Baby) Chavis had been killed in action. Chavis was the first Lumbee to fall in combat during the Vietnam War. "I cried like a baby," Judge Brooks said, recalling the letter that informed him of Chavis' death. Judge Brooks chose not to recount the "horrors" that were Vietnam, but acknowledged that he did not have the credential of the others on the program. He assumed he said, that he was chosen to speak as one who had fought and survived. He encouraged the audience not to feel any shame or apologies for their service to their country.

Ret. M. Sgt. Fred W. Zabitosky, the Congressional Medal of Honor winner, spoke of the Berlin Wall coming down, the end of the Cold War, the fall of Communism, the Desert Storm War and he stated emphatically: "Yes, if we had not stood against Communism, then we might be in a hot war right now."

He spoke of the struggles the Vietnam Veterans have had and about his own personal experiences in Vietnam. The greatest thing, however, he said, that happened to him was "God saved my soul."

First Sgt. Henry T. Locklear (U.S. Army retired) has been awarded two Silver Star Awards, as well as count-

less other awards, accommodations and medals. He stated that one of the Silver Stars he received was supposed to have been a Distinguished Service Award, but was reduced to a Silver Star because he did not get wounded in the line of duty.

Locklear explained who Charlie (Viet Cong) was; the obstacles facing military men in Vietnam-bamboo vipers, mosquitoes, even perfumed letters from wives and girl friends. He spoke of the extreme heat, monsoon seasons, and other physical discomforts of the jungles.

He reminded the veterans that many people joined the National Guard to avoid conflict or went north to escape the War. He emphasized: "Those of you who are here have nothing to be ashamed of...nothing to apologize for." He stressed his belief that the prayers of his mother helped sustain him during his time in Vietnam.

There was a roll call of fallen comrades following the speakers. This emotional moment was followed by the lonesome sound of "taps" being played some where off in the distance.

Prayer was by Hilton Deese and closing remarks were made by Daniel Jones.

Lunch was served and a time of fellowship, a time to remember, a time to be proud, and a time to let go was shared by the many vets in attendance.

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