

Reader says: "No Recognition No Glory"

This letter you are now reading was written for two reasons. The first was because of the respect that I have for my fellow veterans. The second is a request for grass roots support for the action I am about to take.

My name is Dennis Michael Wilkins. I am Lumbee Indian from Pembroke, NC. For years now I have sat on the sidelines and watched, waited, and hoped, yes and even prayed that the politicians, lawyers, and Indian chiefs would somehow, some way, convince this Federal Government of yours to grant federal recognition to the Lumbee tribe.

I'm not looking for a handout, and believe it or not, I don't gamble. I just feel it's time for the double standard to end and the respect to begin.

Here is a couple of examples of what I'm talking about. When my brother Craig finished his Master's degree, he joined the Indian Health Service as an "Indian," but when the time came for his transfer to another post, he was knocked out of the position by a quote unquote "real Indian," (meaning federally recognized.)

The second example dealt with the Department of the Interior. About six years ago, I was given the opportunity to be listed in the National directory of Native American artists as an "Indian Artist," but when I applied for an Eagle feather permit from the same department, I was told that I had to be from a federally recognized tribe.

Well, I don't know about anyone else, but I'm sick and tired of someone else deciding whether or not I'm In-

dian. I'm also tired of sitting on the sidelines waiting on someone else deciding whether or not I'm Indian. I'm also tired of sitting on the sidelines waiting on someone else to get the federal government to recognize our people.

So here's my plan that I hope becomes our grass roots plan.

The International symbol of distress for this country is to fly an American flag upside down. So there you have it. From the time this letter is published until we are federally recognized, I plan to fly my flag upside down with one day being an exception, that day being Veteran's Day out of respect for all warriors -- Red, Black, White, Brown, or Yellow -- who were and still are willing to give their lives for this Great Country that my family has called home for thousands of years.

One more thing before I go out and hang my flag. When I ask for grass roots support, I'm not just asking for Indian supporters. I'm asking that anyone who understands what they have just read to support this cause.

Just imagine you are traveling from New York to Florida for July 4th. As you pass through Robeson County, all flags are upside down.

I truly believe that with enough support, this could have as big an impact as any petition thus far.

Sincerely, D. Michael Wilkins
P.S. I would like to thank everyone over the years who have helped with our struggle for federal recognition.

No Recognition
No Glory ----- This is our cry.



Happy Birthday Daddy Chacy V. Maynor

December 14, 1919 - March 14, 1992

THE OVERHAUL PREACHER

There once was an overhaul preacher, with a song book in his hand. He traveled all over Robeson County and sang of "the Promised Land." He loved to sing "Amazing Grace" in the old time way. He'd sing "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms" and that would really make his day.

In November of 1991 the Preacher became real sick. The Devil tried to play his hand, "but GOD took over quick!"

Within 90 days and "the touch of the Master Hands," he was behind the pulpit of First Baptist Church singing "Amazing Grace" once again.

The preacher has gone to heaven for his work on Earth is done. He is teaching the Angels how to sing "Amazing Grace." His son Douglas is on the keyboard and his son-in-law Clinton and Dixie are singing in the choir.

Until I get to heaven Pa, sing "Amazing Grace" for me. I once was lost but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Thank you for being the "best friend" a daughter could have. You were there for me when my own mother didn't even want me. For the 38 years that we knew each other, "I truly was Blessed"

Your daughter Vinita

Has anyone told you today that they love you, well I do, they love you today? Well, I do!

Pembroke Kiwanis

The Annual Christmas party was held Tuesday evening at the Jade Garden Restaurant. The highlight of the evening was the solo singing of Miss Charley Lowry, Junior Miss Lumbee. She is a student at Pembroke Middle School. She sang "I Know the Maker of the World," and "The Greatest Love of All." Junior Miss Lumbee has a fine soprano voice and very good stage presence.

Presiding-Brian Brooks; Invocation- Albert Hunt; Program Chairman-Ed Teets; Reporter-Ken Johnson.

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stanley Knick

Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

In our continuing effort to place the Lumbee in a broad context, we have been attempting to reconstruct the past. In the last two weeks we have been imagining the life which Lumbee ancestors must have lived -- the life of a village; the life of *pimddaziwin* [A possible reconstruction of an Eastern Siouan (Catawba/Cheraw) version of the concept of *pimddaziwin* is *yawahraha karee*, suggested by Wes Taukchiray.] Helped by evidence from similar Indian cultures, we can only imagine that life of the distant past because the modern world in which most of us live is so completely different from the Woodland culture of the Lumbee ancestors. We have seen that the life of *pimddaziwin* was the balanced life, the good life.

Imagine again your village. Here is the woman who is your best storyteller. She knows all the old stories, the ones that are told in the fields as the women plant their beans and squash, as they grind their corn into flour. She knows the stories of Creation, of how things came to be the way they are among the people. She knows stories which have come from other villages, too -- of great feats in

battle, of ball games played by the ancient ones, of why the possum has no hair on its tail. She knows these things because her aunt knew them, and her great-grandfather before that. And when it is the middle of winter and the night is long and sometimes the snow is on the lodges, everyone will gather in the big lodge and she will entertain and delight them with her stories. And even her stories of *pimddaziwin* help to keep the balance.

Even that time when your uncle wandered off and got lost in the forest as a young boy, and was found by the hunting party from a far-away village and taken there to live among a people who spoke a different language, even there it was a life of *pimddaziwin*. For the people of that village also lived the balanced life, the good life, and they adopted him into the family and he became almost as one of them. And when he grew old enough he wondered about his own people -- your people -- and he left there and returned to your village and your family. Now he is the one who interprets your language into theirs, which is vital for the trade alliance which now exists between the two

villages. And when a threat of war arose from a third and distant people, it was he who made strong the bond between your village and the people of his adopted village. In this way the threat of war was averted, because when the two villages allied they were too strong for the third and distant people to defeat. And his ability to interpret from one language to another also helps to maintain the balance.

And all throughout your village there are people like these. This one makes the finest stone tools. This one grows the biggest sunflowers. This one makes the tastiest venison stew. The people of your village and their ancestors have been living in this forest, beside this river, for more generations than anyone can remember, since the mythical long ago time. And living this *pimddaziwin*, this *yawahraha karee*, is the only life anyone has ever known.

In the next segment, we will continue to imagine *pimddaziwin* in our efforts to reconstruct the past. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Funding Cuts May Face Public Housing

Substantial reductions in Modernization and Public Housing Operating Funds has reportedly been recommended by the White House Budget Office for the Federal Fiscal year of 1999. It is said that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has recommended \$2.8 Billion for the Public Housing Operating Fund which reflects a loss of \$100 Million compared from this year.

With continuous costs, Public Housing Authorities across the nation are facing a critical crisis. Dwellings and structures, in many cases, are deteriorating due to the lack of funds needed for necessary repairs and pre-

ventative maintenance.

Public Housing Authorities are already hurting financially and continued deeper cuts will undoubtedly accelerate their slow death.

The need of Public Housing is critical and important to the citizens of our Nation. We must not let these valuable assets become demolition material.

Speak to your local, State, and Federal leaders. Ask them to support Public Housing and increases in funding in lieu of decrease.

Merry Christmas to you all!!!
John "Tall Bird" Marshall,
Lumbee

Attention Readers

Do you have something going on in your family such as a Wedding, church homecoming, special events, or yard sale?

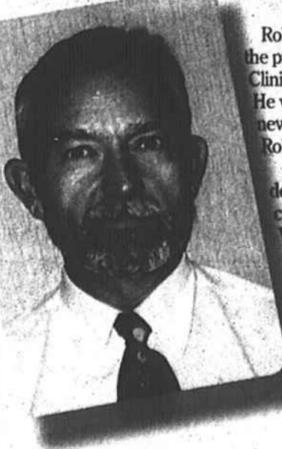
Why not contact us at The Carolina Indian Voice. We would be more than happy to put your article in the paper so that your friends and relatives will know what is going on?

Office: (910) 521-2826
Fax: (910) 521-1975

"No Room At The Inn" to be presented

Pembroke First Baptist Church will be presenting the Christmas play, "no Room At The Inn" on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 P.M. The pastor, Rev. Kent Chavis, and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

This Community Just Keeps Getting Healthier.



Robert R. Earnest, M.D.

Robert R. Earnest, M.D., has joined the practice of Lumberton Children's Clinic and the medical staff of SRMC. He will also be the lead physician at the new Children's Health Program at Robeson County Health Department.

Dr. Earnest earned his medical degree from Emory University and completed his residency at Vanderbilt University Hospital and the University of Virginia. He is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics and has been involved in implementing a community access to care program developed by the American Academy of Pediatrics, of which he is a Fellow.

We can all feel good about each new addition to the medical staff at Southeastern Regional Medical Center. Every physician brings years of education, specialized training and personal expertise to our highly diversified health care team--and to our community.

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to our newest doctor. With your arrival, there is a significant improvement in the general health of this community.



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In Loving Memory of Our Son "Brincy Cummings Jr."

Born Feb. 25, 1942
Died Dec. 20, 1983

It's been 14 years since you went away. I wonder why you could not stay. Your love you gave was more valuable than precious gold. The pain and grief we felt in our hearts, its so hard to think we had, its so hard to think we had to part. But left here in this life. There will be no other one such as you, our dear son.

Love and Miss You,
Mom, Sister, Brothers and Family

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