



Dear Lumbee People,

March 2023 was very historic for the Lumbee Tribe.

With support from the Tribal Council and a stroke of the pen, I was able to increase our down payment assistance from what was a scale of \$5,000 - \$12,000 to what is now \$10,000 - \$20,000. This historic change will help new Lumbee homeowners achieve their dream of owning a home while overcoming high interest rates, rising inflation, and soaring construction cost. Our families are already benefiting from the change.

In another historic step, the Lumbee Tribe entered into an agreement with business giant Amazon to allow our citizens an opportunity to receive Free Amazon Prime Accounts. With Prime Accounts, Lumbee citizens receive quicker shipping, access to millions more items, and higher discounts on products. This is a service that all enrolled Lumbee Members can access regardless of income. This is a true indication of us thinking outside the box and partnering with others to provide additional services to our people.

At the 48th annual N.C. Indian Unity Conference, Dr. Jo Ann Chavis Lowery was recognized with the United Tribes Distinguished Service to the Indian Community award for her continued commitment to the Lumbee people. Kaylee Chavis received the Distinguished American Indian High School award as she completes her senior year at Lumberton High School and prepares for college at UNC-Chapel Hill. Dwayne Hunt, US Army, was awarded the Lumbee Veteran recognition award for his military service and his continued service to veteran causes. The Lumbee Tribe also had numerous students receive scholarship funds to attend college next school year. In the Art Contest, we had youth and adult winners take home multiple awards based on their excellent craftsmanship. I truly enjoyed my time at the conference and meeting with Tribal leaders from across N.C.

The Raynham Dreamcatcher project has been a community development boom for our Tribe. Last year, we opened Warriors Way, which houses 10 Veteran families, we opened numerous single-family homes, and in March we dedicated a new Administrative and Community Building along with a playground area and a basketball court. Part of my vision as Chairman is to ensure we are including playground equipment, walking trails, and other items to ensure our citizens can be active when living in our tribal communities.

I also want to give to shout out to Coach Kelvin Sampson and his Houston Cougars team for a tremendous season. They spent many weeks as the #1 ranked team in the nation. Houston completed the season in the Sweet 16. We look forward to more winning basketball seasons!

Finally, in March my administration and Tribal Council honored Lumbee Pediatrician, Dr. Joseph Bell, with a proclamation and a beaded Eagle feather for his deep commitment to the health and wellbeing of Native Children. In 1986, he became the first Lumbee pediatrician and the first American Indian pediatrician in N.C. when he graduated from UNC Chapel Hill's School of Medicine. Thank you, Dr. Bell, for being an advocate.

I truly appreciate the opportunity to be your Chairman.

I love you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Lowery". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light blue circular watermark.

John L. Lowery

OFFICE OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

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