



Native Sons

Equipping Native Leaders to Reach Native Americans

JULIAN T. PIERCE (1946-1988)

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- On paper we are at app. 92% of our monthly support., but can see as little as 80% come in on any given month
- Missionary Jim Keys has been appointed as the new President of NABC by unanimous vote of the school's board of directors.
- The Native American Founding Fathers from left to right are: Chief Joseph, Sitting Bull, Geronimo, and Red Cloud

PRAYER POINTS

- Theresa's physical healing.
- NABC— Fall enrollment.
- NABC needs to raise app. \$10,000 to pay fees associated with the accreditation process.

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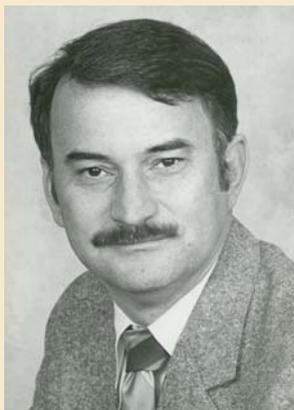
Included among those counted as heroes among the Lumbee people is a man who was maliciously murdered in 1988.

Julian T. Pierce was a trained chemist, who later earned an undergraduate and Master's degree in law. As a chemist he developed an award-winning chemical process for decontamination of nuclear reactors. As a lawyer he worked for the State Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, DC, but returned to Robeson County where he founded the Lumbee River Legal Services in 1978. He worked to raise the standard of living for the poor and to secure legal protection for those who could not defend themselves among all races. He helped to merge the racially segregated schools of Robeson County into a single unified school board system so all children in the area would receive an equal education. In 1987, Pierce co-authored a petition which was presented to the Bureau of Indian Affairs seeking full recognition of the Lumbee people as Native Americans and the addition of the tribal name to the national roll. Although this petition was eventually denied, the Lumbee people continue to labor for recognition as Native American people with the Federal Government to this day.

In 1988, a new Superior Court Judgeship was created in Robeson County and Pierce resigned his position as president of the

Lumbee River Legal Services to run against the county's district attorney, Joe Freeman Britt. Not as popular as Britt, Pierce was never-the-less well known for his extensive work in the community.

Pierce campaigned tirelessly. But as noted in the journal *Southern Changes*, Robeson County, NC was a place of "third world ills" (*Southern Changes*, v.10, #4, 1988). These third world ills include poverty, drugs, government corruption and racism.



Julian T. Pierce

county" (*ibid*). Numerous unsolved murders of Indians and Blacks existed at this time, as well as accounts of white law-enforcement officials shooting unarmed minority peoples in "self-defense." Pierce

sought to take on this corruption. His opponent was "known for holding the world's record for obtaining death penalty convictions... and was very much a part of the system Pierce was battling." ("Julian Pierce." *partlytruthpartlyfiction.wordpress.org* 2008/03/27).

In the early morning on March 26, Pierce answered a knock at his door. A shot gun blast ripped through his chest. As he fell he was again shot in the side and as he lay on the floor again through his head. A hasty investigation claimed that Pierce's murder was the result of a domestic dispute. The young man accused of murdering Pierce was found dead in a closet in his mother's house. Interestingly, the young man was an honor student at a local technical college with no criminal history or history of violence. Pierce was elected posthumously to the Superior Court Judgeship by a vote of 10,787 to 8,231.

Pierce's life and death provoked change in Robeson County. The Executive Director of Legal Services of NC noted, "Julian's life showed that aggressive advocacy on behalf of the poor can truly make a difference... Julian Pierce made the system work for poor people." Julian Pierce is an example of Lumbee pride, and a reminder of the cost entailed in fighting for what is right.

ON A PERSONAL NOTE

Graduation was held at NABC on May 1st with three four-year graduates and one two-year graduate.

On May 7th I made my way to Southern New England for the first of two 5-week tours touching bases with ministry partners. I returned home to attend the annual convocation of the Native American Fellowship, which was held in our area this year. I will be heading to upstate New York and Vermont on June 25th for my 2nd summer tour, which is a few days away at the time I am writing.

Theresa is doing well, but I would continue to appreciate your prayers for her healing. Her father went to be with the Lord in early

April. His passing has been tough on Theresa and Father's Day was a bit difficult. Although she loves teaching kindergarten, the administration of the school where she works is facing a decreased enrollment and has asked her to teach a combined 2nd & 3rd grade class next year which she has agreed to.

Caleb has finished his junior year in high school and is looking ahead to what he should do after graduation. He is currently considering enlisting in the Marines, but is looking into his options; like his brother, he scored very high on the military ASVAB test, and is being courted by the military as a result.

Levi and Alicia are doing well. Levi is expecting an extended deployment soon. Alicia is enjoying her work as a RN in a hospital. They live near my brother, Mick, which makes Theresa jealous.



"Founding Fathers" by Don Galloway