



Dear Lumbee People,

June is always a month of celebration, as we welcome another Lumbee Homecoming and take in all the pageantry, fun and food that comes during this time of the year. It is wonderful to see so many familiar faces, visit with friends, and enjoy the many events that take place during Homecoming. Once again, the Lumbee Tribe was the proud host of our Senior Ms. Lumbee pageant as we enjoyed the talents and personalities of our many contestants. During the pageant, we bid farewell to the wonderful Mrs. Edith Jones, as she handed over the crown to our new 2024/25 Senior Ms. Lumbee Carolyn McNeill Emanuel. I am so proud of all our contestants, and I look forward to a year of shared joy and making memories with Mrs. Carolyn.

We held our second annual Lumbee Gala in June and approximately 500 individuals attended. The Gala is important, as we use this event to raise funds for our fight for Full Federal Recognition. As many of you know, Congress passed and President Eisenhower signed into law the 1956 Lumbee Act, that stated we are a Tribe and established our territory. However, the legislation denied us the ability to receive funding and services earmarked for Federally Recognized tribes. This was the era of Indian Termination and our Tribe, along with many others, suffered setbacks at the federal level as the United States government looked to "get out of the Indian business" and have all tribes assimilate into American culture. Because of the language in the 1956 Act, we continue to work to have Congress update and modify their wrongdoing to ensure we are fully federally recognized. Thank you to everyone who helped make the Gala a success and a very special thank you to all the sponsors who continue to invest in our fight for full federal recognition.

The highlight of June was our official signing ceremony with the Catawba Nation that cements our partnerships and forges a path forward of collaboration and cooperation. Chief Brian Harris and his fellow members of the Executive Committee of the Catawba Nation are true partners as we walk on this path of protecting each other's sovereignty and working together to foster social, cultural, and economic development among our two great nations. The Lumbee have no greater friend than the Catawba and I am so proud of our work together and I look forward to our bright futures.

On June 12, Tribal Administrator Ricky Harris and Governmental Affairs Director Tammy Maynor joined leaders of the other tribes within North Carolina to visit the General Assembly. This visit to Raleigh was meant to introduce tribal leadership to the lawmakers for the state. The tribal leaders met with Speaker Tim Moore and with Senate Pro Tem Phil Berger. This event was coordinated with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs and Representative Jarrod Lowery. As Lumbee, we have a good relationship with the General Assembly. I was happy to have Ricky and Tammy there with the elected heads of the other tribes within North Carolina to show our unity and support for one another.

I am honored to serve as the Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe.

I love you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lowery".

John L. Lowery
Chairman

OFFICE OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

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