



Dear Lumbee People,

In September, Tribal Administrator Ricky Harris and I traveled to Baltimore to visit with our tribal families. In the 1950's and 1960's, many of our fellow Lumbee made the trek up north in search of better job opportunities. Some received jobs in the shipping industries, some in construction, and many in other career fields. The Lumbee built a thriving community that included South Broadway Baptist Church and the Baltimore American Indian Center. Thank you to everyone within the Lumbee Community in Baltimore that made us feel right at home. Our visit to Baltimore allowed us to spend some quality time at the Baltimore American Indian Center, where we held a question and answer session. The joyous singing during the Sunday morning service at South Broadway Baptist Church could be from any Lumbee Church within our territory. The sermon by Rev. B.J. Hunt reaffirmed God's grace.

We welcomed Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Administrator Mark Butterfield of the Eastern Woodlands Indian Housing's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) to Lumbee Land. Mr. Butterfield visited our homelands as we cut the ribbon on new homes for individuals in the Raynham Community. These new Dreamcatcher Raynham homes provide safe and reliable housing for individuals and families. The spacious homes have detailed interiors and a garage and would be welcomed in any community. Mr. Butterfield spoke on the progress our Tribe is making with our housing programs and encouraged us to keep up the good work for the Lumbee people.

I was recently appointed to the United States Government Accountability Office's (GAO) first ever Tribal Advisory Council. We held our inaugural meeting in September and learned about the GAO organizational structure, the processes it takes to review items, and how Congress uses GAO reports when working to create or amend laws. I look forward to my time on this federal advisory board, that will serve all of Indian Country.

During the month of September, we continued to get out into the community by holding meetings in District 1, 6, and 12. Reaching our people is something the Tribal Council and I take very seriously. It is imperative that we continue to visit and spread the word regarding our programs and services. Meeting people where they are, in their communities remains a priority for my administration.

It is an honor to serve the Lumbee people every day.

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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