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Peggy Ann Harris
(Article and photo submitted by the family)



A Modern Day Miracle

Pembroke-Do you believe miracles still happen today? If you don't, perhaps you will after reading about the ordeal Mrs. Peggy Ann Harris endured.

It all began on Saturday, November 13, 1999. Like every Saturday, she went to the beauty shop; then to the grocery store; and finally returned back home to clean house. Except on this day, she could not overcome the pressure she was feeling in her chest. William, her youngest son, took her to the emergency room at Moore regional in Pinehurst. She was admitted straight into the intensive care unit due to a heart attack and congestive heart failure.

Two days later, had turned to worse. She was placed on a ventilator to assist with her breathing. This shocked everyone, including her doctors. Things continued to go wrong. Her kidneys stopped working and dialysis was necessary to perform the daily functions of her kidneys. The catheterization of her heart revealed major blockages in four of her arteries. According to Dr. Robin Cummings, he hadn't seen blockages of that degree in quite some time. She needed open heart surgery but due to the severe complications with her kidneys and lungs, the risks associated with that procedure were extremely higher than usual.

While the doctors worked vigorously day and night to keep her stabilized, more problems arose. She suffered a stroke, developed pneumonia and worst of all, began bleeding in her lungs due to a hereditary problem with the tiny arteries of her lungs.

After almost four weeks of battling one illness after another and one procedure after another, she was

transferred out of the intensive care unit. However, her ordeal was far from over. She received therapy to help her learn how to walk, eat, and even dress herself again. The doctors' plan was to send her home to rest for the open-heart surgery.

After two weeks in the rehab unit, she was able to go home. Unfortunately, her stay at home was very brief due to a second heart attack. She was admitted back into intensive care on January 2, 2000, and placed immediately back on the ventilator. Many people doubted that her body could endure even more illness. Hope was very slim. At one time, Dr. Cummings indicated that with all that had to be done and with the potential counteraction of the procedures and treatments, she had as little as a five percent chance of pulling through.

After two more weeks in intensive care with around the clock care, she was placed in the step down unit (3A). Several of the nurses who were caring for our mother began to feel our frustrations as well as our disbelief of what had happened. "I am sure that the bond developed between the hospital staff and nurses helped us to cope with the ordeal," states Lemark, her oldest son. To prevent the risks associated with another possible heart attack at home, the doctors did not release her. She essentially had to remain in the hospital until she was strong enough to undergo bypass surgery.

Several weeks later, surgery was scheduled for January 25, 2000, but due to an unexpected snowfall (the largest in years) it was cancelled. The hospital was without power and water for several days. Was that a sign that

she needed more time to rest? Later, Dr. Cummings stated that there might have been a silver lining in that dark cloud. Peggy strengthened even more during that one week following the storm. This extra week surely made a world of difference in her recovery.

On February 1, 2000, Dr. Cummings successfully performed bypass surgery of five arteries. By four o'clock that afternoon, she was awake and doing well and available for one quick visit from her family and friends who anxiously waited that day to see her. The following day she was breathing on her own and everything finally looked like it was headed in the right direction. One week after surgery, she was allowed to go home.

Despite having to be hospitalized twice since surgery to remove fluid from her lungs, she is doing fine. Today, she is back at work full-time at her job with the TMH class at the Pembroke Middle School. She continues to be a great and loving wife, mother, and grandmother to her family. Most importantly, she is still an active member of God's family.

During this three-month ordeal, many prayers were offered and support to her family was outstanding. Many thanks go out to those who visited and called the hospital; brought food for the family and guests to enjoy; fed her husband, Grady; kept her company throughout her hospital stay; and checked on her after she got home. Last but not least, a special thanks to Dr. Robin Cummings and the numerous doctors and nurses for allowing God to work through them.

If you ask Peggy today if she is considered a miracle, she would smile and say, "That's what they tell me."

farmers \$19.2

Avalon Academy to hold Pembroke meeting

Avalon Academy has scheduled an information meeting for the Pembroke area for March 15th. The meeting will be held at the Pembroke Public Library in Pembroke. Those parents who have interest in or questions concerning Avalon Academy or who wish to obtain information for the 2001-2002 school year are encouraged to attend this meeting. The meeting will begin at 7:30 PM.

Renal Support Group to meet

The Renal Support Group will meet Tuesday, April 3, at 6 P.M. in the Observation Unit Waiting Room on the third floor of Cape Fear Valley Medical Center. Patients, family and friends of those with renal disorders as well as those interested are welcome to attend. The Renal Support Group meets on the first Tuesday of each month. For more information, please contact Jeanne Canady at (910) 609-6713.

FSA pays

Million in 2000

For calendar year 2000, Robeson County farmers were paid \$19,276,339 for participating in Farm Service Agency (FSA) administered programs according to Giles B. Floyd, County Executive Director of the Robeson/Scotland Farm Service Agency.

Farmers who agreed to keep their highly erodible cropland out of production for 10 years and to establish the land in trees, grass or wildlife habitat under the Conservation Reserve Program were paid \$9,659. Farmers that carried out a conservation practice under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program and other FSA conservation programs received \$434,407. Floyd said that farmers participating in the 7-Year Agricultural Marketing Transition Act (AMTA) Program and the Marketing Loss Assistance Program were paid \$12,133,284 to help offset heavy

losses from low commodity prices. Eligible farmers and landowners received \$4,758,105 under the Tobacco Loss Assistance Program. Farmers who sustained quantity or quality losses on their crops due to weather related conditions received payments in 2000 under Disaster Assistance Programs in the amount of \$1,940,884. These payments to farmers by FSA were of great help to those farmers who were prevented from planting or who lost some or all of their crops because of adverse weather, Floyd said.

Payment to Robeson County farmers over the past several years are as follows: in 1999- \$14,029,308; 1998- \$5,803,398; 1997- \$3,869,025; 1996- \$3,667,457; 1995- \$2,131,864; 1994- \$3,271,660; 1993- \$6,071,203; 1992- \$4,231,903; 1991- \$2,366,357; 1990- \$2,861,720.

Lumbee Tribal Elders to hold Spring Gathering

Lumbee Tribal Elders Council presents their 7th Annual Spring Traditional Spiritual Gathering- March 23rd, 24th & 25th, at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center in Pembroke, North Carolina. Sacred Fire Ceremonies shall be conducted at Sunrise, Noon & Sunset. No Drugs, Alcohol or Profanity allowed. There will be Pot Luck meals served. Trading is done by Barter Only. Everyone is Welcome. Reviving Yesterday to Create Tomorrow.

Activities and News from North Carolina Indian Cultural Center

The NC Indian Cultural Center is continuing to offer pottery classes on Thursday nights from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The cost of the class is \$30.00 per month, which includes materials and instructors. Come learn contemporary and traditional pottery-making techniques and help keep our heritage alive. The instructors are Karen Coronado and Connie Locklear. For more information call the N.C. Indian Cultural Center at (910) 521-2433.

Also, in order for the NC Indian Cultural Center to give away the 2001 Mustang, the NC Indian Cultural Center has to have a donation of 2800 tickets at the "Gathering of the Eastern Indian Nations at Sunrise" festival. If we do not have enough donations, we will continue at the next festival "Gathering of the Eastern Indian Nations at Sunset" which will be held on September 6-8, 2001.

Pembroke Housing Authority elects new officers

PEMBROKE-On Thursday, February 22, 2001, the Pembroke Housing Authority Board of Commissioners elected new officers for FY2001.

Ms. Annie Ruth Maynor was unanimously elected to the office of Chairperson. She Served as Vice-chairperson during FY2000. Ms. Maynor was originally appointed to the Board to complete the unexpired term of her late husband, Gerald D. Maynor. Mr. Reggie Strickland was unanimously elected to the office of Vice-chairperson. He served as Chairman during the initial reorganization of Pembroke Housing Authority until January, 1993. He was

recently reappointed as Commissioner. The Authority's largest development, Strickland Heights, was named in honor of Mr. Strickland's service to the Town of Pembroke during his tenure as Mayor.

Outgoing Chairperson Olivia M. Revels will continue to serve as a Commissioner. "I enjoyed this service to our community," she says. "I look forward to supporting my fellow Commissioners in their newly elected offices to complete the many tasks that we have outlined before us." For more information, contact Lemark Harris, Executive Director, at (910) 521-9711.

Poetry Contest open to area

Write a poem and win the \$1,000.00 grand prize! Hollywood's Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a new poetry contest, open to everyone. There is no entry fee.

To enter send one poem of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, PMB126, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Hollywood, CA 90028. Or enter on-line at www.famouspoets.com. A winner's list will be sent to all entrants.

"This is our big contest of the year," says Executive Director Mark Schramm. "We trust our prizes will encourage new poets to share their talent." The deadline for entering is March 31, 2001.

5K Road Race part of St. Pauls Folk Arts Festival

A 5K Road Race will be among the activities that will make the North Carolina Folk Arts Festival in St. Pauls a very special event. The Festival and race will be held Saturday, March 24, with the race beginning at 9:30 a.m. Entry fee is only \$10, with a free t-shirt to the first 50 entrants. Medals will be presented to the top three finishers in each age division. Please call race organizer, David Lewis at (910) 865-3833, after 6 p.m., for entry information.

Democrats to meet

Precinct meetings will be held at the polling sites on March 13, 2001 at P.M. The business to be conducted will be the election of Precinct Officers and other business of the Democratic Party. There must be 10 active Democrats present to conduct business. In the event of not having a quorum a makeup date of March 20, 2001 at 7 P.M. will be set.

Milton R. Hunt
Robeson County Democratic Chairman

Doc Watson to be at UNCP Mar. 16

North Carolina legend Doc Watson along with David Holt will be in concert at the Givens Performing Arts Center on Friday, March 16 at 8:00 P.M. Also featured in the concert is Richard Watson, the grandson of Doc. These award-winning artists have toured the world over celebrating the down home musicianship that have made them legends in their own time. Tickets are \$16, \$14, \$12 and \$8 for children and students. For reservations or more information, call the GPAC box office at 910-521-6361 or 1-800-367-0778. This performance is sponsored in-part by WKML 95.7 FM.

McIntyre announces over \$1.3 Million for UNCP

Washington, D.C.--U.S. Representative Mike McIntyre announced today that the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) will receive more than \$1.3 million in federal funds to establish the Pathway to Health Professions Careers program designed to encourage students of diverse backgrounds to enter the health professional field. Congressman McIntyre said, "Congratulations to Chancellor Allen Meadors, Dr. Roger Brown, Mr. Gene Brayboy, and all the fine folks at UNCP on this outstanding achievement! I am thrilled by this opportunity to establish a partnership within the community to recruit and train individuals of diverse backgrounds who might not otherwise choose a health career for their profession. Since I joined Congress, I have worked hard to encourage and provide federal incentives to help create greater diversity in the health fields, especially in rural communities such as those in southeastern North Carolina." Funded under the Health Careers

Opportunity Program through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Pathway to Health Professions Careers program is designed to assist individuals from diverse backgrounds to develop the skills they need to compete, enter, and graduate from health professional schools. Through the formation of a unique community partnership between UNCP and local public school systems, community colleges, tribal organizations, community-based organizations, and undergraduate and health professional schools, this program will focus on efforts to improve the representation of Native American and African-American health-care providers in the region. Activities will range from exposing middle and high school students to opportunities in the health-care field to providing college undergraduates with the skills and training necessary to enter a health professional school. Congressman McIntyre is Co-Chairman of the House Rural Health Care Coalition.

Rep. Ron Sutton to Co-Chair Legislative Redistricting Committee

Members of the House received some of their marching orders for the session with the announcement of committee assignments. Legislators spend the bulk of their time in committees, hammering out details of legislation and listening to testimony. On an average day--if there is such a thing in the General Assembly--members of the House will spend 3 1/2 hours in committee meetings and less than two hours on the house floor. Committee assignments have a lot of bearing on the "clout or power" legislators have and how they spend most of their time. Representative Ron Sutton, a Democrat Lawyer of Pembroke was assigned as the Senior Co-Chair of the powerful Legislative Redistricting Committee. The Speaker has assigned the two redistricting committees, Congressional and Legislature, and equal number of Democrats and Republicans. Sutton's Republican Senior Co-Chair is Representative Larry Justice of Hendersonville. The Congressional Senior Co-Chair are Democrat Representative Thomas Wright of Wilmington and Republican Representative Ed McMahan of Charlotte. "I was surprised to get this assignment but I am prepared to give it my all," said Representative Sutton. The Legislature Redistrict-

ing Committee draws the lines for all 120 House members. The Congressional Redistricting Committee will draw the lines for our 13 Congressional Districts. In addition to his responsibilities involving redistricting, Representative Sutton serves on Judiciary Committee #1, the Transportation Committee, Ethics Committee, Military Veterans and Indian Affairs Committee, and the Appropriations Committee (Transportation Sub-Committee). Next to the budget, redistricting is the most demanding venture the General Assembly will undertake this entire term. It has to be done following each census and efforts will really get underway once census data is available. Public Hearings will be conducted throughout the state. The committee announcements ended weeks of anticipation and speculation.

The process started before the General Assembly session began when Black sent out a questionnaire asking members of the House to rank their committee preferences. They also were asked to note any committees they would like to chair. Some lucky members were able to land on many of the committees they requested. That was not possible for all House members be-

cause some of the committees they requested meet at the same time of day. While committee assignments gave legislators a better idea of what they will be doing during the session, permanent seat assignments let them know where they will be sitting. The assignments, made by the speaker in consultation with the Democratic leadership, were announced shortly before the committees were announced. The committee and seat assignments left legislators with one more organizational chore--office assignments-- before they settled down for business. Offices are usually assigned shortly after committees are announced. Committee chairs generally prefer offices near the rooms where their committees meet. The local delegation maintained their same chamber seats and office spaces. In the past Representative Sutton had chaired a Judiciary Committee but with his redistricting work load that was not possible this term. Time just would not permit it. "The Speaker asked me if I would second his nomination speech on Opening Day and I agreed to do so. Little did I realize that he had plans for my heading the powerful Legislative Redistricting Committee in mind at the time," said Representative Sutton.

Compassionate Friends to meet

Compassionate Friends, a support group for families who have experienced the death of a child, will meet Tuesday, April 3, at 7:30 P.M. in the Cardinal Room at the Village Drive Education Center of Cape Fear Valley Health System, located at 3418 Village Drive. The group meets on the Tuesday of the month at the same time and location. For more information, please call Martha Lynch at 609-4481.

Registration to be Held at Pembroke Elementary

Pembroke Elementary School will be having Kindergarten Registration on Wednesday, April 11, 2001 from 9:00 A.M. until 1:00 P.M. Parents must bring a certified birth certificate (not a mother's copy), a

current immunization record, a Social Security Card, a 9111 address, a Tribal Enrollment Card (if applicable) and an Insurance Card. Please contact the school at 521-4204 if you have questions.