

LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA

CLLO-2009-0625-01

DATE: JUNE 25, 2009

RECLAMATION OF THE LUMBEE RIVER'S ANCESTRAL NAME

WHEREAS, The Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina ("Lumbee Tribe") is a recognized American Indian Tribe of the State of North Carolina, subject to the Constitution of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina ("Tribal Constitution") and its inherent powers of self-government;

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the Tribal Constitution delegates all legislative authority to the Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina ("Tribal Council"); and

WHEREAS, The Lumbee Tribe is nestled along the banks of the Lumber River;

WHEREAS, Prior to 1809, the Lumber River and its headwaters were known as Drowning Creek;

WHEREAS, In 1809, the North Carolina General Assembly designated the stretch of Drowning Creek from the Hoke County-Scotland County border to the North Carolina-South Carolina state line as Lumber River;

WHEREAS, The headwaters of the Lumber River, still known today as Drowning Creek, extend from Moore County to the Hoke County-Scotland County border;

WHEREAS, Lumbee tribal members have always known the Lumber River as the Lumbee River. Various authors and tribal events demonstrate the authenticity of these oral traditions;

WHEREAS, In 1888, state Representative Hamilton McMillian, in his pamphlet on the origins of the Lumbee Tribe, wrote, according to oral "traditions ... preserved by the old members of the tribe," "The Indians built great roads connecting the distant settlements with their principal seat on the Lumbee, as the Lumber River was then called." These roads stretched from the Lumbee River north to "old settlements" in Fayetteville and Cross Creek in Cumberland County, NC, and southwest "towards an ancient ... settlement on the Pee Dee [River]" near Cheraw, SC. McMillian also wrote, "The name Lumber, as applied to the river, was originally Lumbee or Lombee";

WHEREAS, In a demonstration of the longstanding presence of Lumbee as the ancestral name of the river, on October 26, 1900, the all-Indian Lumbee River Conference of the Holiness Methodist Church organized under the leadership of Rev. H.H. Lowry, a Lumbee Indian. The Conference derived its name from the Indian name for the river;

WHEREAS, The May 10, 1904 Robesonian newspaper article "Lumberton As It Now Is," an account of the early history of Lumberton, the county seat for Robeson, suggests a meaning for the word Lumbee. The article reads, "Tradition ... has it that Lumberton ... was an Indian trading post, where gathered the forebear[er]s of our [Indian] people on the river to which they had given the name Lombe which in the Indian tongue, means black, because of its dark waters. This name in time became corrupted into Lumber, the cause being the floating of lumber down its stream";

WHEREAS, In 1905, John Charles McNeill, a prominent author who grew up near a Lumbee Indian settlement in Scotland County, articulated his displeasure with the perversion of the river's "sweet Indian name." He wrote:

"She is a tortuous, delicious flirt, but she does not deserve the punishment put upon her by geographers, who have perverted her sweet Indian name of 'Lumbee' into something that suggests choking sawdust, rotting slabs, and the shrill scream of the circular saw. Though she be now wedded to civilization, she should not have been robbed of her maiden name.

But her playmates know ... [s]he is just as wild, wandering about in her solemn swamp, as she was when the Indians dubbed her 'Lumbee.'"

WHEREAS, Prior to the later part of the nineteenth century, the word Lumbee resided in the oral traditions of Lumbee ancestors and not in written texts. However, in 1888, McMillan introduced the word Lumbee to the non-Indian community. At the turn of the century, McNeill catapulted the word Lumbee into mainstream society through his poetry and other writings and makes it famous and well-known throughout the county and state.

WHEREAS, References to and the use of Lumbee or Lumbee River are found in 1888, 1900 and every year between 1904 and 1952. The word becomes so recognizable and popular with the citizens of Robeson County that its use is ubiquitous in the community in many different ways. The word Lumbee is used by the Lumbee and non-Lumbee community as the name of geographic locations, businesses, clubs and organizations, events, and even as an athletic team's nickname;

WHEREAS, In 1952, a tribal referendum was held and tribal members voted overwhelmingly to adopt Lumbee as the tribal name;

WHEREAS, In 1953, the North Carolina General Assembly designated the tribe as Lumbee;

WHEREAS, In 1956, the United States Congress recognized the tribe as Lumbee.

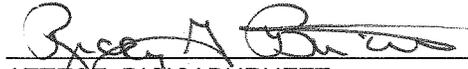
THEREFORE, Be it enacted by the Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina this ordinance that shall be cited as "**RECLAMATION OF THE LUMBEE RIVER'S ANCESTRAL NAME.**"

THEREFORE, Be it further resolved, The Lumbee Tribe shall henceforth refer to the river by its ancestral name of Lumbee in all correspondences and tribal publications, thus repatriating the tribe's cultural patrimony and primordial relationship with the river.

THEREFORE, Be it further resolved, The Lumbee Tribe shall lobby for state legislation to change the legal name of the river from Lumber River to Lumbee River.

CERTIFICATION

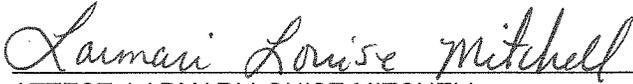
THIS "RECLAMATION OF THE LUMBEE RIVER'S ANCESTRAL NAME," CLLO-2009-0619-01, ADOPTED AT A MEETING OF THE 21-MEMBER TRIBAL COUNCIL OF THE LUMBEE TRIBE OF NORTH CAROLINA WHERE 20 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT, CONSTITUTING A QUORUM, THIS THE 25TH DAY OF JUNE, 2009 BY A VOTE OF 20 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTENTION(S).



ATTEST: RICKY BURNETT
Speaker, Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

7-23-09

Date



ATTEST: LARMARI LOUISE MITCHELL
Secretary, Tribal Council of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

July 8, 09

Date



ATTEST: JAMES E. GOINS
Chairman, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

7-10-09

Date

POSTING

This "RECLAMATION OF THE LUMBEE RIVER'S ANCESTRAL NAME," CLLO-200-0625-01, duly posted on this the 2ND day of JULY, 2009.



ATTEST: RUTH B. LOCKLEAR
Tribal Clerk, Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina

7-2-09

Date

ROLL CALL VOTE RESULTS TO ADOPT
CLLO-2009-0625-01, "RECLAMATION OF THE LUMBEE RIVER'S ANCESTRAL NAME"

20 FOR, 0 AGAINST, 0 ABSTENTION(S)

District 1:	Audrey Revels Hunt	YES
District 2:	Sharon Hunt	YES
	Larmari Louise Mitchell	YES
District 3:	Laura B. Sampson	YES
	Pam Spaulding	YES
District 4:	Helen H. Locklear	YES
District 5:	Kernice Lee Locklear	YES
	Charles Bullard	YES
District 6:	James Deese	YES
	Larry Anthony Chavis	YES
District 7:	Ray Littleturtle	YES
	James Harold Locklear	YES
	Terry Campbell	YES
District 8:	Steve Sampson	ABSENT
District 9:	James Taft Smith	YES
District 10:	Bradley McMillian	YES
District 11:	Linda Revels	YES
District 12:	Furnie Lambert Jr.	YES
	Shelley Strickland	YES
District 13:	Ricky Burnett	YES
District 14:	Welford Clark	YES