

Mr. Adolph Blue - A Man of Integrity

By Cynthia L. Hunt

Whether you know him as Mr. Blue, the businessman; Mr. Blue, the farmer; Mr. Blue, the political activist; Mr. Blue, the civic leader; Mr. Blue, the tribal leader; or Mr. Blue the religious leader, you know him as a man of sincerity, truth, respect and honor. He was born to D.L. and Ada Blue on June 30, 1931, and was one of nine children born to the union. In 1949 Mr. Blue graduated from Pembroke High School, and would later attend Pembroke State College for Indians. A member of First United Methodist Church in Pembroke since 1950, he married the former Miss Dorothy Locklear in Dillon, SC on May 4, 1952, and one son, Randall, was born to the marriage. This solid foundation rooted in education, religion and family has been key in guiding Mr. Blue through his many years of service, which like most tribal leaders, began in the Church.

Since joining the membership at First United Methodist Church, Mr. Blue has held many positions of leadership, including Superintendent of Sunday School, Treasurer, and a Lay Leader. He has represented the Church on both the local and state level in the United Methodist Conference. An honored member of First United Methodist, Mr. Blue continues to be active in various Church activities.

The strong Christian beliefs held by Mr. Blue fueled his desire to help those less fortunate. This desire would lead to his involvement in numerous civic organizations that would include the Pembroke Lions Club. In 1986, the organization honored his hard work and dedication by awarding him the title of "Lion of the Year."

Mr. Blue's desire and dedication to assist those less fortunate would also take him on a "political pathway." His 25 years of experience as an employee with the University of NC at Pembroke, as well as his experience as a private businessman, would prove to be an asset in his political quest. Mr. Blue, a strong member of the Robeson County Republican Party, was first appointed to the Robeson County Board of Elections in 1986. His decisions were always fair, and all work completed was assuredly in accordance with the appropriate procedures or regulations. During the controversial issue of "school merger," Mr. Blue served on the Board of Elections. His presence assured tribal

members who supported the initiative that the vote on the matter would be handled fairly. They were confident in his ability and knowledge to serve. Mr. Blue's service ended with the Board in 1992. However, he continues to participate in the local Republican Party.

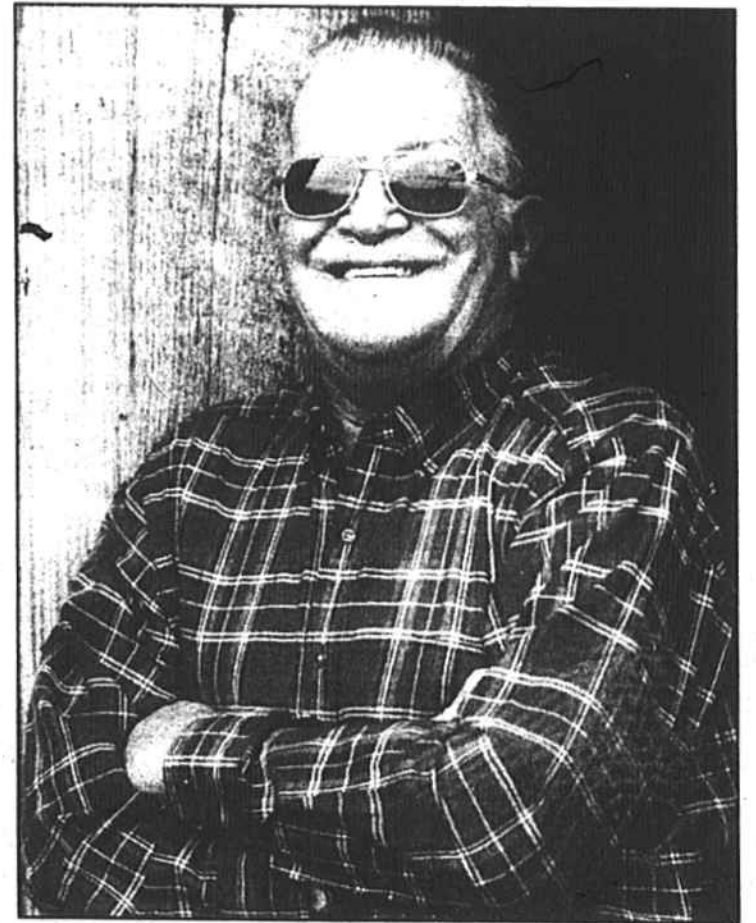
Mr. Blue's dedication to help people, especially those of his tribe, the Lumbee, is most evident in his involvement with Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. (LRDA), a private non-profit corporation established in 1968 to provide social services to Lumbee tribal members. In 1986, after conferring with various tribal community leaders, he decided to run for a seat on the LRDA board to represent the North Pembroke, South Pembroke, and Union district. Defeating the incumbent, Mr. Blue began working on his goal to build a stronger organization. He believed if the agency worked to bridge the communication gap between the agency and tribal members, more efficient services could be provided.

Providing services to tribal members became Mr. Blue's passion. He truly believed that assisting tribal members was an investment in the local community. Mr. Blue wanted to implement programs that would assist tribal members in becoming self-sufficient. This vision led him to secure the LRDA chairmanship in 1989. During his tenure as board chairman, Mr. Blue worked diligently to bring new programs into the tribal community. His hard work contributed to a substantial increase in LRDA's funding, and the addition of new programs including housing. The agency was able to expand services in their day care and energy assistance programs, as well.

While serving as chairman, Mr. Blue also became involved in the tribe's efforts to obtain federal recognition. He was instrumental in the tribe's successful attempts in recognition legislation being passed in the US House of Representatives in both 1991 and 1993. It was also during this time the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs voted favorably on legislation to recognize the Lumbee. Not since 1956 had the federal government been so close to recognizing the tribe.

Mr. Blue resigned as LRDA chairman in 2000 due to health reasons. In the thirty-two year history of the organization, he has the distinction of serving as chairman longer than anyone has. A champion of Lumbee people, Mr. Blue continues to serve on the LRDA board.

Throughout his many years of service, Mr. Blue never strayed from what was right. He has stood steadfast in his belief to help people and his belief that tribal members should be treated with understanding, respect, and dignity. This article is a tribute to Mr. Adolph Blue, who truly is "a man of integrity."



Mr. Adolph Blue



Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Blue are shown with their son, Randall, his wife, Sylvia, and their grandsons Eric and Matthew Blue.

Mrs. Gladys Bullard celebrates 80th Birthday



On December 7, 2002, Mrs. Gladys Bullard celebrated her 80th birthday with family and friends at Sheff's Seafood Restaurant in Pembroke, NC. In attendance were children and spouses: Ernest & Sylvia Bullard (son) of Rowland, Marvin Bullard, Jr. (son) of Fort Mills, SC. Retha Deese (daughter) of Rowland, Annie & Bently Harris (daughter) of Maxton, and Mary and Larry Hunt (daughter) of Rowland. Grandchildren, great grand children and spouses in attendance were Janet and Terry Chavis, Lisa, Larry and Jamie Gales, Maria Harris, Wilbur, Angela and Case Harris; Tonya, Kelvin and Kaden Jacobs; Ben, Kim and Megan Harris, Marvin Bullard III, Winford E. Bullard, Richard, Eustacia, Cameron and Alexis Jones; Rebecca, Scott and Nicholas Jones. Special friends, Millard Oxendine, Ms. Mae Locklear and Ms. Sarah Oxendine.

Vote on Proposed Constitutional Amendment set for March 8

The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina will hold a tribal elections Saturday, March 8, 2003, for a proposed constitutional amendment to Article I dealing with territory. Currently the Constitution defines the Tribe's territory as the State of North Carolina. The amendment would restrict the territory to Robeson, Hoke, Cumberland and Scotland counties. Jimmie Goins, chairman of the Federal Recognition Committee, states, "The Constitution needs to be amended to be consistent with the Lumbee Bill about to be introduced into the Congress for federal recognition efforts."

The amendment, if passed, will not affect the service area of the Tribe. The tribally designated service area is determined by Tribal Council and can include any area they deem, unless restricted by a grant. The amendment would only change the make-up of the Tribal council and the representatives. Only members within the territory can serve on the Council.

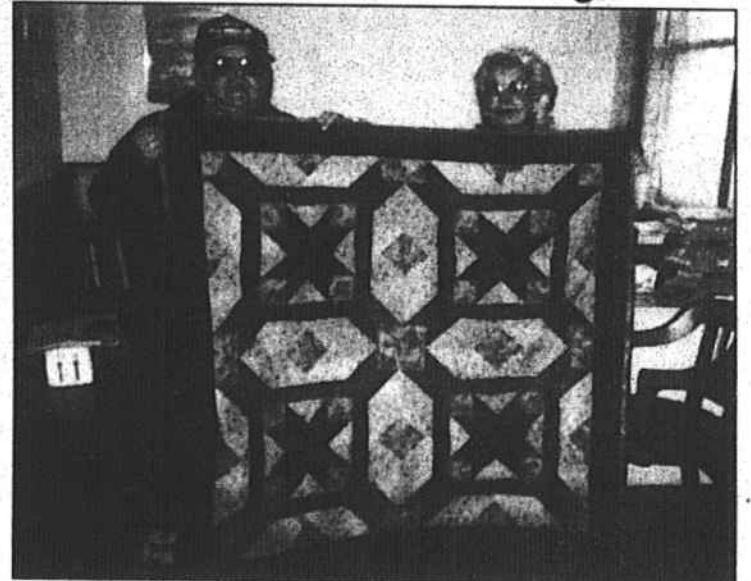
Council passed the amendment so as not to conflict with other tribes in North Carolina and their territory. The Lumbee tribal Council wishes to respect other tribes and their tribal territory but to be inclusive of as many tribal members as possible. Restricting the territory to Robeson and adjoining counties would be keeping with the traditional territory as outlined in previous legislation.

Without passage, the tribal territory would stay as the state and many members are concerned, according to the Federal Recognition Committee, that such act would hurt recognition efforts.

The proposed constitutional amendment to Article I will appear as below:

"The territory of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina shall include Robeson, Hoke, Scotland and Cumberland counties." Members will have option of voting for or against the amendment. Further information concerning the amendment can be obtained by calling Alex Baker at 521-7861 ext 214.

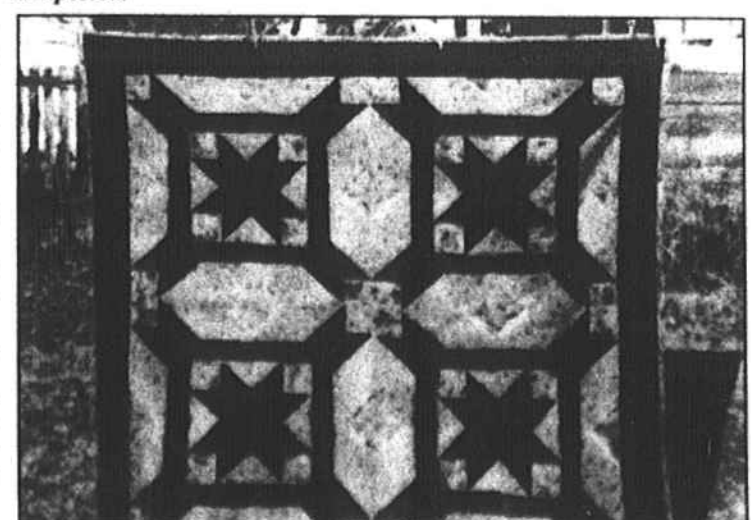
Hand stitched quilt to be raffled for Palmer Prevention Program



Lumbee artist Screaming Eagle has recently hand-stitched the Indian print quilt shown above. The colorful quilt has more than 350,000 stitches and has served as a "labor of love" for the artist. Plans are for raffle tickets to be sold and a drawing held. The winner of the drawing will win the quilt and the proceeds from ticket sales will be donated to Palmer Prevention.

Shown displaying the quilt are Erwin Jacobs of Maxton and Mary Largent of Lumberton, agents for the artist.

The quilt may be seen at the offices of the Carolina Indian Voice. In March the quilt will be on display at Mother Earth Creations in Pembroke. The sale of the tickets and the date of the drawing will be released at a later date, as soon as plans for the fund raiser are completed.



Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Blue at the observance of their 50th wedding anniversary, May 4, 2002.

Over \$8,000 awarded in scholarships

The Lumbee Tribal council is proud to announce the recipients of the Vision Quest awards and the Lumbee tribal Council Scholarship Fund. The Vision Quest Awards were established to assist enrolled Lumbee members in Robeson, Hoke and Scotland counties with vocational and skills training. The purpose of the award is to assist tribal members who have lost jobs as a result of plant closings to acquire new job skills that will lead to reentry into the labor force. Nine Vision Quest Awards were made at \$800 for a total of \$7,200 issued for training assistance.

Congratulations to: Tiffany Locklear, enrolled in Respiratory Therapy; Shirley Smith, LPN program; Homer Hunt, office System Technology; Patricia Brayboy, Advertising & Graphic design; Lisa Locklear, CAN; Barbara Strickland, Networking Administration & Support; Brandy Dial, Beautician; Rebecca Maynor, Barber/Cosmetology and Belinda Locklear, Information Systems.

Funding for this program is made available through the Community services Block Grant awarded to the Lumbee tribe by the U.S. Department of Health & human Services.

The Lumbee tribal council also made two awards of \$500 from the Lumbee Tribal Scholarship Fund to Jason Smith and Thomas Oxendine. Both are current students at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. Smith is a Pre-med student and Oxendine is an Environmental Biology major.

The purpose of the Lumbee tribal Scholarship Fund is to encourage Lumbee students to pursue higher education. Applicants must be: (1) an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe, (2) a graduate from a North Carolina high school with a 3.0 or higher, and (3) be accepted into a college or university and enrolled full-time.

The Lumbee tribal council raised this fund at the First Annual Lumbee tribal Council scholarship/Community Partnership golf Tournament held this summer at Riverside Golf Course at the NC Indian Cultural center during the Tribal Festival.

Pembroke Business and Professional Women sponsor annual dance

The Pembroke Business and Professional Women's Organization held its annual dance fund-raiser to provide scholarships for women pursuing a college degree. Sheila Dorset, District Director, was the guest speaker for the club. She encouraged members of the group to work diligently in supporting goals of the organization.

Upcoming events include: February 3-Dr. Ruth Dial Woods as guest speaker. March 14-Shamrock Ball and April 7-Angie Revels as guest speaker.

Anyone wishing to make a donation to the Pembroke (BPW) Foundation Scholarship through UNC-P may contact Dorothy Blue at 521-4271.

Please contact Yvonne Barnes Dial at 521-3152 for information concerning Pembroke Business and Professional Women. Meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at the James B. Chavis Center upstairs every first Monday of each month unless announced.