

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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## Rep. Ron Sutton files to re-election to House of Representatives, District 85



Friday, January 5, 1996 at 2:30 pm, Representative Ron Sutton officially filed to retain the House District 85 seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Presently, Sutton is in his second term as the Democratic Representative for House District 85. District 85 includes part of the City of Lumberton, most of western Robeson County, also Stonewall and Antioch precincts in Hoke County.

In announcing his reelection bid, Sutton wished to publicly state that he is extremely honored and proud to serve in the General Assembly and to represent all the citizens of House District 85.

While service in the NC House is quite different now than it has been in the past, Sutton is dedicated to working with the House

Democratic Caucus in restoring Democratic leadership in the House. According to Sutton, things have been quite hectic under Republican leadership due to their lack of experience in handling leadership roles and activities. Unfortunately, they often confused leading with driving thereby attaining disastrous results.

Sutton's committee assignments are varied. They include the Appropriations Sub-Committee on Education, State Government Committee (Sub-Committee on Military Veterans and Indian Affairs), the Judiciary II Committee and the Ethics Committee.

Sutton states, among the things he did last session of which he is the most proud of is his extensive work on a three attorney Judiciary II Sub-Committee developing the procedures authorizing North Carolina judges to revoke/suspend any and all licenses of absent parents who are behind in and/or refuses to pay child support. That sub-committee worked long and hard hours to develop an approximately forty page bill that passed the House and Senate. While it was Representative Charlotte Gardner's bill, a Republican, most of the rewrite of the bill was done by the three Democratic attorneys to make the bill acceptable to members.

In addition, Sutton worked extensively on another Judiciary sub-committee that produced a Sex Offender's Registration Bill that

also passed the House and Senate. This bill requires all those convicted of sex offenses to register with the county sheriff when not in prison. Prior attempts in other sessions to pass similar bills failed. Again, this was a Republican members bill. According to Sutton, these examples amplify the need to have more attorneys in the House. Just a few years ago the House was approximately 60% lawyers. Presently the House is only 18% attorneys and Sutton feels that much of the resulting legislation shows it. For example, of the 67 Republicans in the House, there are only three attorneys.

Sutton is also extremely proud that through his bills and legislative efforts, he was able to get monies in this year's budget to restore the Henry Berry Lowry House at the North Carolina Indian Culture Center and to fund the Native American Incentive Scholarship for the next two years. Also, by working with Senator Rand of Fayetteville, North Carolina Public Television was funded for a TV tower to be located in north Robeson County to complete the public television coverage throughout North Carolina.

Sutton stated, "It is unfortunate that none of these projects were funded by the Republican led House and I had to coordinate with the Senate leadership in order to get them funded. I did have House Republican leadership's personal commitment that if I could get

them funded in the Senate budget the House would let them stay in during the confere committee deliberations. I wish to personally thank Senator David Parnell, Democrat of Parkton, for his support and cooperation in these efforts."

The Representative pledges to continue to work for all the citizens of District 85. He stresses that his style of representation and leadership is rolling up his sleeves and getting the job done; not horn blowing in the local press.

While maintaining an open door policy both in his law office at Locklear, Jacobs, Sutton & Hunt in Pembroke and in his Raleigh House Office, Sutton always takes the time to listen to everyone. As a Pembroke attorney, he concentrates primarily on personal injury cases involving auto accidents. These type cases allow Sutton to schedule court appearances far in advance and helps in allowing him to devote appropriate time to legislative duties.

A project that is high on Sutton's legislative agenda is to procure the rest of the funding needed to complete construction on the Southeastern Farmers Market and Agriculture Center located just south of I-95 on US-74. This facility will be tremendous asset to all of Robeson County and Southeastern North Carolina.

In response to many requests, Sutton plans to prepare future public releases outlining the

activities of the House Ethics Committee in handling the Representative Ken Pittman's matter as it related to the 16 year old page and other females in Raleigh. As a member of the committee, Sutton felt it improper to comment on the on-going activities while deliberating the future of Representative Miller. Sutton says, "Now that a recommendation has been made to the full House, I can and will provide the public responses sought by many of my constituents."

According to Sutton, it has not been an oversight that he has maintained a publicly low profile since the last session closed in July. It is his view that the public gets tired of being confronted with politicians and political dribble every time they watch television or open the newspaper. Therefore, Sutton feels he has respected his constituents' privacy in that he has avoided that type of frivolous activity.

Sutton says, "I am looking forward to the upcoming campaign so that he can candidly discuss some of the legislation that came out of the last Republican long session; some good and some bad. I have strong opinions on certain educational bills and, in particular, the concealed weapon law. I look forward to ensuring that everyone in the 85th House District knows where I stand on all issues."



## Billie Britt files for Register of Deeds Office

Lumberton, NC--Billie Britt, former Robeson County Commissioner and Chairman of the Board, on January 2, 1996, filed for Register of Deeds in the May Democratic Primary. Ms. Britt cited her proven leadership and demonstrated ability to work with all people through out the county and state.

Britt state: "I am well qualified to work for the people of Robeson and maintain the integrity of their records entrusted to the Register of Deeds' office. As Commissioner I worked with other Commissioners and staff to ensure the safe keeping of the peoples' records by installing new technology, computers etc. at the Register of Deeds Office. My background and experiences give me a view from business' and government's perspectives, having worked in private enterprise and in County Government."

Ms. Britt said, "The Office of Register of Deeds is not about politics. It exists for only one purpose--service to the people. I have spent much of my lifetime in service to people. My work for the county, as your commissioner is well-known, working long hours to assist people and meet their needs, and advocating for Robeson. The people of Robeson have perhaps had a better Commissioner, but none ever loved this county more or worked harder for Robeson County."

Ms. Britt resides at 2901 Meadow Road, Lumberton, with her husband, William G. (Bill) Hardin. She currently serves on Pembroke State University's Foundation Board as Chairman of the Membership Development Committee.

## Service members Honored By Korean Business Organization

Seoul (USFK), Republic of Korea--Brien K. Chavis and Ty Hunt of Pembroke, NC was among 450 US servicemembers who attended the Korean-American Friendship Association Year-end and Thanksgiving Party at the Shilla Hotel in downtown Seoul on November 22. The party is an annual event for servicemembers stationed in remote areas throughout the peninsula.

Chavis is a Specialist in the Army. He works as a personnel clerk and driver with Headquarters Company, 2nd Infantry Division. Hunt is a Senior Airman in the Air Force. He works as a communications operator with 303 Intelligence Squadron. "I have enjoyed my two-year tour. I'll miss Korea when I go home in April," he said.

The Korean-American Friendship Association was established in 1976 by the Korean Chamber of Commerce and Industry's member companies to strengthen bonds of friendship and show appreciation to US forces personnel for their contributions to peace and freedom in Korea.



## Robert Deese files for re-election to District 4 Seat on Board of Education



Robert Deese of Route 3, Maxton has filed for re-election to the Board of Education of the Public Schools of Robeson County, District 4. District 4 includes Prospect, Oxendine, Philadelphia, and Burnt Swamp Precincts, as well as portions of precincts 1 and 2 in Red Springs and a portion of North Pembroke Precinct.

Deese is a graduate of Pembroke State University and is married to the former Carolyn Bullard of the Prospect community. They reside in the Prospect community with

their four children. They are active members of Prospect United Methodist Church.

Deese released the following statement: "When I filed for a seat on the consolidated board of education in 1992, I was very concerned about the quality of education in the county, the high drop out rate, high teen pregnancy and adult illiteracy in the county. During the past four years as a member of the board of education, I have been involved in some hard decisions relative to improving the quality of education in the county. We have worked hard and diligently to lower the drop out rate as well as improve the illiteracy in our county. Progress, as always has been slow but it has come. Much improvement has been seen in the past four year. Many of our schools are now state accredited and we have succeeded in reaching our priorities to keep the State of North Carolina from taking over our school system. I am proud of these accomplishments."

"It has not always been easy or popular to be a part of the tough

decisions made by our board of education. The end result, of course, has been an overall improvement in areas where we showed weakness. I am privileged to have been a part of the progress made thus far.

"I offer myself for re-election with the same commitment I made in the past. If re-elected, I will continue to make decisions with the best interests of students at heart. There is no more important reason for any one to serve on the board of education. My commitment is to boys and girls who attend the Public Schools of Robeson County. I am not ashamed of my record as a member of the board of education and if re-elected, I will continue to be active, concerned and dedicated to improving the quality of education."

Deese is employed as Director of Industrial Commercial and Community Development at Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, Red Springs, NC.



Shown left to right: Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings; Officer Sebastian Veneziano; Larry Roberts, Pembroke Chief of Police; and Mitchell "Bosco" Locklear, Public Housing Drug Elimination Coordinator.

## Activities at Pembroke Housing Authority

Effective January 1, 1996, the Pembroke Housing Authority and Pembroke Police Department officially opened a police substation in Strickland Heights. This substation is part of the Drug Elimination Grant received from the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD).

"With the substation, we aim to build safer neighborhoods, completely absent of drugs and drug-related crime. The community policing program will nurture better relationships between the Authority, residents, and police. Those programs identified for immediate implementation include additional police foot patrols and registration of residents' vehicles designed to detect possible drug dealers' vehicles," says Mitchell "Bosco" Locklear, the Public Housing Drug Elimination Coordinator.

According to Locklear, Officer Sebastian Veneziano, of the Pembroke Police Department, has been designated as the Community Resources Officer to be housed within the substation. Officer Veneziano has already received valuable information while taking surveys among the residents that will provide useful prevention tips.

The Drug Elimination Grant funded programs for after school activities designed to initiate drug prevention measures with the youth. According to Locklear, these

programs are housed within the Maynor Manor community building. Locklear asks that all residents involve their youth in at least one program per week.

December was a busy month for the Helping Hands 4-H Club, located within the Pembroke Housing Authority. These youth, along with the 4-H mascot, participated in the annual Christmas parade held here in Pembroke, NC. The youth helped distribute forty-four Christmas food baskets through the Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. basket drive. Locklear would like to thank LRDA for their community support within the Authority's developments. For their efforts, the youth participated in a pizza party held at the Maynor Manor building.

The Cultural Program, funded through the Youth Sports Grant, involved the youth by delivering pies to the elderly, compliments of Daniel's Bakery. "Traditionally, Christmas represents a time of giving. However, our youth took that a step farther this year by visiting and helping the elderly, a tradition passed down by our ancestors," says Locklear. Accordingly, several of the elderly residents commented that the children were a blessing sent from God. Locklear would like to thank Daniel's Bakery for their generous contribution.



## Oxendine-Mangum receives Presidential appointment

Betty Oxendine-Mangum, long time educator with the State of North Carolina, has been appointed by President Bill Clinton to serve on the Advisory Committee of the John F. Kennedy Performing Arts Center, Washington, DC.

Oxendine-Mangum has served with the Department of Public Instruction. She is the daughter of the late Dr. Clifton Oxendine, long time professor of Pembroke State University.

Oxendine-Mangum said that she was honored to be chosen for

the prestigious appointment. "I have always been politically active and have remembered the advice of my father relative to how we should treat each other. I feel that this appointment is a great opportunity and it pleases me that I am the only Native American serving in this capacity."