

# CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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## LRDA Holds Ground Breaking

The Lumbee Regional Development Association held the ground breaking for its new \$1 million Tribal Family Services Center on July 1. Representatives from Lumbee Bank, the Town of Pembroke, LRDA, Lonnie Locklear & Sons Construction Company, County Commissioners and Land Trustee Officials were among those present for the event. Shown left to right on the front row are: Rodney Hunt, LRDA board member; Johnny Hunt, Chairman Robeson County Board of Commissioners; Lonnie Locklear of Lonnie Locklear, Jr. Construction Company, McDuffie Cummings, Pembroke Town Manager; Milton Hunt, Mayor of the Town of Pembroke; Brian Maynor, Lumbee Bank; Noah Woods, County Commissioner; Adolph Blue, LRDA Board member; Leroy Freeman, Chairman, LRDA Board; William Lowry, LRDA Board Member; and Ken Maynor, LRDA Board member. Shown in rear, right to left: James Hardin, executive director, LRDA; Earl Cummings, LRDA Board member; Burlie Locklear, LRDA board member; Donald Locklear, Housing Director, LRDA; Larry T. Brooks, Pembroke Town Council; A. Bruce Jones, LRDA board member; Rod Locklear, LRDA Board member; William Locklear, Director, JTPA Program, LRDA; and Horace Hunt, LRDA Board member.

## Survey shows interest in Lumbee self government

PEMBROKE—According to preliminary reports, the Lumbee people want their own government and they want a representative government by districts, according to a report presented to the Lumbee Self Determination Commission Saturday morning in a session at the Chavis Center on the UNC-Pembroke campus.

The report was presented by Don Gersh, speaking for the campus group conducting the survey for the commission. The university's Department of Mass Communications is polling a sampling of the more than 40,000 member tribe to assess their electoral desires.

Gersh responded positively to the preliminary results but did say that there might be a delay in final results because of an inability to obtain correct telephone numbers for some of the 2,000 tribal members being polled. At least 300-500 names is a projected goal for the telephone sampling.

Jim Lowry, chairman of the commission, said, "Based on the fact that there is every indication that the Lumbee people do want a representative government, we will do everything in our power to have an election on November 7." Lowry also said that the August 12 meeting would be a full one. "We expect to meet all day. One of our goals will be to validate the survey results ... so we can move on. Our challenge now is to do all we can to let the Lumbee people know this commission is serious about its mission."

Superior Court Judge Howard Manning set up the 39 member commission after Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) and the Lumbee Tribe of Cheraw Indians found their way to his courtroom after a number of legal challenges and counter charges. Manning charged the commission with setting up a process "by which the Lumbee people's right to self-determination may be protected and yet carried out by the Lumbee people themselves."

Manning has also indicated that he will lift a 30% ceiling he had imposed as a minimum number of tribal members voting if legal appeals by the tribal council are dropped. The council has not yet dropped their appeal and have indicated that they would like to see a constitution as part of the electoral process. Lowry hinted that an initiative concerning a constitution might be on the November 7 ballot.

Finally, thanks to Rep. Ron Sutton's legislative initiative, the general assembly has approved \$100,000 in the state budget for the commission to carry out its mission.

## Treasures' Grant

Washington--The Thomas Day House and Union Tavern in the small border town of Milton, N.C., will receive a \$250,000 federal grant to restore the landmark home and workshop of the pre-Civil War African-American cabinet maker, Senator John Edwards announced on Friday.

"I am proud that such an important historic landmark in North Carolina will be restored," Senator Edwards said. "Preserving the Thomas Day House will help future generations remember an important figure in the history of our state and nation."

The Save America's Treasures grant to help restore the Thomas Day House was one of 47 awarded by the Interior Department and Congress to preservation projects in 31 states. The winning grant recipients were selected from more than 350 applications nationwide.

Extensively damaged by fire in 1989, Union Tavern is a Federal-style building erected in 1815.

Thomas Day purchased the property in 1848. A free African-American, Day and his family lived upstairs. He had a workshop in the back and converted the ground floor into a showroom for his furniture and is distinctive architectural woodwork. Day's furniture eventually won nationwide recognition. A collection of his pieces is owned by the North Carolina Museum of History.

The North Carolina General Assembly in 1930 allowed Day and his wife to live freely in North Carolina. As his business thrived, he hired white apprentices and sought in other ways to break down racial barriers in the South. Local legend holds that Day made the pews for Milton Presbyterian Church on the condition that his family could pray with the white worshippers.

As the Civil War loomed in the late 1950s, however, North Carolina enacted more restrictive laws against black business owners, and Day's cabinet making business went bankrupt before he died in 1860 or 1861.

## Local Lawmaker votes to stop flood of video poker machines into North Carolina

Raleigh-Rep. Ron Sutton of Pembroke voted Monday night to prevent thousands of illegal video poker machines from flooding into North Carolina.

A ban on video poker in South Carolina went into effect July 1. Law enforcement officials feared that ban would prompt owners to move thousands of illegal machines into North Carolina.

Cash pay outs and South Carolina-style poker machines were already illegal in North Carolina. The only winnings allowed in North Carolina are coupons that can be redeemed for prizes or merchandise worth less than \$10. That law has been on the books in North Carolina for several years.

The House passed bill would place a moratorium on machines that are currently legal in the state and increase the penalties for owners and operators caught with illegal games. The measure also included a study so state and local officials could get a better understanding of the industry.

No one knows how many legal video poker machines are now operating in North Carolina. Estimates

## UNC-P Receives grant from U.S. Department of Education

Washington, D.C.--Congressman Mike McIntyre announced today that the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) has been selected to receive a grant in the amount of \$463,265.00 from the U.S. Department of Education. It is anticipated that this grant will be part of a three-year program providing \$991,439.00 for the University.

Congressman McIntyre stated, "This funding is an important step in education. It is wonderful to see the collaborative effort between UNCP, Robeson County Public Schools, and the local Native American community, and I am extremely pleased that our tax dollars are coming back home to help promote excellence in education. This grant will assist Native American students who want to pursue teaching as a profession, and it will also help enrich the abilities of those already in the education field."

## Local educator wins award from National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

Mrs. Mary Alice Teets of Pembroke, retired educator, has been selected as the award recipient of the Aging in Rural America: Issues and Challenges.

In making the announcement, Katie M. Johnson, Grassroots Manager, of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, stated: "We received over forty responses that focus on a variety of issues, challenges and concerns of rural residents, their

## Resident Judges Dexter Brooks and Frank Floyd Pledge Support to Robeson County Clean and Green Campaign

Resident Superior Court Judges Dexter Brooks and Frank Floyd have pledged to consider requiring individual convicted criminal defendants, depending on the particular circumstances, who receive suspended sentences to perform community service by removing litter or trash from the public roads, streets and highways of Robeson County. Judges Brooks and Floyd believe that if it is sound public policy for prison inmates to remove litter from the public roads, then it is equally sound public policy to require probationers to likewise remove litter from the public roads.

In 1997, Senior Resident Judge Dexter Brooks adopted a local policy entitled "Suggested Special Conditions of Probation for Incorporation into Appropriate Judgments Sus-

pending Sentences in Robeson County." The policy includes a provision that probationers be required to so remove litter or trash from the county's public roads. The policy allows the probationer to be assigned to an organization or person participating in the Adopt-a-Highway Program of the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) in order to fulfill their community service obligation.

The policy was submitted to and enthusiastically endorsed by the North Carolina Victim Assistance Network. Its provisions pre-date the Crime Victims' Right Act. The policy was also endorsed by DOT, including its Adopt-a-Highway Program. According to Ms. Florence Ransom, Director of the Robeson County Community

Service Program, the local policy became a model for other counties throughout the state.

Effective 1 July 2000 both Judge Brooks and Floyd were assigned to preside in Robeson County through 1 January 2001. This is their first joint assignment to Robeson County and gives them a unique opportunity to promote the local policy. Judge Brooks is a strong supporter of the local policy. In fact, for the past several years he has personally made it a practice to remove litter or trash from the public streets of the Town of Pembroke. Judges Brooks and Floyd pledge their support to the fine efforts of Wilton Wilkerson and the Robeson Clean & Green Campaign. Each looks forward to a cleaner and greener Robeson County.



by Erwin Jacobs

## Pembroke VFW Post #2843 Report

Before I get into my monthly news report, there is something I want to say to every person, male or female, who served in the Armed Services of the United States of America. Were you proud that you left Robeson County to answer the call? Some members of our VFW Post were invited to New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church Sunday, July 9, 2000 to share in service with the congregation. All members of the congregation who were veterans were asked to join us three members on the front row pew, following Sunday School, which I am very glad I attended.

We were instructed to go the rear of the sanctuary and march up front behind a member carrying the American Flag to music. Afterwards, the pastor of the church, Rev. Willie Scott, gave all a heart felt welcome and told how proud he was of us all who served so that war would not come to the soil of America.

Have I gotten your attention? In my last article I spoke about trying to get a memorial built to honor ALL people from Robeson County who went to war, from World War I to World War II, the Korean Conflict, Viet Nam, Desert Storm, to present time. We are talking about thousands and thousands from Robeson County. Why can't we do this one thing to pay tribute to our heroes? Surrounding counties have done it. Call me at my home and I will discuss the proposal with you. (910) 844-9697. Let's make it a reality, but we have to start before it can be accomplished.

On Monday evening, July 10th, 2000, the VFW Post had its monthly meeting at the Post Headquarters on Union Chapel Road, Pembroke, NC. We had a better attendance than previous months. But we have a lot more chairs that are vacant. The evening meal, prepared by post personnel was mouth watering from bite one to even the dessert. Rev. Smith Locklear blessed the meal. Following a little ribbing of the ladies from the cooks,

everyone had a good time fellowshiping with each other.

A joint session was called to order by Post Commander Daniel Jones, who is starting his second year as Post Commander. He did an outstanding job for the year 1999-2000. Not many people want to be Post Commander. He is young and it was a great challenge for him. To me, he passed with flying colors. He is a Viet Nam veteran. After prayer the Charter was draped to honor our fallen comrade and member, Mr. Alvin C. Hunt. Our condolences to the family.

The ladies are raffling a set of king sized bed spread, complete with sham and dust ruffle to be given to a lucky winner at the November 11th fish fry plate sale at the post. Tickets are \$1 each and you do not have to be present to win.

A fine set of silver plated silverware was donated by Post member Mr. James B. Locklear to be auctioned off by former State Commander Art Shull. The bidding started off slow but heated up and a

member went home with a nice complete set of shiny silverware to grace his dinner table. A brief recess was called. The closed meeting was called to order for the evening's business of the Post.

Post Adjutant Calvert Jones was away on vacation with his family so Mr. Ahull took the minutes of this meeting. He read the minutes of last month's meeting. Quarter Master Ardell Jacobs read his report. Mr. Shull gave a report about upcoming affairs of the VFW, also urging members to visit the soldiers home in Fayetteville. It is sad to sad, due to the lack of cooperation of members paying their dues for 1999-2000, the Post did not get a banner to post on the wall. Mr. Lee A. Maynor stated that we have to urge all members to send in their dues which will be arriving in your mail very soon. We need to contact New Prospect as we need to replace the members deceased in 1999-2000 year.

July has been designated as Honoring the Korean Veterans Month. There is a committee appointed and will hold activities in 2000, 2001, 2002, for this occasion. All VFW Post #2843 officers have been sworn in for the year 2000-2001. We ask all members to please support your post leaders.

Next meeting ill be Monday, August 14, 2000. Please mark it on your calendars and do plan to attend.

## Pembroke Kiwanis Hear Judge Brooks

Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks was the Tuesday evening speaker at the Pembroke Kiwanis Club. He was presented by next year's president, Carlton Mansfield.

Judge Brooks said, "I will talk about matters relating to the Judicial System. The mission of understanding gives creed to the judgeship. When you talk about money you have on type of judgeship. When you talk about civil matters, you have a residential type Judge. The senior resident judge's duties include the authority to remove sheriffs, the clerks of superior court and the district attorney. The duties also include the authority to appoint magistrates, and the board of social services. His duties extend to many civil areas." Judge Brooks fully explained the judge's position as a duty.

Invocation-Albert Hunt. Song leader-Ed Teets. Reporter-Ken Johnson.

## Asociacion Panamericana de Robeson

The Asociacion Panamericana de Robeson meets on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at Robeson County Church & Community Center, 210 E. 15th St., Lumberton. For more information call Pedro Massol at 910-737-9640. Sponsored by Robeson County Church & Community Center.