

**"Children...Honor your Father and Mother...that it may be well with you." Ephesians 6:1-3**

# The Indian Honor Association of Robeson County Honors These Indian Elders

**PURPOSE:** The purposes for the Indian Honor Association are as follows: to promote honor and respect for Indian elders by their families and communities by recognizing the elders for their family's full participation in the electoral process of Robeson County in all Primary and General Elections and to encourage eligible Indian people and the public at large without regard to race, creed, sex, or national origin to register and vote in all elections.



**John W. (Ned) Sampson**



**Eva Sampson**

"I see sports as a way to stay alive and enjoy human companionship," says John W. "Ned" Sampson. "Mr. Ned" as he is so compassionately referred to, is the Robeson County Indian Honor Association Father of the Year for 2002. Through his coaching career and role as educational administrator, Mr. Ned helped nurture many young men and women through participation in high school sports. The ultimate gratification for his hard work and efforts can be personified by his son, Kelvin Sampson's achievement as the first Native American to coach a team to the NCAA Final Four this past April in Atlanta, Georgia.

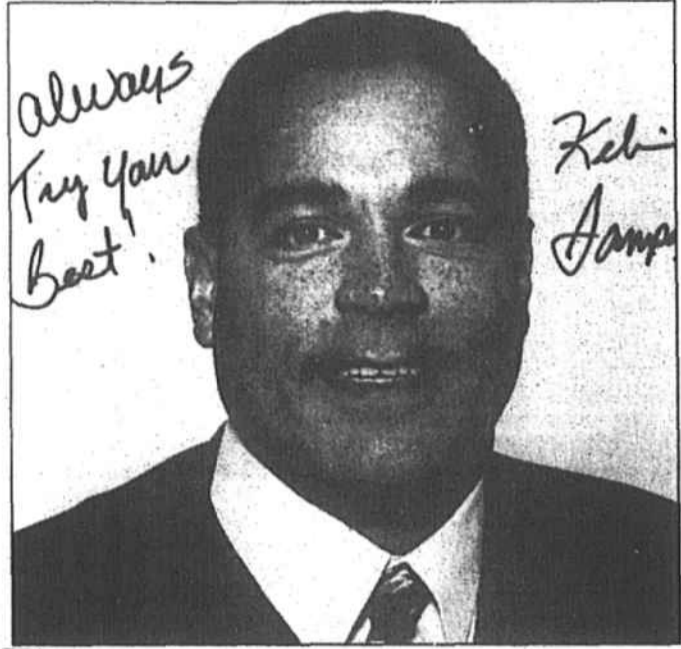
Except for serving a tour in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Ned has lived all his life in the Town of Pembroke. He graduated from Pembroke High School in 1947 and Pembroke State College in 1953. He met his wife, Eva Brewington, when she was in nursing school. They were married February 6, 1954. Mr. Ned says that his wife is his best friend and encourager. They have four children. Ursula is an elementary education teacher in Cary, NC. Kelvin is head coach of the men's basketball team at Oklahoma University. Karen is a pharmacist in Charlotte, NC and Suzanne is a Physical Therapist in Savannah, Georgia.

An impressive set of hobbies keeps Mr. Ned busy. He goes to the physical fitness center most days to exercise and attends athletic events at the local high schools and at the University of North Carolina-Pembroke. He and Eva travel to Norman, Oklahoma and other sites to attend Kelvin's basketball games. When they are not at the games, they watch the games at their home on satellite television. They visit the other children and grandchildren.

Sampson is a member of the Pembroke Lions Club and is serving as President of the civic club. He is a long time member of the UNC-Pembroke Braves Club, a member of the Purnell Sweet High School booster club, and is a member of the Berea Baptist Church Board of Deacons.

Mr. Ned is a people person. He did not let the success he had as an athlete change his behavior or love for the local people who followed and supported him as a student athlete. "I have always encouraged kids all over the world to have a hero, to find somebody that inspires them to do great things. The players in the Indian Basketball League were my early heroes and my dad was my inspiration- and still is," said Mr. Ned.

Mr. Ned is truly a model that any aspiring young athlete or young male adult might follow. He is a class act and has made a difference for generations of young American Indian people in Robeson County.



Kelvin Sampson is the first Native American to lead a team to the NCAA Final Four. Kelvin is a Lumbee Indian from Pembroke, Robeson County, North Carolina, and the son of Eva and Ned Sampson. His mother and father still reside within the city limits of the Town of Pembroke.

The University of Oklahoma has something very special in Kelvin Sampson. He is a uniquely talented leader who repeatedly demonstrates his outstanding teaching skills and ability to inspire others around him. What is most impressive about Kelvin Sampson is the consistent quality of program he has developed and how his student-athletes represent the University on and off the court. The chemistry of his program is something every coach strives to achieve but seldom ever does.

Despite the huge demands on his time, he makes involvement in the community a top priority. He doesn't seek any publicity for his numerous acts of charity, and his student athletes have his actions as a model for their own involvement. The list of causes Kelvin Sampson supports is long, indeed... the American Lung Association, American Cancer Society, Boys and Girls Club, Boy Scouts of America, Children's Miracle Network, Citizens Caring for Children, Food and Shelter for Friends, Oklahoma Blood Institute, Oklahoma Christian Academy, Coaches vs. Cancer, Oklahoma Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, Special Olympics, NABC Dream to Read, Drug Free Youth and Kids, and We Care. In addition, Coach Sampson formed the Sooner Reading Program which energizes the Norman area elementary schools. OU Players and coaches interact with young students and emphasize the importance of reading. Further proof of Kelvin's dedication to reading is he and his wife's (Karen) donation of \$200,000 to OU's Libraries and the OU Athletic Department's Academic Center in 1998.

He deeply cares about his friends and his profession. At a moment's notice, if one of his friends in the coaching fraternity needs help, Kelvin Sampson is there. He is very involved in the National Association of Basketball Coaches and he has coached several teams for USA Basketball.

Former and current coaches come to his practices and watch him in his "classroom". They marvel at the organization, attention to detail, intensity, and player development. I have heard people remark over and over again about the quality of his practices, calling them "textbook."

I have also watched him mesmerize the media at the NCAA tournament. People are fascinated with the manner he articulates his teams' journey to the NCAA tournament in a way that leaves one feeling good about the value of the game of basketball and its relativity to life in general. He, being the son of a coach, understands the value of hard work and commitment to a goal that is greater than any individual. He communicates that message every time he speaks, sharing the lessons he learned while playing for his father, and it's something to be behold.



Mr. Milton R. Hunt, Tribal Chairman and Mayor of Pembroke, is a life long resident of the Town of Pembroke. He is married to Polly Deese of the Harpers Ferry community. To this union was born two children and five grandchildren.

Hunt is the owner of a drywall construction company and has been self-employed for thirty-nine years. An avid sportsman, Hunt is founder and past president of the Big Buck Hunting Club which remains active after twenty-five years.

At the age of fifty-eight, he carries the distinction of being the longest elected mayor of the Town of Pembroke- a post that he has held for nineteen continuous years. In 2000, he was elected as Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe with a membership of over 50,000 and spearheads a tribal budget of approximately \$9 million.

Numerous boards and commissions can claim Hunt as one of their own. Listed below are those boards and commissions which Hunt has served on, or continues to serve on: Cardinal Health Board, Southeastern Economic Development Association, Advantec, Inc; Board of Trustees, Robeson Community College (served 7 1/2 years, with two years as Vice Chairman); Robeson County Board of Social Services, Com Tech Board of Directors; Lumber River Council of Governments, Pembroke Jaycees (more than 30 years), Board of Directors, Progressive Bank, Co-Chairman, Building of the Pembroke Fire Station, Chairman, third term, Robeson County Municipal Association; Member of the University of North Carolina at Pembroke Centennial Celebration Committee.

Hunt is an astute politician, and has been actively involved in politics since running for Mayor of Pembroke. He was the Democrat Precinct Chairman of the Pembroke Precinct Chairman of the Pembroke Precinct prior to its division into two separate precincts, and he has served four years as Chairman of the Robeson County Democrat Party. For two terms, he served on the State Nominating Committee for Municipalities. Hunt has also co-chaired two gubernatorial campaigns for Governor Jim Hunt and two U.S. Senate campaigns in Robeson County.

Hunt has been recognized by a number of organizations, including two former Governors of North Carolina.

He was the 1981 Recipient of the Freedom Guard Award, a state award given by the Jaycees once a year (only one award given each year)

He is a two time Recipient of "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine"- the highest civilian award given by the Governor of North Carolina.

He is the 1998 Recipient of the Annual Service Award presented by the Robeson County Public Library.

He played a prominent role in fund-raising for the new Pembroke Public Library.

In 1989, the late Dexter Brooks asked his long time friend, Milton R. Hunt, to administer the oath of office to him as he was sworn in as the first Lumbee person to hold the position of Superior Court Judge. It is one of the things that Hunt is most proud of and in 2001, the Honorable Dexter Brooks delivered the oath of office to Hunt as he was sworn in as the first Lumbee Tribal Chairman.

As a husband, father, businessman, mayor and tribal leader, Hunt's record clearly shows him to be genuinely interested in the well being of others and a leader of exceptional abilities.



**Judge Dexter Brooks**

S. Dexter Brooks was the first Native American Superior Court Judge for the State of North Carolina, assuming that position on January 1, 1989. He later became the first Lumbee Indian to serve as the Senior Resident Superior Court Judge for Robeson County. Judge Brooks was considered by many to be one of the greater legal minds of the Lumbee nation, as well as the State of North Carolina.

Judge Brooks was an advocate for Indian causes and dedicated to improving the political position of people of color. He was instrumental in many progressive moves for minorities in Robeson County, including the historic fight to eliminate double-voting, merging the school system, saving Old Main of the UNCP campus, and the election of the first African American to the State House of Representatives. He will be remembered for his brilliant mind, fairness to others and his ability to plan political strategies, which resulted in Blacks and Indians becoming elected to positions of leadership in Robeson County. He was indeed proud of his heritage and not ashamed to promote the minority causes impressed upon him during his childhood. He courageously positioned a picture of Henry Berry Lowrie, local Indian hero, in the Robeson County courthouse. He was a historian and enjoyed participating in historic milestones such as swearing in the first Native American Sheriff for Robeson County, Glenn Maynor.

Judge Brooks' educational background included grade school in Pembroke, NC, his native home. There he won the reading and mathematics awards. He was a 1961 graduate of Pembroke High School and a 1965 graduate from North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. He received a Masters of Mathematics from NCSU in 1971 with high honors. In 1976 he earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. While enrolled in law school, Judge Brooks received the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fellowship, American Indian Law Fellowship, and the American Jurisprudence Awards.

Judge Brooks served in the United States Army during the years of 1966 through 1968. He was a member of the first Air Cavalry during the Vietnam War. During his military tenure, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal. He was also known as a sharpshooter for his ability to accurately use firearms.

Judge Brooks lost a four year battle with cancer on March 5, 2002, at the early age of 58.