



Voice of the Saponi



December 2025

Issue 191

If you would like to submit an article to us, please remember they are due on the 20th of each month prior to the month. (Ex December articles are November 20th).

Deadline

4 p.m.

You may email articles to crrichardson@haliwa-saponi.com or feel free to mail them to :

Haliwa-Saponi Tribe

Attn: Newsletter Editor

P.O. Box 99



Upcoming Dates and Meetings

December 19- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Meeting will be at the Multi-Purpose Building at 6:30 p.m.

December 22- Haliwa-Saponi Tribal Council Meeting will be at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex at 6:30.

Committee Meetings

Finance Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Monday of each month at 2:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.

Federal Recognition Committee meetings are being held on the 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Earl Evans.

Enrollment Committee meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Princess Committee meetings are held on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson.

Pow-Wow Planning meetings are held on the 4th Monday night of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Vice Chief Dr. Marty Richardson.

Haliwa-Saponi Senior Citizens Organization meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at the Old Council House.

Committee Chair: Rev. Al Cooper.

Veteran's Memorial meetings are held on the 4th Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Sylvia Richardson.

Education Committee meetings are held on the 1st Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Angela Richardson.

Election Committee meetings are being held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Ameila K. Oxendine.

By-laws Review Committee meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W. R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Attorney Joshua Richardson.

Boys & Girls Club meetings are held on the 1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Multi-Purpose Building.

Committee Chair: Karen Harley.

Fundraiser Committee meetings are being held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at the Chief W.R. Richardson Tribal Government Complex.

Committee Chair: Tyler Richardson.

Personnel Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Earl Evans.

Awards Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Karen Harley.

Finance Long Range Committee meetings are PRN (As Needed).

Committee Chair: Rev. Michael Richardson.



Highlights from the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School

Greetings from the Haliwa-Saponi Tribal School! We have had a busy, yet productive, first quarter of learning and growing with our Mighty Buck scholars. Here are some highlights we would love to share:

celebrated the ribbon cutting on our new library space in partnership with Book Harvest and Healthy Blue

honored several of our high school scholars for outstanding academic achievements

recognized our 2025-26 Teacher of the Year, Mrs. Marisa Harley

Civics Club organized a Thanksgiving Food Drive and will be participating in the Eastern NC Civics Bowl on **December 13th** at Halifax Community College.

Winter Celebration is **December 18th** at The Meadows Community Center (Doe Spun)

Thank you to the community for the continued support as we stay diligent in our dedication to mission and "Catching the Vision!"

Grants & Loans

The Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe has partnered with USDA Rural Development to bring housing resources to the tribal community.

What does this program do?

Also known as the Section 504 Home Repair program, this provides loans to very-low-income homeowners to repair, improve or modernize their homes or grants to elderly very-low-income homeowners to remove health and safety hazards.

Who may apply for this program?

To qualify, you must:

Be the homeowner and occupy the house.

Be unable to obtain affordable credit elsewhere.

Have a household income that does not exceed the very low limit by county.

For grants, be age 62 or older Who can answer questions and how do I get started?





Commission of Indian Affairs
Gregory A. Richardson | Executive Director

Josh Stein | Governor
Gabriel J. Esparza | Secretary

Tribal Advocate for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs (NCCIA) is actively seeking a compassionate individual to join us in the vital role of advocating for those affected by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. This position offers a part-time opportunity (up to 20 hours per week) and involves providing direct support to victims, including accompanying them to court, offering referrals for services, and assisting them in navigating various processes related to their victimization.

Key Responsibilities:

- Direct Support: Offer compassionate assistance to victims, including court accompaniment, referrals for services, and guidance through court proceedings, medical advocacy, compensation forms, safety planning, crisis intervention, and other related needs.
- Training and Healing Circles: Undergo comprehensive training and lead monthly healing circles on relevant topics for tribal victims.
- Community Education: Serve as a valuable resource within tribal communities by delivering workshops on domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- Collaboration with Crisis Agencies: Work closely and in collaboration with other crisis agencies in coordinating services for victims, ensuring seamless support and access to resources.
- Reporting: Submit monthly timesheets for grant purposes and provide the Program Director with a Client Service Summary detailing all direct services provided.
- Flexibility and Travel: Be willing to travel to the NCCIA office in Raleigh for occasional meetings or training sessions, as well as attend other relevant training and events across North Carolina when required.

Qualifications:

- Passion for supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
- Ability to work independently, self-motivate, and demonstrate moderate computer skills.
- Effective public speaking abilities and critical thinking skills.
- Capacity to contribute innovative ideas for program success in tribal areas.
- Willingness to collaborate with local community agencies to ensure the provision of necessary resources.
- Must be a member of an American Indian tribe.

Mailing
1317 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1317



doa.nc.gov

Location
325 N Salisbury St. | Raleigh, NC 27603
984-236-0160 T

Training and Support:

- Training opportunities provided by the NCCIA, including attendance at the Advocates Institute through the NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV).
- Additional training may be required as deemed necessary by the Program Director.
- Expenses for overnight travel will be reimbursed.
- Advocates will represent their individual tribes, with membership costs for NCCADV, NCCASA, and NCVAN covered by NCCIA.

If you are passionate about making a difference in your community and supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking, we encourage you to contact or submit your resume to Nikki Locklear at the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs at 984-236-0167 or via email at tenley.locklear@doa.nc.gov (email preferred).

Housing Director Report

Tomahawk Meadows- new HVAC units installed and running at #60 and #62, tenant at unit #60 moved out-removed furniture outside and trash inside left behind, replaced storm door handle damaged by tenant, and move out inspection, met contractor at playground to give estimate on new playground equipment, 2 trees removed that have fallen or leaning over building throughout complex, Pye Barker- asked for quote to replace alarm system in Handi -cap units, #16 installed new kitchen light, #194 installed new stove, and fridge, #180 new tenant moved in, upgraded street lights-6 total needed, #62 warranty service HVAC unit heat not working, pest control spraying done, #222 repaired after toilet kept running.

Renovations- purchased singlewide home- Halifax county- received moving permit, purchased singlewide home- Warren County- applied for moving permit, asbestos report negative at Medoc Mtn Rd. house- scheduled fire department to burn down home.



Medoc Mounting Road Before and After
Purchased singlewide for replacement

4th Annual Haliwa-Saponi Veterans Day Gala a Huge Success!



The 4th Annual Veterans Day Gala was held on Saturday, November 8, at the beautifully decorated Doe Spun Community Building, with the evenings table décor provided by Mrs. Canitra Spruill. As guest check-ins were managed by Mr. Willia Evans, the event opened with an Honor Song by Vice Chief



Dr. Marvin Richardson, followed by the posting and later retirement of the Tribal Staff & Colors. Vice Chief Dr. Richardson also provided an opening honor song and hand-drumming later in the program for a beautiful Hoop Dance performed by Ms. Cheyenne Daniel, who shared its cultural significance with the guests.

A welcome was offered by Veterans Committee Chairwoman Sylvia E. Richardson, who also recognized the attending Princesses, Miss NCNAYO Lyla Richardson, Miss Haliwa-Saponi Amilia Berrun, and Ms. Senior Haliwa-Saponi Judy Richardson, as well as a host of dignitaries, and community leaders present for the evening.

Rev. Al Cooper delivered a thoughtful and heartfelt Invocation that set a respectful tone for the evening. He then conducted the Missing Man Ceremony with great reverence, explaining its symbolism and honoring the memory of service members who did not return home. Following the ceremony, he offered a blessing over the meal, expressing gratitude for the fellowship and for all Veterans in attendance.

Dinner was catered by King's Smoke-N-Soul, and guests enjoyed a touching Veterans Video Slide Show created by Mr. Mike Bissonette, the husband of Veterans Committee Co-Chair Jewel Bissonette. The video was a highlight of the evening, as attendees were pleased to see themselves and their loved ones honored. We continue to be grateful to Mr. Bissonette for his ongoing support and updating of slides for the Annual Gala.

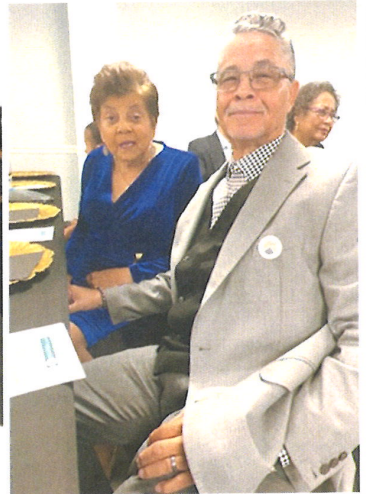
Mr. Micker Richardson introduced the evening's speaker, **SSG (E-6) Bob J. Richardson**, whose remarks were both compelling and deeply appreciated. He shared powerful stories from his personal life and military service that captivated the audience.

Haliwa-Saponi Princess Amilia Berrun and Ms. NCNAYO Lyla Richardson assisted with raffle tickets. Princess Amilia also donated the Gala cake and provided gifts for all Veterans in honor of her Great-Grandfather, Pvt. Murzie Mills, a World War II Purple Heart Veteran.

Mr. Jimmie Silver introduced Ms. Tonya Brown of Merck Pharmaceuticals, a valued partner since 2018. Merck presented plaques to Retired Army Sergeant First Class Al L. Cooper, Jr., and Army Specialist 5 Alfred "Morris" Richardson, and recognized Kim Silver and Sylvia E. Richardson for speaking at Merck's Veterans and Indigenous Day event on November 5th.

The evening concluded with a successful raffle and lively dancing with music provided by DJ Jordan. We extend heartfelt appreciation to all donors, volunteers, and supporters.





4TH ANNUAL
HALIWA-
SAPONI VETERANS
DAY
GALA



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU

If you would like your name or a loved one's name to be published, please email Carol Richardson errichardson@haliwasaponi.com, mail, or bring by the office. If you do not submit your birthday or a loved one, we cannot publish it in our newsletter. No Call Accepted.

December 1- Kimeka W. Savage,
December 2- Colton H. McGee,
December 3- Ladonna E. Richardson, Brenda Coley Lynch,
December 6- Henley Richardson,
December 7- Karen Evans Dale, Verginil Carter,
December 9- John D. Hedgepeth (D),
December 10- Jennifer Spreser,
December 11- Jesse E. McGee (D),
December 12- Edith L. Richardson,
December 13- Melody McGee-Kizer (D),
December 14- Percy Richardson (D),
December 15- Amy Silver, Leon Richardson Jr.,
December 17- Robert L. Richardson (D),
December 18- Regina Mills, Drucilla Miller,
December 22- Patrick Krivosh, Hazel Rose Kizer,
December 23- Angel C. Richardson-Silver,
December 25- Ashley N. Demery,
December 26- Marson Richardson, Callen Portillo,
December 27- Talitha Quay Richardson, Shana Tanner,
December 30- Korey James Whitley Carter,



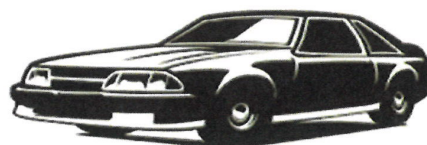
IN MEMORY OF'S

In Loving Memory of
Linwood Silver

Jan. 27, 1949 - Dec. 24, 2022

We love and miss you

Love, Regina, Malenya, Lynette, Aaron, Darius, Miyanna, D'niyah and your great granddaughters Danyelle & Jai'Lani Nakai



CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Mara Lynch who received her JD (Juris Doctor) degree this past May, and passed the Massachusetts Bar Exam this month. She will be practicing Whistleblower Law in Boston, MA.

Mara is the daughter of Robert & Donna Lynch (Granddaughter of Almorris & Nan Lynch). She will be working for Eugenie Reich Law LLC, representing people who report legal violations in organizations.

We are so proud of you Mara!

“Love Your Lynch family”

Thankful
Grateful
blessed

On Sunday, November 23, Keyara Hedgepeth daughter of Jessica and Brian Hedgepeth , Chief Glenn, and the Arcola Fire Department hosted their 3rd annual Thanksgiving Meal Community Giveback. What began as a simple idea to help local families has grown into one of the area’s most heartfelt traditions—bringing together neighbors, volunteers, and donors with one shared purpose: *to give back. As a team 100 recipients received a hot meal and a warm smile. Keyara wanted to publicly thank everyone who help make this possible.*





*A VERY SPECIAL HAPPY
BIRTHDAY TO
JUDY RICHARDSON ON
NOVEMBER 29TH
LOVINGLY SENT WITH ALL MY HEART
AL*



Belated Birthdays

David Wright- October 7th

Muriel Richardson- October 28th

Telisa McWilliams- November 3rd

Raymond Everett- November 7th

Cynthia Davis- November 8th

Kim-McGee- Jones- November 14th

Valerie Richardson- November 18th

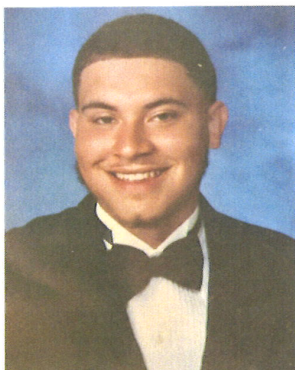
James Rudd- November 18th

Katie Kizer- November 19th

Monica Nicole DelLaMora- November 26st



Happy Heavenly 22nd Birthday Quincy!
November 11, 2003



We love and miss you Junie Moon!

Love, dad, grandma Rene, aunt Sherry, pa James , Baby J,
Chesley, Caroline and Ivy



ANNIVERSARIES

Happy 38th Anniversary To
Shawn & Charlotte Richardson
On November 28th, 2025

Happy Anniversary to
Jesse & Montana McGee
who celebrated their 2-year Anniversary
on November 5th, 2025

Happy Anniversary to
Chad & Rachael McGee-Jager
who celebrated their 4-year Anniversary
on November 6th, 2025



**HAPPY 70th BIRTHDAY TO JACKIE RAYNE
RICHARDSON**

DECEMBER 3rd

**WE'RE SO BLESSED TO HAVE YOU HERE
TO CELEBRATE YOUR DAY, LOVE CAROL
JASON, SAM, PAM, TALITHA & ALL YOUR
GRANDKIDS & GREAT GRAND KIDS!!!!**





Haliwa-Saponi Tribe
P. O. Box 99
Hollister, N.C. 27844

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What's Inside This Month?

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Housing Report**

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Gala**

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Special Birthday**

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2025 AWARDS NOMINATIONS

The 2025 Awards Nominations will be available at the W. R Richardson Government Complex and via email (by request) beginning October 10th and need to be turned in by December 10th. Please ensure all nominations reflect the criteria requested in the form to be considered.