

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Henry T. Locklear Day Honors Decorated Lumbee Veteran

by Tom Squier

Special to Carolina Indian Voice

On November 8, the Veterans Day weekend was opened at South Hoke Elementary School with a ceremony honoring Henry T. Locklear, an alumnus of the school and the most highly decorated Lumbee veteran of Vietnam. Locklear attended the school when it was one of three Indian Schools in the Hoke County School System and was called Hawkeye School. First Sergeant, retired, Locklear said he knew he wanted to be a soldier shortly before graduating following a field trip to Fort Bragg. "There were no other jobs around here for us in 1963. Dr. Martin Luther King hadn't freed us (minorities) then. I went in for financial reasons and for a career. It was about the only thing to do," Locklear remembers.

"My principal, Mr. Hughes (Oxendine) took us to Fort Bragg. I told him I wanted to be a paratrooper and he told me I was too small. This mentally motivated me to accept this challenge," said Locklear. He joined the Army in September of 1963, shortly after graduating from Hawkeye High School. Today, that school has a new name, and Locklear's portrait and a plaque in his honor hang in the school's entrance.

The keynote speaker for the ceremony was retired Major General Richard E. Davis who now lives in Knoxville, Tennessee and came to praise Locklear for his bravery and his dependability. Davis said: "To-

day is extremely important. I especially congratulate the Hoke County School Board for recognizing the patriotism and heroism of Henry Locklear." When Locklear entered the Army's 101st Airborne Division, General Davis was his lieutenant. Later, they went to Vietnam together where they spent many nights together in the same foxhole because Davis was the commander and Locklear was his radio communicator. "He became a hero. He became a great leader because he has character. That character was built right here. The lesson is that character counts." He told the children assembled there that "You too can be a hero similar to Henry if you work real hard."

Henry T. Locklear's decorations and awards include the Combat Infantry Badge, Master Parachute Badge, National Defense Service Medal, four Good Conduct Medals, the Expert Infantry Badge, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry, two Bronze Stars for valor and two Silver Stars, five Vietnam Service Medals, a Vietnam Campaign Ribbon, two Army Commendation medals and a Meritorious Service Medal as well as the Jungle Expert School badge, Pathfinder award and Distinguished Trooper Award. Chairperson of the Hoke County Commissioners, L.E. McLaughlin said: "Because of men like Henry T. Locklear, we have freedom today."

Locklear's sister Wanda Caulder

sang "You Are the Wind Beneath My Wings" to Henry and Caulder said that Henry was always her hero as a child, filling the role of father for her and her brothers, taking them to school and taking responsibilities like an adult. She was not abt surprised at his success. Today Locklear operates his own business and unlike many Vietnam Veterans, he can still wear his old uniform. He does that regularly as an Executive Officer of the Robeson County Honor Guard which provides honors at the funerals of veterans in Robeson, Hoke and other surrounding counties. Jokingly, Henry Locklear started his speech by saying: "When I graduated, I was five-foot-six and weighed a hundred and twenty-five pounds. Today, I am five-foot-six and weigh two hundred (an exaggeration). Life's been good!" he declared. He dedicated his award to his mother and tearfully continued, "I'm giving a copy of this award proclamation back to the school," he remarked, "because I never take nothing I can't give back."

Locklear addressed the students and told them there were three things he wanted them to always remember and promise to keep. "First, learn to read. You can do anything and go anywhere if you learn to read." He made the children promise to "read one book for Henry." Second, he said, "Never, ever smoke cigarettes...or anything else. Don't smoke dope and don't drink beer. Beer, whiskey and dope will take your courage away."

The third thing Henry Locklear asked of the students was to "Never call a person a dirty name because of their color. You know what kind of names I'm talking about, he said. "Don't ever call a person a racial name. It hurts and it takes away from your dignity too." HE also said that "if you ever get knocked down in life get back up. Get back up, knock the dirt off and get going again." He turned to the teachers present and reminded them how harsh discipline was in school when he was growing up and that times had changed. "Educators, you have to have persuasive leadership today because they took all your authority away."

Today, Henry T. Locklear is one of the most respect members of his community and is almost embarrassed to speak about his medals. He would rather be acting as scoutmaster or honoring other veterans. The Certificate of Honor for Heroism and Leadership from the County Commissioners reads in part: "WHEREAS, he has earned the admiration and high regard of those with whom he has come in contact and the affection of his fellow man (who are proud to call him 'friend' or 'pal') regardless of race, color, or creed. BE IT RESOLVED that this certificate of honor is issued in recognition of the superb leadership and heroism of Henry Thurmond Locklear."



Henry T. Locklear is shown with his sister, Wanda Caulder singing to him during Henry T. Locklear Day at South Hoke School in Hoke County. The event was held Friday, November 8. (Photo by Tom Squier)



Seen above are members of the Native American Honor Guard. They recently performed at the Democratic Rally at the Bill Sapp Recreation Center in Lumberton. Left to right are Greg Cummings, Jimmy Goins and Rudy Hammonds. All three men are Veterans of the Vietnam War.



### INDIAN HERITAGE MONTH IN NORTH CAROLINA

Governor James B. Hunt Jr. has proclaimed November as Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina. Activities have been planned to call attention to the more than 10,000-year history of North Carolina Indians, who today comprise the largest American Indian population of any state east of the Mississippi. The N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, the only state government agency charged specifically with advocating for the rights and needs of the state's 80,155 Indian citizens, is pleased to present the following list of 1996 Indian Heritage Month activities.

#### Indian Heritage Month in North Carolina November 1996

##### Major Activities

November 1 - December 1, 1996

"SCATTERED FEATHERS," Photography Collection of Roger Manley Metrolina Native American Association, Charlotte

November 1 - 30, 1996

"Eastern Native Traditions: Past and Present," An Art Exhibition by Karen Harley Guilford Native American Art Gallery Guilford Native American Association, Greensboro

November 14, 1996

"Native American Issues in Medicine" ECU School of Medicine, Greenville Darlene Jacobs, (919) 733-5998

November 15-16, 1996

Sixth Annual Native American Wild Game Festival N.C. Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke (910) 521-2433

November 16, 1996

Native American Gathering Chesapeake Central Library Chesapeake, Va. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

November 16, 1996

Native American Honoring Ceremony Capitol Grounds, Raleigh, 3 p.m. N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs (919) 733-5998

November 16, 1996

Native American Feast Pre-registration required. Fee: \$6, Children 6 - 12 years old; \$15, Adults; and Free, 5 and under 3:30 - 8 p.m. N.C. Museum of History

November 16, 1996

Thanksgiving Banquet, 6 p.m. Raleigh. Location to be announced Society of Native American Culture, NCSU, Lia Myott, (919) 832-5229

November 20, 1996

"Images From the Past: A Closer View of Native American Heritage in North Carolina" Billy Oliver, Ph.D., Archaeologist and Laboratory Supervisor for the Office of State Archaeology 1:15 - 2:45 p.m. NCSU, McKimmon Center, Raleigh

November 20-22, 1996

Open House 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Cultural art displays, powwow films Waccamaw-Siouan Development Association, Bolton

November 24, 1996

Native American Church Service, 11 a.m. Winton Meherrin Indian Tribe

December 4, 1996

"Indian Scientist" Freda-Porter Locklear, Ph.D., Consultant to the American Indian Science and Engineering Society 1:15 - 2:45 p.m. NCSU, McKimmon Center, Raleigh December 11, 1996

"Religious Beliefs, History and Influence"

Jim Chavis, Vice President, Richmond Technical Community College 1:15 - 2:45 p.m. NCSU, McKimmon Center, Raleigh December 14, 1996

Annual Tribal Christmas Open House N.C. Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke (910) 521-2433

### North Carolina Indian Attractions

Enjoy these and other North Carolina Native American attractions, many of which are open throughout the year:

**Charlotte Nature Museum, Charlotte.** Study collection of prehistoric and historic Indian materials. Indian studies programs available.

**Cherokee Indian Reservation (Qualla Boundary).** Home of the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians. Largest community is Cherokee, with Museum of Cherokee Indian, Occanaluftee Indian Village, "Unto These Hills" outdoor drama (late June - late August), crafts shops, trout fishing.

**Greensboro Historical Museum, Greensboro.** Extensive displays of Indian, pioneer and war relics.

**Guilford Native Art Gallery, Greensboro.** A fine art gallery exhibiting and selling Native American art.

**North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke.** Featuring cultural activities and recreational facilities.

**North Carolina Museum of History, Raleigh.** Special exhibits, including original Carolina Charter document, trace North Carolina's history from its beginnings in the 16th century. Copies of John White's sketches, the earliest illustrations of the land of North Carolina and its inhabitants.

## Native American Wild Game Festival this Weekend

This weekend, experience elements of a life-style close to the earth as the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center presents the 6th annual Native American Wild Game Festival, to be held November 15-16 on the Cultural Center grounds near Pembroke. The construction of traditional Native American arts and crafts will be demonstrated, including pottery, basket making and hide tanning. Ancient hunting weapons and roots will be displayed and demonstrated, and traditional storytellers will be relating some of the timeless stories that have been passed down for generations.

Some of the presenters included John "Blackfeather" Jeffries, a respected elder of the Ocanecechi Band of the Saponi Nation. Jeffries will be giving a demonstration on traditional methods of bow and arrow construction and use.

Bill and Susie Gingras will provide instruction in outdoor survival techniques and hide tanning. The couple, who are from the Abenaki

and Cherokee people, have been living and teaching traditional life-styles for a number of years.

Barbara Locklear of Charlotte will be on hand for traditional storytelling and Lumbee elder Earl Carter will discuss tribal legends and history.

Other demonstrators include Carl and Sharon McCoy (woodcarving and beadwork); Mary Bell (basket weaving); Jim and Betty Pierce (Blowgun, wild game foods, jewelry), and others.

Foods to be sold at the event include venison hash, Indian frybread, buffalo burgers, corn, sweet potatoes, and much more. Admission is free and campers are welcome. For more information call 910-521-2433.

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center is located near Highway 74 and Highway 710, at I Recreation Center Road (State Road 1354) at the site of the "Strike at the Wind" outdoor drama.

The Sixth Annual Wild Game Festival is supported by a grant from the North Carolina Arts Council.

### Rep. Cummings to Attend Education Conference



FRANCES M. CUMMINGS

Lumberton, NC - State Representative Frances M. Cummings, an education committee member of the National Conference of State Legislatures, will represent the NC House of Representatives at a working conference: Preparing for the 1997 Legislative Session: Issues for State Education Leaders in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The education conference is sponsored by the State Education Improvement Partnership and scheduled for November 17-21, 1996.

Rep. Cummings said, "The Conference will focus on three areas likely to dominate state legislative education agendas: accountability,

finance, and governance. Conference presentations will highlight what some states are doing in these areas and provide opportunities for participants to talk about what is really working. National experts and colleagues from around the country will examine current practices and discuss possible strategies for their states, Rep. Cummings said.

Rep. Frances M. Cummings said she is looking forward to gaining a wealth of information to be shared with educational leaders across the state.



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