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Daughter of Pembroke, NC Residents Helps Launch Navy's Newest High-Tech Destroyer



Navy Seaman Gussie Jones is one of 340 men and women helping build the guided missile destroyer USS Benfold, which will becommissioned this January. Her parents, Joseph and Suzette Jones are residents of Pembroke, NC. (Photo by U.S. Navy Photographer David Schmidt)

plankowner" dates back to more than 100 years of shipbuilding, to the days when ships were wooden. According to tradition, members of the commissioning crew were presented one wooden plank of the ship, to be claimed after the ship was decommissioned and disassembled.

Although Gussie Jones' ship is not being built with wooden planks, once USS Benfold, and Aegis destroyer, is placed in commission this January she will have the special right to claim

Jones, the daughter of Joseph and Suzette Jones of Pembroke, N.C., is helping build USS Benfold at Ingalls Shipbuilding in Pascagoula, Miss. Named for Edward Benfold, a third class hospital corpsman who was postumously awarded the Medal of Honor for gallant service during the Korean War, Uss Benfold will be the seventh Aegis guided missile destroyer, and the first to have women on its initial crew

"Being a plankowner means a lot to me," said Jones, 18. "This is my chance to say to the world, look at me now. I'm part of something that really needs me. I will contribute whatever it takes to finish building Benfold."

A deck seaman, Jones helps preserve and maintain the exterior of the ship. She will also act as a lookout

for underway periods, and assist with the ship's re-fueling evolutions." "My job is a big responsibility, because you have to do your best in a variety of tasks, no matter how small or large they may be," she said. "The goal of my command is to be the best. If the best is what they want, then the best is what they are going to get from

ship ever put to sea, incorporating among American Indians and called hardened all-steel construction, with for those strengths to be used for their 70 tons of Kevlar armor to protect vital spaces. The ship will also have enhanced firefighting systems, and a system to provide protection against nuclear, chemical or biological contamination. The end result will be a destroyer that can survive a hit and

continue to fight.

Jones, a 1994 graduate of Purnell
Swett High School, said she enlisted this year because of the hands-on

this year because of the hands-on experience and job opportunities the Navy had to offer.

"I looked at what types of schools the Navy had as well as what career fields were available," she said. "I believe the skills I acquire from the Navy will stand up against any person who has come out of a four to six year college with the same studies. I'll have one advantage and that's hands on

Onboard USS Benfold—The term experience. The Navy is also a way to see the world for free." Jones reported to Benfold in May, after completing boot camp.

"Boot camp was something I'll never forget because when I went, I was scared to death. When I got there I met a lot of people and my company commanders pushed me to believe in myself. The Navy has given me the

foundation and values her mother provided her while growing up.

"My mother did a very good job of raising three kids alone and no matter what I give her, I can never repay her for what she did for me.

"The most important thing I've learned is responsibility. You can do whatever you want in life. You just chance to do whatever I want in life." have to believe in yourself - you are
Jones said the Navy has built on the your own leader."

Local students awarded AISES sponsorship

Detroit, MI-Local area students Jody R. Cummings, Lumbee-Cheraw of Pembroke, NC and Tracy E. Bullard. Lumbee-Cherawof Rowland, NC both attending Duke University, were awarded a sponsorship by the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) to attend the 17th Annual AISES National Conference. Selection by the AISES national office and by student's college AISES chapter was based upon education, leadership and commitment to strengthening Indian communities. The sponsorship covered hotel room, Conference meals and registration fee. More than 500 American Indian

college students from 145 colleges and 155 tribes, as well as 1,500 Indian professionals and government. siness and university representatives also from across the nation, attended the event, which was held at the COBO Convention/Exhibition Center in

Detroit from November 9-12, 1995. The theme of the Conference was Benfold, a state-of-the-art Roads. One Direction, and ship ever put to see incomparations and recognized the diversity.

common good. As the nation's largest gathering of American Indian scientists, engineers, professionals and students, the Conference drew attendees from hundreds of U.S. and Canadian tribes.

Keynote speakers were: noted author, scientist, theologian and lawyer, Vine Deloria, Jr.; Wilma Mankiller, former Deputy Chief and Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation; and Gloria Steinem, writer and womens' activist. In addition, several speakers from corporations, tribal organizations, and federal agencies also shared their knowledge

on various topics. General Motors Corp. was the major sponsor of the event. Other Conference sponsors included Ford Motor Co., The Dow Chemical Co., the U.S. Dept. of Energy, Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and many more. Over 100 corporations. organizations and universities recruited students and professionals during the Conference's career fair. and recognized AISES members for their skills and commitment to technical excellence in their chosen

Tribal Council Update

The Lumbee Tribal Council held their meeting on Monday, November 6, 1995 at the Indian Education Resource Center. The public is invited to attend these meetings. The following items were taken care of at

*Tribal Council members passed Tribal Ordinance 95-2 to establish Tribal Law regarding Conflict of

*Judicial Committee members include: District 1 - Earl Strickland, District 2 - Larry Sampson, District 3 - Chad Hammonds, District 4 - Jeff

Moore, and District 5 - Mike Dial Swearing in of these officers will be November 18 at 9 a.m. in front of Old Main. In case of bad weather, the ceremony will be held at the Indian Education Resource Center. This ceremony will also include the swearing in of Council members for

*The 2nd Edition of "Voice of the Lumbee" is now available. Contact your representative or stop by the Tribal Office to obtain your copy.

*Remember your Government in



Johnny Hunt, Chairman of Robeson County Board of Commissioner and 11,000 flyers to Sheriff Glenn Maynor to be used by 250 law enforce 105,000 Robesonians to stop littering. Sheriff Maynor represents Enforcement Executive Officers Association, composed of practically at

and all police departments in the County.

Any law enforcement agency that would like to help use these litter bags and flyers to ask citi to stop littering, may call Major Jesse Britt at the Sheriff's Department.



Robeson County Career Center at Hilly Branch

Once again the Robeson County Career Center Carpentry class is constructing a 1300 square foot, 3 bedroom house on the campus. The Carpentry class is taught by Mr. Douglas Campbell. Other classes involved in the house construction are Masonry, Electrical Trades, Electronics, Plumbing, and Home

The building of a house each year trains eleventh and twelth grade students from the six Public Schools of Robeson County in the building trades. The house will be sold at public auction in May 1996.

Harvest Festival King and Queen at Parkton School



Parkton School officially crowned its Harvest Festival King and Queen during its awards program on November 7, 1995. Their reign will last until next full.

The Queen, Shalona Wilkens, is a kindergarten student. She is the daughter of Shellena Wilkins of Shannon, N.C. The King, Gary Shane Thacker, is also a kindergarten student. He is the son of Gary and Susan Thacker of Parkton, N.C. The teachers of both students are Elizabeth Allen and Caterine Glenn.

National AIDS day vigil planned

Candlelight Vigil Friday, December 1, 1995 5:45 p.m.

Shared Responsibilities
AIDS AWARENESS AND **EDUCATION** In recognition of National AIDS CROSS

sored by AMERICAN RED

1995 Theme: Shared Rights and

Pembroke Centennial Christmas Parade

The Town of Pembroke is preparing for the 21st Annual Twilight Centennial Christmas Parade to be held on Thursday, December 7, 1995. The Parade line-up time will be at 3:00 pm and parade starting time is 4:00 pm. All entries will assemble at the Pembroke Elementary School and the Parade will precede West on Main Street, and disassemble at the PSU. Performing Arts Center. Performing Arts Center

This year's parade will be featuring fire trucks, ROTC marching units. bands, clowns, queens, kings, antique cars, the town centennial float, and of cars, the town centennial float, and of course the main attraction - "Santa Claus". Please keep in mind only one Santa is allowed in the parade. No horses of four wheelers will be allowed in parade due to liability, and the danger they could cause to the citizens. This year's parade is sponsored by Town of Pembroke, Pembroke Jaycees, Chamber of Commerce, and the LRDA Veterans Affairs Office.

Veterans Affairs Office

The County is invited to attend and the parade is open to anyone that would like to participate. There is no

For further information, cont Gregory Cummings at (910) 521-8602 or the Town at (910) 521-9758. Merry Christmas and a Happy New

Year to all.