

Decades of Federal Failure Addressed by President Trump's Landmark Decision

For over a century, the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina has sought federal recognition, a status that would provide access to critical resources and support. Despite being recognized as a Native American tribe by the state of North Carolina in 1885, the federal government has continually fallen short of fully acknowledging the Lumbee. That is, until now.

In a landmark move, President Donald Trump signed an executive order instructing the Department of the Interior to develop a plan for granting federal recognition to the Lumbee Tribe within 90 days. This action fulfills a campaign promise Trump made during the 2024 election, underscoring his commitment to righting a longstanding wrong.

The Lumbee Tribe, known as the People of the Dark Water, has endured a remarkable journey. Composed of descendants from multiple eastern tribal nations, they settled in a geographically isolated area of North Carolina, speaking English as a unifying language. Today, the Lumbee are over 55,000 strong, making them the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River.

Yet their federal recognition has remained elusive. The 1956 Lumbee Act acknowledged the tribe but denied them federal benefits. This partial recognition has left generations of Lumbee people in a state of limbo, awaiting justice from a government that failed to honor its word.

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Trump's Leadership and Biblical Principles

President Trump's executive order is a powerful step toward correcting this injustice. "They were with me all the way, they were great," Trump said before signing the order. His action reflects a commitment to fulfilling promises, echoing the biblical command to "But let your 'Yes' mean 'Yes,' and 'No' mean 'No.' For whatever is more than these comes from the evil one." (Matt. 5:37).

Thank you, @POTUS @realDonaldTrump, for making federal recognition of the Lumbee Tribe in North Carolina one step closer!

Now, Congress must do its job, fulfill its promise, and pass the Lumbee Fairness Act to make this federal recognition law.

– Senator Thom Tillis (@SenThomTillis) January 23, 2025

For too long, the federal government has failed to keep its word to the Lumbee people, but Trump is proving that leadership means following through. As reported by USA Today, Tribal Chairman John L. Lowery praised the move as a "direct follow-through of the campaign promises made by the President" and highlighted the administration's dedication to the Lumbee people.

Recognizing the Lumbee's Significance

Despite the federal government's neglect, the tribe has maintained its identity and fought tirelessly for full recognition. Trump's order instructs the Department of the Interior to work closely with Lumbee leadership, exploring legal pathways to secure their rightful status.

This decision also highlights Trump's commitment to addressing the needs of communities overlooked by the federal government. By taking decisive action, he is empowering the Lumbee Tribe and acknowledging their rightful place in American history.

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Moving Toward Justice

The road to federal recognition is not without challenges. The Lumbee's efforts have faced opposition, with some arguing that recognition should come through traditional processes rather than political action. However, Trump's decision to expedite the process demonstrates his understanding of the urgency and importance of this issue.

By honoring his promise, Trump is not only correcting a historical oversight but also setting a precedent for accountability for the government. His leadership serves as a reminder that promises made should be promises kept, a principle rooted in both biblical truth and the foundations of good governance.

A Win for the Lumbee and America

The Lumbee Tribe's recognition is long overdue, and Trump's actions mark a significant step toward justice. As the Department of the Interior works to finalize the recognition plan, the Lumbee people can take heart in knowing that their voices have been heard.

This decision is a testament to the power of perseverance and the importance of leaders who honor their commitments. For the Lumbee Tribe, and for all Americans who value justice and integrity, this is a moment to celebrate.

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James Lasher is staff writer for Charisma Media.