

The Carolina Indian Voice

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Congresswoman Eva M. Clayton gives support to Indian Health Care Issues

Congresswoman Eva Clayton sent the following letter to Paul Brooks, Chairman of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs:

"Dear Mr. Brooks: Thank you for contacting me regarding the proposed amendments to the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (IHCA) and how it will affect the scholarship portion of the IHCA. As always, I appreciate the benefit of your views.

"You state that in the proposed amendments to the IHCA is a suggestion that State-Recognized Tribes and Native Descendants be made ineligible for any health care scholarship programs found in the IHCA. You further state that since the inception of the scholarship programs as provided for by the IHCA, State-Recognized Tribes have been eligible for the scholarship funding.

"I am supportive of your endeavors. Our goal must be to continue to facilitate quality health care for all Americans and to continue in the spirit of the IHCA to

have trained American Indian people to meet the health care needs of American Indians.

"Again, thank you for sharing your concerns with me. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future regarding other issues of concern to you.

Sincerely,
"Eva M. Clayton, Member of Congress"

Chairman Brooks released the following statement following receipt of Congresswoman Clayton's letter:

"I am deeply concerned about the fact that the Indian Health Service would make State Recognized Indians ineligible for Indian Health Service Scholarships during a time in our history when there are so many health concerns among the American Indian population. Why is this happening? Who on earth would do this?"

"Hopefully help will come from other North Carolina members of Congress to stop this travesty."



MARC program marks its 15th year at UNCP

Pembroke, N.C. -- UNC Pembroke's MARC program, now in its 15th year, produces some of the top graduates at the university.

It is sponsored by the National Institute of Health to encourage promising students to enter scientific research careers.

Of the 50 graduates of the program, many have gone onto careers in medicine, Dr. David Maxwell said. Dr. Maxwell, a UNCP biology professor, has directed the program from its start.

"The success of the program has been very impressive," Dr. Maxwell said. "It really does benefit the students and our department. Besides the scholarship, the program allows students to attend 2-3 scientific meetings per year and perform in a summer internship program."

"The internship exposes them to high level research, so they can decide if a career in biomedical research is for them," he said. "It is intensive training in laboratory procedure and scientific concepts that they could not get on our campus."

MARC program class of 1999-2000. Seated from left are Heather Locklear of Pembroke, Andrea S. Locklear of Lumberton and Emily Love of Pembroke. Standing from left are Barry Graham of Prospect, Natasha Jacobs of Lake Waccamaw, Von Locklear of Prospect and Dr. David Maxwell, UNCP biology professor and director of the Minority Access to Research Careers program.



The United Methodist Women's Organization of Sandy Plains United Methodist Church demonstrated their support of love and giving to the first rural United Methodist church in Russia. The money will be used to meet the needs of the church and its members.

Left - Frances Reagan, Ida B. Jacobs, Betty Johnson, Ruth Odum, Panthia Locklear, Rev. and Dr. Alexander Keminin from Belgorod, Russia, Brenda Jacobs, Joy Locklear, Elizabeth Jacobs, and Ryan Jacobs.

A Report to the People from Rep. Ron Sutton, 85th House District

Gov. Jim Hunt ended weeks of speculation, discussion and rumors about a special session of the General Assembly with a simple statement issued by his office.

As expected, the governor called lawmakers back to Raleigh on Dec. 15 to address emergency disaster needs.

The governor met with reporters the next day to talk about his hopes for the mid-December session.

Hunt endorsed an \$830 million package that officials in his administration had presented to lawmakers during informal briefings.

"I stand behind it 100 percent," Hunt said.

"This plan does not raise taxes. It does not tackle a dollar out of the classroom. It does not force us to borrow money and pay a huge amount of interest."

Hunt also announced that he was paying for a big chunk of the package with savings in the current state budget. That will generate \$504 million.

"I think this is the right way to do this and the people appreciate us doing it this way - tightening our belts," Hunt said.

To pay for the rest of the plan, Hunt sought a General Assembly appropriation of \$286 million from the state's "rainy day fund" and \$40 million that was left unappropriated earlier this year.

The biggest chunk of money in the governor's plan -- \$346.8 million -- would go toward putting people back into permanent housing.

Meeting the state match for \$2.2 billion in federal funds would require \$232.4 million.

Small businesses would receive

Rural Chaplains Receive Certification

Gary Locklear, Odette Wright, Winnie James, Evelyn Attwood and Cynthia Kent have received honor and certification for their diligent efforts demonstrated in various ministries as Rural Chaplains. They were among seventeen lay clergy persons who joined the Reverend Dr. Alexander Kaminin, community physician and the pastor of the first rural United Methodist Church of Russia, to be certified also as a Rural Chaplain by the Rural Chaplains Association in its November 18, 1999 annual focus event in Dallas, Texas.

Minnesota Bishop John L. Hopkins and the Reverend David Kerr, former President of the Methodist Church of Ireland, led the service for celebration and worship. The Reverend Terence Corkin of the Uniting Church of Australia delivered the sermon focusing on the struggles of rural people, congregations, and communities throughout Australia and the world.

High spirited and eager to assist and minister unto others, Odette Wright responds favorably about her service as a Rural Chaplain. "We had a great gathering. It was

wonderful to meet more Native American who were also Rural Chaplains."

The Rural Chaplains Association is an international group of people who focus on rural issues, concerns, and opportunities for community and church renewal. In response to the rural crisis in the United States during the 1970's, rural (lay and clergy) community leaders began meeting together to seek understanding and to identify ways of offering support to families forced out of farming and small town businesses. The Association provides on going opportunities to learn, share, and fellowship together around issues including environmental concerns; special needs of women; children, and youth; local church revitalized and cooperative ministries; racism, violence, and the proliferation of hate groups; lay leadership, etc. The Association is ecumenical and increasingly international in its scope and membership. Six countries are represented on its roster. For information on the Rural Chaplains Association, contact Dr. Harold W. McSwain, PO Box 29044, Columbus, OH 43229.

Pembroke VFW Post #2843 Report

On Monday Evening December 13th 1993, the VFW Post #2843 held its last meeting of the year 1999. There were a fair turnout of members at this meeting. The evening meal was very good. The menu consisted of home made pork bar bq, fried chicken, cole slaw, green beans, corn, dinner rolls, strawberry short cake, ice tea and hot coffee. As everyone fellowshiped we had 5 guests with us at this meeting. The 1st place and 2nd place winners of the voice of democracy and parents. Following the meal Post Commander Mr. Daniel Jones called the meeting to order. Introduced our Post Chaplain Mr. Archie Oxendine to begin the presentation and introductions of the 1999. First & Second place winners of the contest. Preceding this event there was the placing of drape on our Post Charter in memory of our latest deceased Post member Mr. Garnett Lowry. Prayer and a moments silence offered by Mr. Archie Oxendine. We extend our condolences to Mr. Lowry's Family Members.

Chaplain Archie Oxendine introduced Mr. Jordan Chavis & Miss Marguirita Thompson to the Post. Miss Thompson is a Junior at South Robeson High School, her parents Mr. Earl and Mrs. Precilla Thompson accompanied her to this event. Miss Thompson will graduate in the Class of 2000. She aspires to finish school and be a teacher. The theme of this years resume was America's Roll In The Next Century. Mr. Oxendine explained that

the tapes of each contestant were heard and judged by a panel of judges at Cumberland County Central Office, Friday night Dec. 10th and the 1st and 2nd place winners were named. Miss Thompson gave an oral resume and received a great

applause. Followed by Mr. Jordan Chavis accompanied by his mother Diane Chavis, his father Mr. James R. Chavis had a previous engagement. Jordan is a Senior at Purnell Swett High School and plans to attend NC State and study to be an engineer. They received a nice applause after reading their resumes. The parents were asked to join the two young people at the podium. Their mothers pinned each student with gold pins with the voice of Democracy Logo on it. 1st place was given to Mr. Chavis, 2nd place was given to Miss Thompson. They in turn pinned their mothers with an appreciation pin. Mr. W. Oxendine was asked to pin a blue medal on Mr. Chavis, Post Commander Daniel Jones pinned a red medal on Miss Thompson as 2nd place winner. Chavis received a check for \$100. Miss Thompson was given by Mr. Daniel Jones 2 crisp \$50 dollar bills. They were given plaques and Mr. Chavis was given a school bag with V.F.W. Voice of Democracy Emblazoned on it. The Post Represents Purnell Swett and South Robeson in these contests. Youths from Mr. Oxendines Church serenaded the winners with small flags and Mr. America Hats on to recorded music and was asked to pass out the flags to someone in the

audience. A brief recess was called after prayer by the womens auxiliary Chaplain. The visitors departed. The women adjourned to their meeting room.

The closed meeting was called to order by Post Commander Jones. The meeting of last months minutes were read by Post Adjutant Mr. Calvert Jones, followed by the report of Post Quartermaster Ardell Jacobs on our monies and disbursement. Mr. Art Shull arrived during the presentation of the Voices of Democracy to a warm welcome of applause. He was asked to address the Post at the closed meeting. He stated that he has traveled extensively in the last month visiting places where flood disaster hit and the response of other states sending relief and monies to help the victims. HE stated that North Carolina Lost 4 V.F.W. Organization people are not sending in renewal dues. They must be in before the last of December. If you know anyone who haven't paid, please urge them to do so. The ladies will have a social at the Post December 30th at 6:30 p.m. Men please attend this event, its their way of doing something for you. The District 8# meeting will be held at Post# 670 in Fayetteville January 16th at 1p.m. The 1st meeting of the Post for the Millennium will be Monday evening January 10th, 2000. Here's hoping you have a wonderful Holiday Season and may God smile on you, is my prayer.

Erwin Jacobs,
Post Judge Advocate



Russian Minister Visits Local Churches

Dr. and Rev. Alexander Keminin of Belgorod, Russia, visited the rural United Methodist churches in the Rockingham District in November.

Serving as Rev. Keminin's host, Gary Locklear and his family provided a first opportunity for their guest to visit a beach at Myrtle Beach, S.C., share fun and fellowship with MR. Locklear's family and friends, shop and visit some local First United Methodist churches in the community.

Rev. Keminin is in the process of building the first Rural Chaplains Association. He also serves as a school teacher and musician.



National Board of Certification

Angel Marie Chavis an eight grade teacher at Prospect School recently attained National Board Certification. Mrs. Chavis is a graduate of Purnell Swett High School. She received her B.A. Degree from the University of North Carolina at Pembroke and will receive her M.A. degree in Middle Grades Education at the December Commencement. Mrs. Chavis is in her fifth year of teaching North Carolina History. She is married to Don Grady Chavis and is the proud parent of a son, Don Christian and a daughter, Angelica Marie. She resides in Pembroke and is a member of Mount Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church.

National Board Certification is a rigorous process and is a demanding assessment of teaching and learning. Mrs. Chavis was required to submit evidence of her teaching practice for evaluation by her peers nationwide. This certification is a significant accomplishment and one that has tremendous potential for Mrs. Chavis and her students. Mrs. Chavis is the first teacher in Robeson County to be nationally certified in the area of Early Adolescence/Social Studies-History.