Bicentennial Flag Will Go to La. Indian Reservation

(Special to The Times-Picayune)

CHARENTON, La. — The first Indian reservation in the United States to be designated as a bicentennial community by the American Revolution Bicentennial Administration will be officially recognized in ceremonies Sunday.

The Chitimacha Indian Reservation, located near this St. Mary Parish community, is Louisiana’s only recognized Indian nation and reservation, and one of the few Indian tribes never to have gone to war with the United States.

U.S. Rep. David C. Treen, R-La., will present the tribe with the official bicentennial flag and participate in the dedication of the Chitimacha’s new tribal center at 2 p.m. Sunday.

The Chitimacha, historically known as the “Lake Indians” because they were centered around the lake areas of what is now the Atchafalaya Basin, number over 400 with over half of the tribe’s membership living on the 283-acre reservation.

The tribe plans to construct an overnight campground, as well as develop a roadside park and picnic area. The new tribal center is being dedicated in recognition of the upcoming national bicentennial celebration.

“I greatly admire the spirit of the Chitimacha in developing projects that will help the tribe as a whole attain a more self-sufficient economic status and thus provide more of a future within the tribe for their younger members,” Treen said.