

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Michael Holmes, Saddletree native, becomes first Lumbee Navy Admiral



Jason, is a student at the Naval Academy Preparatory School in Newport, Rhode Island.

A native of the Saddletree community near Lumberton, Captain Holmes is the first Lumbee Indian to attain flag status in the U.S. Military. Flag rank carries the title of admiral in the Navy and Coast Guard and general in all other military branches. Michael graduated from Magnolia High School in 1968 and enrolled at Pembroke State University. With a major in mathematics, he completed his student teaching requirements in the math department at Prospect High School and graduated from PSU in 1972. He received his Naval Officer commission in December, 1973. One year later Michael earned his "Wings of Gold" as a Navy pilot.

As a young man in high school and college, Michael's decision to choose a military path may have been predictable. Both his father and a close uncle, Mr. Carl E. Bell (deceased) proudly served in the Army during World War II; his brother-in-law, Gervais Oxendine, completed a successful tour as a weapons officer aboard the aircraft carrier, USS Forrestal during the height of the Vietnam War; and Rep. Ron Sutton and a retired Navy Commander has been a close family friend for many years.

After earning his wings, Michael's first operational assignment was in Patrol Squadron 24 (VP-24), Jacksonville, Florida. There he qualified as aircraft commander flying the P-3C Orion turbo-prop aircraft used in anti-submarine warfare. While in VP-24, Michael was recognized as the "best" junior officer and ranked number one against his peers. He continued to hone his knowledge and skills in the P-3C by becoming an instructor

pilot in Patrol Squadron 30. Today, this Squadron is the largest in the Navy.

Next, Captain Holmes was selected for the Personnel exchange Program and assigned as a Foreign Exchange Pilot with the 415th Squadron at Greenwood Nova Scotia, Canada. During this tour, he was promoted to Lieutenant Commander. After three tours in operation squadrons, Michael was assigned to the aircraft carrier, USS America during which time he established an outstanding record as the Ship's Communications Officer. After leaving the USS America, he returned to flying and served as the department Head in patrol Squadron 10 in Brunswick, Maine. In 1988 Captain Holmes was promoted to Senior Pilot Evaluator for all east coast P-3 Squadrons. His next promotion to Commander of Squadron VP-24 continued to refine his military-leadership skills, and while serving as the senior officer of VP-24, the Squadron received many commendations on each deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

Upon leaving Maine, Captain Holmes' next assignment took him and his family to Washington where he served as the Director of the Office of Promotions, Appointments, and Enlisted Advancements in the Bureau of Naval Personnel. He later served as the Congressional Liaison Officer for the Secretary of the Navy working out of the Pentagon. Toward the end of his Washington tour, Michael was promoted to Captain and returned for a third tour to Squadron VP-30 as its commanding officer. With over 1200 personnel and 29 aircraft, the Squadron reached two significant milestones under the com-

mand of captain Holmes: 1) clocking in 323,514 flying hours and 2) establishing a 33-year record of accident-free flying.

Captain Holmes' military awards include the Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), Navy Commendation Medal (2 awards), Meritorious Unit Commendations (2 awards), the Battle "E" Award, Overseas Deployment Award, Sea Service Deployment Award, the National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), and the Expert Rifle Award. In 1966, the UNC-Pembroke Alumni Association named him Outstanding Alumnus, an honor he considers one of his most treasured. During his Navy career, Captain Holmes has accumulated over 5700 pilot hours in various model aircraft.

Even though Michael's father, Mr., Normie Holmes, passed away one month shy of the promotion announcement, Michael stated, "I am glad that my father lived long enough for me to tell him that my name had made the Admiral Selection List." Michael went on to describe the pride he heard in his dad's voice as he shared the good news in a phone conversation last April.

Michael's mother, Mrs. Aileen Bell Holmes, is a life-long resident of the Saddletree community; a retired business owner; community leader; and former member of the Robeson County School Board. Captain Holmes' siblings include: Mrs. Gervais Oxendine (Olivia) of South Pine; Mrs. Mike Ransom (Darlene) of Fayetteville; and Edward Holmes, also a career Navyman, Orange Park, Florida. Mrs. Holmes and daughter, Olivia, will fly to Pearl Harbor to attend the Admiral's Change of Command Ceremony and other related Navy festivities.

History was made for Robeson County when Captain Michael L. Holmes was selected for Rear Admiral in the United States Navy. Acting for President Clinton, the Secretary of Defense in a Pentagon news release officially announced the promotion of Captain Holmes in mid-August. In a formal Change of Com-

mand ceremony scheduled to take place on November 21, 1997 at Pearl Harbor, Honolulu, Hawaii, Captain Holmes will assume command for the Patrol Wings, U.S. Pacific Fleet. Pearl Harbor will also be the official residence of Captain Holmes, his wife, Viola, and their sons, Jared and Justin. The couple's oldest son, Michael

## Dr. Ruth Woods Key Note Speaker at Women's Conference

Dr. Ruth Woods of Pembroke opened the conference of the Women's Fund of North Carolina on Wednesday, October 20, at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. Following a video welcome and overview by Tipper Gore, Dr. Woods was the keynote speaker for the Conference theme, "Shortchanging Girls, Shortchanging North Carolina," a variation of published studies and research by the American Association of University Women.

Dr. Woods represented Fayetteville State University as Director of PROJECT REAP (Recruitment of Educators for Advancement in the Profession), a partnership project with the Z. Smith Reynolds foundation. Following Dr. Woods' presentation, four panelists including Gig Anders, Feature Editor of the Raleigh News and Observer; Linda Harrill, President of Communities in Schools of North Carolina in Raleigh; Barbara Johnson, Vice President of Finance and Administration for Mars Hill College in Mars Hill

and Cosette Serabjit-Singh, Director of Strategic Science & Technology, Division of Bioanalysis & Drug Metabolism for Glaxo Wellcome, Research Triangle Park, responded and fielded questions from the audience.

The Conference convened by the Women's Fund of North Carolina component fund of the North Carolina Community Foundation, Inc. and co-sponsored with the Mary Norris Preyer Fund, North Carolina Equity, the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, Glaxo Wellcome, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and Spring. Other collaborators included G-Wis Foundation, Meredith College, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association.

Other conference speakers included Jane Brody, nationally syndicated columnist for the New York Times, Secretary Betty Ray McCain

of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources; Dr. Carolyn

## Rep. Sutton named by Governor Hunt to advise on Juvenile Crime

Representative Ronnie Sutton, State House of Representatives, Robeson County, of Pembroke, was named to the Juvenile Code Advisory Group by Governor Jim Hunt. Gov. Hunt has appointed 72 North Carolinians with strong backgrounds in juvenile crime issues to assist the work of his newly-formed Commission on Juvenile Crime and Justice.

"These people are on the front lines every day dealing with the struggles facing our youth, our court systems and our crime prevention efforts," Hunt said. "I am looking to them to help us find solutions."

The appointees have expertise in a variety of related fields, including juvenile court, crime prevention, state government, child and advocacy and law enforcement. They will be broken down into four advisory groups with each tackling a specific issue that Hunt has asked the Juvenile Crime and Justice Commission to focus on juvenile code, sentencing, prevention and agency structure.

Hunt charged his new Commission in September with developing a

comprehensive plan to fight juvenile crime in North Carolina. The Commission has already convened meetings and public hearings in Charlotte, Fayetteville and Raleigh.

Hunt and Commission members will spend the next few months traveling the state talking with counselors, law enforcement, parents, professionals, juvenile offenders--anyone who has a stake in this issue. The 72 advisory group members will do the same, and report their findings to the Commission after the first of the year, which will then make a final recommendation to the Governor.

Hunt has made fighting juvenile crime a top priority of his crime-fighting agenda.

During his 1996 campaign, Hunt proposed tougher punishment for juvenile offenders, reforming the juvenile justice system and stepping up prevention efforts with more community-based initiatives like Support Our Students (SOS), the Governor's after school initiative for at-risk youngsters.

## News From Pembroke VFW Post #2843

VFW Post #2843 held its monthly meeting Monday evening at the Post Headquarters. Shortly after 7:00 p.m. the food was blessed by Post Chaplain Archie Oxendine. A very tasty barbecue meal was served with french fries, cole slaw, baked beans, loaf bread, rolls and hush puppies. The dessert consisted of pecan pie, potato pie, iced cake, tea and coffee.

The Joint Meeting was called to order by Post Commander Harold Hunt following the meal. Sergeant at Arms Mr. Freddie Chavis was asked to unstrap the Post Charter in honor of the passing of Post Member Dr. Gerald Maynor. Roll call was by Post Quartermaster Mr. Ardell Jacobs of the deceased brother. Prayer was offered by Chaplain Archie Oxendine for the same. The draping of the Post Charter followed after a minute of silence.

The post welcomed member Rep. Ron Sutton back. He gave a short report of State Legislative activities. Mr. Bobby Dean Locklear who is director of Hospice of Pemberton gave a lengthy report on Hospice and who is entitled to receive different services. You can call 910-521-5550 for more information.

N.C. State Junior Vice Commander Mr. Art Shull handed out a pre registration brochure from the Department of Veterans Affairs. He gave a talk about what he and other officers are doing to help the American Veteran. You should take all necessary papers to the VA Hospital in Fayetteville so they can be put on record. This will save you a lot of time when you have to go there for a visit to see a doctor. You will get a periodic call from the VA checking to see if you have had any change in your health condition. This report should coincide with a report hopefully appearing in the Carolina Indian Voice

concerning mistreatment of patients. The hot line number to call is 1-800-VFW1899.

The Joint Meeting closed with prayer by the Auxiliary Chaplain. At 8:30 p.m. the closed meeting was called to order. Officers position and names were called. A report of last meeting was read by Post Adjutant Mr. James B. Locklear. Two member transfers were accepted by the Post.

Quartermaster report was given by Quartermaster Ardell Jacobs.

Prayer for the children's national home was by Post Chaplain Archie Oxendine.

Hospital Chaplain George Locklear reported the next gospel singing

at the VA Hospital will be Nov. 2nd at 3 p.m.

The Voice of Democracy report was given by Chaplain Archie Oxendine. The reading of essays will be held the second Sunday in December.

The Veterans Day Parade is on schedule as reported by Mr. Gregory Cummings to Mr. Bobby D. Locklear. There will be more in the newspaper about it. The Post Fish Fry and chicken plate sale will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Post Headquarters located on Union Chapel Road. Plates are \$5 each (eat in or take out). Please do not park on the road. Parking inside the gate only. Some one will be on hand directing traffic.

A special meeting for the food service workers will be held on November 3rd at 6 p.m. called by Mr. L.A. Maynor. Please come and help plan for the plate sale. A short post meeting will be held Nov. 10th at 7 p.m. (No meal served).

The Lumbees now have their first U.S. Navy Admiral (Hurrh). Michael Holmes is in the process of receiving his two stars and will be commanding Flt. Airwings Pacific in Hawaii.

L.A. Maynor reported on four county, then the meeting adjourned.

Ervin Jacobs  
Post Surgeon

## The Kingston Trio's 40th Anniversary Tour

The 40th Anniversary Tour of The Kingston Trio will be presented on Monday, November 3 at 8:00 p.m. at the Givens Performing Arts Center on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Tickets are \$16, \$14 and \$6 for children and students. For reservations or information call the GPAC Box Office at (910) 521-6361 or 1-800-367-0778.

## Volunteers needed on Jubilee House

The Jubilee House Community Center is beginning

The Jubilee House program is a non-profit Christian ministry promoting homeownership for the working family with low incomes. This is not a give away program. It is a program that helps families purchase a home who cannot qualify for a conventional loan. This program builds a house of approximately 1200 square feet and usually 3 bedrooms, 1 bath. The house is sold to the qualifying family at no interest, and no profit, making the payments affordable for families who could never own their home otherwise.

This program is made possible by donations from individual churches, clubs and organizations, businesses, cost cuts in materials and labor, volunteer labor, workteams, and donations of building lots. The family selected to buy the house is asked to work on the house. They are also encouraged to work on the future Jubilee Homes.

Volunteers are needed in the Pembroke area to help construct this ninth Jubilee home to be built in Robeson County. If you are willing to help in any way, please call the Robeson County Church and Community Center and tell them you are interested in working on the Jubilee House to be built in Pembroke. The phone number is 738-5204.

## SOS to Host Fall Festival

The Support Our Students after-school program at Pembroke Middle School will host a "Fall Festival" on Saturday, November 8 from 8 am until 3 pm. This event will be held at PMS, located on the corner of Deep Branch and Normal Roads in Pembroke. Activities will include rummage and arts & crafts sales, games, food, entertainment, raffles, and much more. The public is invited to attend. For more information, please call 521-0071.

## Pageant to be held at St. Pauls

CGS Productions presents the 1997 Miss Christmas Spirit Beauty Pageant December 6, 1997 at the St. Pauls Middle School Auditorium in St. Pauls, NC. Admission is \$5.00. Pageant time starts at 4 pm for ages 6 months through 6 years and 7 pm for 7 years and older. Proceeds to benefit the Falcon Children's Home.

## Concert Planned at Flora Macdonald

The Red Springs Arts Council will sponsor a concert/dance featuring the Gregg Gelb Swing Band on Saturday, November 1st, from 8-11 p.m., at the Flora Macdonald Academy. Enjoy the concert or dance the night away on a large wooden dance floor. Can't dance? Don't let that stop you! Professional swing dance instruction at no charge will be provided during the first hour. Tickets are \$5 and will be available at the door. For information call 843-3931 or 843-2427.

## Dedication Service planned for Friendship Baptist for new sanctuary

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church will hold dedication services for their new sanctuary on Sunday, November 2, beginning at 10 a.m. The pastor, Rev. Coolidge M. Cummings, and the congregation, extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

## Miss Christmas Spirit Beauty Pageant to be held

CGS Productions is now accepting applications for the 1997 Miss Christmas Spirit Beauty Pageant to be held December 6, 1997 at the St. Pauls Middle School Auditorium in St. Pauls. Ages 6 months and up for females and 6 months through 6 years for males are eligible to compete. Awards includes cash, tiaras, crowns, sashes, trophies, and gift bags. Deadline for application is November 1, 1997. Proceeds to benefit the Falcon Children's Home. For applications call (910) 865-5794.

