



Dear Lumbee People,

In November, I attended the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) Annual conference, where some individual tribes pushed amendments to remove the Lumbee, and other state tribes, from the membership of the organization. NCAI is the nation's oldest and largest organization that represents tribes throughout the entire country and is respected in Washington DC as a vocal proponent of tribal issues. These three tribes pushed two amendments to remove and restrict state tribes and state tribal citizens from being able to have membership or voting rights. I was joined by a number of Lumbee tribal council members, North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs staff and members, the other state tribes of North Carolina and many friends throughout all of Indian Country in a battle to defeat these two divisive amendments. Our working together as allies made sure that we received a majority of the vote and our opponents fell short of the 2/3 votes needed to change the constitution. I am so grateful for the teamwork and the unity that we displayed for all of Indian Country to see.

During American Indian Heritage Month celebrations in November our culture team toured many schools, businesses, and public agencies across the Southeast as they shared information and demonstrations about the history and culture of the Lumbee people. For the second year in a row, we partnered with UNCP to host a school day at GPAC where students from across the region had the opportunity to see our culture team perform. As Lumbee people we know that we celebrate being Native each and every day and at the same time it is good to have a month where all of America recognizes and understands that we are still here!

The Lumbee Tribe's Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the grounds of the tribal complex as we celebrated Veteran's Day. Lumbee citizens serve in the armed services at a very high percentage rate and I am so thankful for their dedication and service to our nation. Our Lumbee veterans are our modern day warriors and we are blessed to have so many who have answered the call and those who continue to answer the call. Thank you to our Lumbee veterans and all who have served from every corner of the nation.

I love each of you,

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

John L. Lowery
Chairman

OFFICE OF THE LUMBEE TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

6984 Highway 711 | PO Box 2709 | Pembroke, NC 28372 | 910.521.7861

