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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Burnice Blanks seeks District 3 seat on EMC Board of Directors on October 19

Burnice Blanks of the Magnolia Community announces his bid for a position on the Board of Directors of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperation (EMC), representing District 3. Blanks believes that his past experiences and accomplishments make him a strong candidate and more than qualified for the position at hand.

Blanks is the son of Norman and Jennie Blanks of the Magnolia community. He is a graduate of Magnolia High School and attended three years of school at Robeson Technical Institute (now Robeson Community College). His wife is Bonnie Locklear of Lumberton. They own and operate Blanks' Produce on Chicken Road in the rural area of Lumberton, NC.

Blanks has been a part of the farming community in Robeson County all of his life. For the past twenty years he has been a major produce farmer. In addition, Blanks serves on the Committee Board of the Farmers' Market, a position he has held for the past eight years. He has been affiliated with A & T University in Greensboro, NC for the past five years where he participates in experimental farming projects.

In addition to his rural farming activities, Blanks has served in the United States Army for seven years. While there his ranking/classification was Headquarters-Headquarters Battery and Third Core Artillery,

serving in Ft. Smith, Arkansas, Ft. Hood, Oklahoma, Ft. Jackson, SC, and Ft. Gordon, GA.

Blanks' varied experience includes fourteen years as an employee with Burlington Mills in St. Pauls, NC.

His civic and community activities include coaching little league baseball for ten years. Blanks attends Ten Mile Baptist Church where he is actively involved in the church community.

For the past two years, Blanks has sold tractors for Danny Pait of Evergreen, NC and has volunteered three years of 1,000 hours toward the local 4-H club and the Blue Ribbon Sweet Potato Contest in Tabor City.

Blanks feels very strongly about serving on the EMC Board of Directors and has a burning desire to do the best possible job for the EMC members. His contributions will definitely make him an asset to the EMC Board of Directors as well as its members and their communities.

Being a native of Robeson County, Blanks believes he has demonstrated a life of commitment and dedication to those around him and has always tried to extend a helping hand when a need arose. Most recently, following Hurricane Floyd, Blanks was busy helping members of the EMC and reaching the needs of the elderly and invalids in the area. Blanks learned early in life that a leader must lead

by example. This is one of the things that he has prided himself in doing throughout his life. The greatest fulfillment one can have, Blanks believes, is to see a need and meet it.

During his life time Blanks has established an impeccable track record of being a friend, neighbor and a community leader. His desire to serve on the EMC board, he stated, is an opportunity which will allow him to now move to another level of responsibility which he knows will entail greater decision making, management skills and ability. These are attributes that he has acquired throughout his life time by his vast experiences, both professionally and personally. These are the attributes Blanks says he will bring to the EMC board of directors. "My main focus and priority," Blanks said, "if elected to the EMC Board of Directors will be continued dedication and devotion to the community and the members who are served by the EMC."

Four members of the Board of Directors will be elected on October 19, 1999 at the annual meeting of the LREMC at the UNCP Givens Performing Arts Center beginning at 6 P.M. Blanks asks that the members of the EMC make a special effort to attend. "Please make Burnice Blanks one of the people you vote for," Blanks concluded.



Burnice Blanks



Dr. Charles Clark

Lumbee to be associated with Otometric Eye Care Center

Pembroke, NC-Dr. John L. Adams of Otometric Eye Care Center in Lumberton, NC announces the association of Dr. Charles L. Clark with the Center. Dr. Clark was previously employed by Dr. Adams before assuming the position of Chief Optometrist at Hour Eyes Doctors of Optometry in Springfield, Virginia.

In returning to Robeson County, Dr. Clark is fulfilling a life time dream of coming home. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry.

Dr. Clark is the son of Dennis and Linda Clark of the Union Chapel community of Robeson County. He is the grandson of Raymond "Spotted Turtle" Clark of Pembroke and Mrs. Stella O. Locklear of the Union Chapel community.

Robeson Health Care Corporation Celebrates Community Health Center Week in October

Robeson Health Care Corporation (RHCC) operates four (4) Community Health Centers in Robeson County: Julian T. Pierce Health Center in Pembroke, Maxton Medical Center in Maxton, South Robeson Medical Center in Fairmont and Lumberton Health Center in Lumberton.

Ms. Jinnie Lowery, President/CEO of RHCC, states that RHCC operates the only Community Health Centers in Robeson County. We are 4 of 981 health centers serving over 10 million children and adults in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. We are a private, nonprofit, community owned and operated organization governed by a volunteer board of directors. Health Centers serve patients who are insured, Medicaid, Medicare as well as low-income and medically underserved urban and rural communities that experience geographic, financial, or other barriers to accessing health care and preventive services. RHCC is proud to be a part of this network of Community Health Centers.

RHCC was founded in 12985 as a consortium of family medical practices in Robeson County, principally in response to an effort by the U.S. Public Health Service to consolidate several non-profit clinics and improve their functional efficiency. This consolidation involved four sites and resulted in the merger of two competing sites in the town of Pembroke. Pembroke Health Care and Lumbee Medical Center. The staff, equipment and supplies of Lumbee Medical Center were simply moved into the larger Pembroke Health Care facility.

Ms. Lowery stated that Mr. Julian T. Pierce was Chairman of the Lumbee Medical Center board of directors when the merger negotiations began and that he was instrumental in what is now known as Robeson Health Care Corporation.

She also stated that Mr. Julian T. Pierce served on the Robeson Health Care Board of Directors until the time of his death in 1988. And as a matter of fact, he was Chairman of the Robeson Health Care Board of Directors until the time of his death. In June of 1988 the remaining members of the Board voted to rename Pembroke Health Center to Julian T. Pierce Health Center "in honor of Julian and the contributions he made to the community." Ms. Lowery added that the NC Primary Care Association also voted to name Julian the Outstanding Volunteer of the Year. At that time the NC Primary Health Care association donated monies to the Julian T. Pierce Memorial Fund. The Memorial consists of RHCC, Legal Services, Strike at the Wind, NC Indian Cultural Center and Julian's family.

RHCC has continued to grow and has added a new medical facility to the original three: Lumberton Health Center. In addition, RHCC operates 2 halfway houses for women in recovery and their babies; a substance abuse program, and numerous other programs.

Another nonprofit Corporation, First Image, has been founded under RHCC's umbrella. This has resulted in the building of "Grace Court." This is a 24 apartment-complex for women who have successfully completed a recovery program and all their children. Grace Court is the first of its kind in the State of NC and 1 of only 5 in the U.S. This became a reality after all the hard work of RHCC and several agencies. Ms. Lowery stated that this is another example of RHCC's commitment to the community and hard pressed determination to meet our communities' needs.

RHCC is excited about educating our communities about Community Health Centers and celebrating with other centers across the nation. Proclamations have been signed by Congressman Mike McIntyre, Senator David Weinstein, Representative Ronnie Sutton, Representative Donald Bonner, Representative Douglas Yongue, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt, Maxton Mayor Lillie Mckoy, Fairmont Mayor Jeff Lewis and Lumberton Mayor, Raymond Pennington, proclaiming October 4-8, 1999 Community Health Center Week in Robeson County. Ms. Lowery would like to thank them for their proclamations and for the many calls and letters of thanks RHCC has

received from other agencies and groups throughout the county. Ms. Lowery stated that she appreciates the partnerships and people who have worked together with RHCC to meet the health needs of Robeson and surrounding counties.

Ms. Lowery added that RHCC continues to grow and will be expanding services and hours at the local centers as well as some new programs for the communities. RHCC will also be awarded \$1,234,000.00 for a Prescription Drug Purchase Assistance Program for

RHCC patients via RHCC provider prescriptions. The grant was awarded by the National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc. Ms. Lowery stated that more information on this program which is scheduled to begin in October will be detailed in an upcoming news release.

Ms. Lowery thanks the patients and community for the support shown for RHCC during the past 14 years. RHCC looks forward to serving the needs of our communities for many years to come.

A proclamation has been issued by Congressman McIntyre and Mayor of Pembroke, Milton Hunt in support of the improved health care given to the community by the Robeson Health Care Corporation and declaring October 4-8 1999 as National Health Center Week in Robeson County, N.C.



Jinnie Lowery, President/CEO RHCC



Mrs. Charlotte Williams has been selected as Pembroke Middle Schools Teacher of the Year for 1999-2000. She has been teaching sixteen years. Her current assignment is eight grade communication skills. She was the honoree at a reception given at Pembroke Middle School recently. She is a native of Lumberton and has one daughter and two grandchildren.

Meet the EMC Candidate Oct. 16

On Saturday, October 16, Burnice Blanks, Candidate for District 3, EMC Board of Directors, will be meeting consumers at the Union Chapel Community Building from 11 a.m. until 2 P.M.. A cookout will be held and lunch will be served free to those attending.

"100% Secretary Award presented by The Lions Club of Pembroke

The Pembroke Lions Club held their monthly meeting on September 20, 1999 at the Lumbee Restaurant. Lion Club President John W. (Ned) Sampson presided. The Reverend Welton Lowery gave the invocation, with Lion Adolph Blue leading the United States Flag Pledge of Allegiance.

As the highlight of the program, Lion President Sampson presented to Lion Kelly Sanderson the "100% Secretary Award." The award was authorized by Lion Tony G. Williams, District Governor of District 31-F. The award was given in recognition of Lion Kelly Sanderson's promptness and excellent manner in which he makes reports to the District Governor in his capacity as Secretary of the Pembroke Lions Club.

In other club business, plans were finalized for a raffle sale on a television to be given to the winner. The proceeds will be used to purchase eyeglasses. Also the club approved the purchase of a hearing aid.

Compassion motivates Robeson County Chapter Organization to offer friendship and assistance to the community

Compassionate Friends is a mutual assistance, self-help organization offering and understanding to bereaved parents, siblings, stepparents and grandparents. This organization is based upon the premise that pain experienced by bereaved parents is best understood by another parent who has experienced the death of a child. Healing comes through sharing and learning from other bereaved parents who give empathy and support.

There will be a Public Information Meeting held for the purpose of organizing the Robeson County Chapter of The Compassionate Friends, Monday, October 18, 1999. The meeting will be held at the Health Horizons Home Health Building, 2002 North Cedar Street in Lumberton. This building is adjacent to Cape Fear Credit and across the street from Southern Marble Works. The building is adjacent to Cape Fear Credit and across the street from Southern Marble Works. The meeting time will be 7:00 P.M. Any interested members of the community or press are welcome to attend.



Congressman Mike McIntyre joins several of his congressional colleagues in reminding the Administration and congress about the importance of paying down the national debt before any consideration of new spending programs. McIntyre stated, "When families and businesses have debt, they do the sensible thing - they pay it off! I say the government should do the same!"

Robeson County Museum Associates presents Book Signing and Reception for Local Author

Pembroke, N.C. - Delano Cummings, author of Moon Dash Warrior, will participate in a book signing and discussion on Oct. 7, at 7 p.m. at the Osterneck Auditorium of the Robeson County Public Library.

Moon Dash Warrior is the personal account of Delano Cummings, a young Lumbee Indian from Robeson County, who, inspired by simple patriotism and devotion to duty, grew to become a United States Marine in Vietnam.

Following the comments on Cummings' book, there will be a reception at the Robeson County Museum. This is in conjunction with the current exhibit at the museum entitled, "A Military History: Contributions of Robeson County." This event is sponsored by the Robeson County Museum Associates.