

# **GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS! 11-27-19**

**SPECIAL FEATURE: BOB BYRD! - YOUTH FEATURE: TIA MEREDITH!**



## **2019 AAC GALA WAS A SELLOUT!**

**AAC members from all over North Carolina went to Greensboro for the big AAC Gala on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Left above: A glorious floral arrangement was presented to AAC State President Linda Wilkins-Daniels of Goldsboro. She was praised for making the AAC stronger and more unified.**

**Right above: Lt. Governor candidate Yvonne Holley, and NC Court of Appeals candidate**

**Tricia Shields joined NCDP Chair Wayne Goodwin at the Gala.**



**Collette Alston of Mecklenburg County received the Award as the BEST AAC CHAPTER PRESIDENT OF THE YEAR.**

**These members of the Mecklenburg AAC Chapter members celebrated their Chapter's recognition.**





**NCDP Chair Wayne Goodwin congratulated DD Adams for doing an excellent job as Mistress of Ceremonies of the Gala.**



**US Senate candidate Erica was the Gala's Keynote Speaker.**



**The AAC's PERSON OF THE YEAR AWARD was presented to Dawn Blagrove of the Carolina Justice Policy Center.**



**AAC President Linda Wilkins-Daniels, Dr. Jack Newton and his wife, Constance Lav Johnson, candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction.**



**A PACKED HOUSE FOR GASTON DEMOCRATS  
BIG BLUE UNITY DINNER!**

**Yes, you read that right: The Democrats of Gaston County are on the rise and they filled Loray Mill in Gastonia for their 2019 Blue Unity Dinner on November 24<sup>th</sup>!**

**NC Court of Appeals candidate Tricia Shields is shown above with the event's two Keynote Speakers: Senator Jeff Jackson of Mecklenburg County and State LGBTQ+ Caucus President Ginger Walker.**



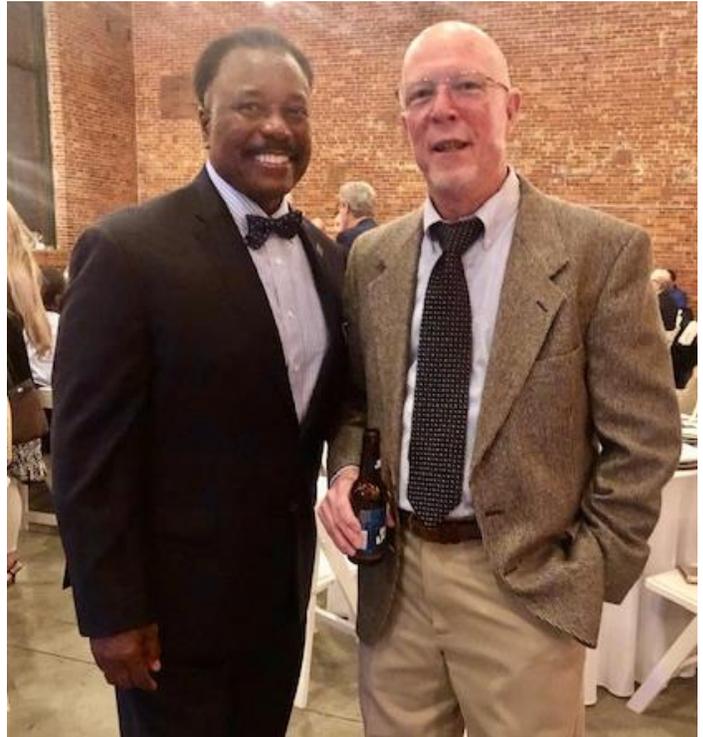
**Nancy Moore, Ray Raynor, Kyle Allen  
and Josie Polhemus**



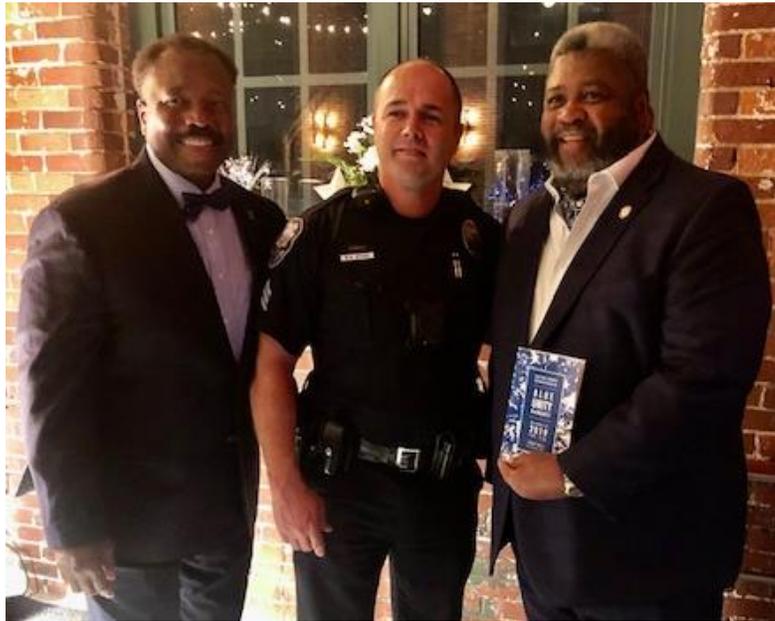
**Gale Bess-Raynor and Ray Raynor  
with former Gaston County Democratic  
Party Chair Alyce Machak**



**Tricia Shields with Gaston County Democratic Party Chair Daniel Caudill**



**Ray Raynor and Denton Benfield**



**Ray Raynor and a Gastonia Police Officer with newly RE-ELECTED Gastonia Mayor Walker Reid**



**Tricia Shields with Tenth Congressional District Chair Betsy Wells**

**Tricia Shields said: "The energy in the room was incredible!"  
Who knows what great things may happen in Gaston County  
in the near future!**

## **SPECIAL FEATURE: BOB BYRD!**



**Alamance County voters are cheering the announcement that Bob Byrd is going to run to regain his seat on the Board of County Commissioners in 2020!**

**Bob was elected to the County Commission in 2014 and he was the only Democrat on the Commission for four years.**

**Bob says: “I am proud of my hard work on the Board, especially my steadfast support for public education and the locally unprecedented positions I took on such issues as the Confederate monument, immigration, public transportation and the proposed MVP pipeline.” In 2018 he came extremely close to getting re-elected: He was only 303 votes short in the General Election in which more than 53,000 people voted!**

**Since that election, Bob’s Facebook page shows that he has been to more than 200 events. That is truly staying in touch with the people!**

**Bob is not your average local politician. A “late bloomer” in political activities, Bob uniquely brings a rich background of personal interests, leadership, community service, a distinguished local management career, and much energy to the forefront of holding an elected office.**

**For more than 35 years Bob held a senior executive position at Alamance Regional Medical Center. When he retired from the Medical Center, Bob was representing ARMC on the community-wide Vision Plan Committee of the Alamance Burlington School System, which had been organized by the Alamance Chamber of Commerce. “It was then that I realized that our schools needed more help from our County Commissioners, and that as a Commissioner I could make a difference,” Bob continues.**



**Happy memory:  
Bob being inaugurated  
onto the Board of County  
Commissioners  
after his 2014  
election victory.  
His wife, Barbara, is  
holding the Bible.**

**Bob's goals: "I want Alamance County to be the place where young people will want to settle, have successful careers, and raise their families. Progress was made during my four years on the board, but there is still much work to do, especially around education and good, sustainable jobs."**



**Bob has energy and endurance not normally seen by "late bloomer" politicians. A good example of this is the fact that he and Barbara are avid road Cyclists.**

**In addition to participating in area rides and charity cycling events, they have proudly ridden across the state 15 times as part of "Cycle North Carolina's Mountains to the Coast Ride." Each of these 15 rides was a 7-day trek held during the first week of October. Following a different route each year, the 2019 ride took them 478 miles from Blowing Rock to Atlantic Beach. "Being physically fit and healthy is important to us," Bob says.**



**Bob and Barbara cycling through the Piedmont.**



**They did it! This picture shows Bob and Barbara at the finish line in Atlantic Beach.**



**As a semi-professional saxophonist, Bobs leads an active musical life. He co-founded, directs, and plays lead sax in the 18-piece Alamance Jazz Band, now finishing its 32rd year providing big band music to the Alamance County area.**

**Organized under the auspices of the Alamance County Arts Council, the band rehearses weekly and performs several times every year.**



**Bob has had the privilege of performing as a single-engagement sideman throughout North Carolina with many regionally known big bands, jazz combos and orchestras. With the US Airways Jazz Orchestra, he performed in Germany, Holland, Bermuda, and throughout the United States.**

**Barbara Byrd is the organist and Choir Director at Graham Presbyterian Church. Bob and Barbara perform frequently together as a sax-piano duo at church services, recitals, weddings, funerals, banquets, and receptions.**

**Bob continues his engagement in the community by serving in positions and on boards including Cardinal Innovations Healthcare, Alamance Eldercare, Burlington-Alamance Sister Cities, Allied Churches of Alamance County, Alamance Racial Equity Alliance, NAACP, Women's Resource Center, Burlington Velo Club, and the Piedmont Triad Chapter of the Penn State Alumni Association.**

**Bob invites everyone to visit his website at: [www.BobByrd.us/](http://www.BobByrd.us/)**

**His email address is: [RByrd4@triad.rr.com](mailto:RByrd4@triad.rr.com)**

**His Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/ElectBobByrd](https://www.facebook.com/ElectBobByrd)**

**Donations can be made at: <https://Secure.ActBlue.com/Donate/ElectBobByrd>**



## **YOUTH FEATURE: TIA MEREDITH!**

**It has been some time since this publication featured Tia Meredith, a remarkable younger Democrat in Randolph County. Tia turned 16 in March and got her drivers license in June. She recently got her own car, a red Mini Cooper.**

**She is a Junior at Providence Grove High School, working hard, taking a challenging mixture of early college and honors classes and she is still making straight As in all her courses! She works part time assisting at a veterinary clinic.**

**Tia's father, Jim Meredith was Chair of the Randolph County Democratic Party for several terms and served as Chair of the Sixth Congressional District Democratic Party from 2017 to 2019. He was our Democratic candidate in State House District 78 in 2018. Her mother, Beverly, owns and operates two accounting offices.**

**Tia was a cheerleader in her freshman year and decided to join the ladies' tennis team in her sophomore year. She is on the tennis team again this year.**



**Tia was nominated to participate in the Junior Class Homecoming competition and Jim was "happy and honored" to drive her in the Homecoming Parade and escort her at the Homecoming Game half-time ceremony.**

**Jim says: "We didn't expect it but we were delighted and thrilled when she won Junior Class Homecoming Attendant to the Queen!"**

**He continues: "Tia is an unpretentious young lady whom her classmates and teachers hold in high regard. Beverly and I have two other great children, Wilson and Suzanne. They are in their late 20's and we are proud of them, too.**

**"Tia is our baby, the youngest child and we are very proud of her, of her manners, her work ethic, her kindness, her brains, her loyalty to friends and the love she shows us. We can not imagine being more delighted with a child than we are with Tia!"**

**Democrats can write to Tia and her parents at:  
JimBev90@gmail.com**



## **HAPPY RECEPTION FOR CYNTHIA BALL**

**Jane Finch hosted a big “Happy Birthday” and “Take The Majority” fundraising reception for State Representative Cynthia Ball on November 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**Attorney General Josh Stein was the featured speaker at the well-attended event.**

**Cynthia said: “We have a lot of energy and motivation to recruit strong candidates and raise funds across the state to support our House Caucus efforts to retain the 55 seats we hold and win at least six more.**

**After the court ruled that the districts had to be redrawn, we have an even better opportunity to do this!”**



**Jane Flowers Finch was a gracious hostess who made sure everyone enjoyed the party.**



**Best birthday surprise:  
The unexpected arrival of Congressman David Price who delivered a well-reasoned motivational talk.**

**Master photographer Edward Jones made all the pictures in this article.**

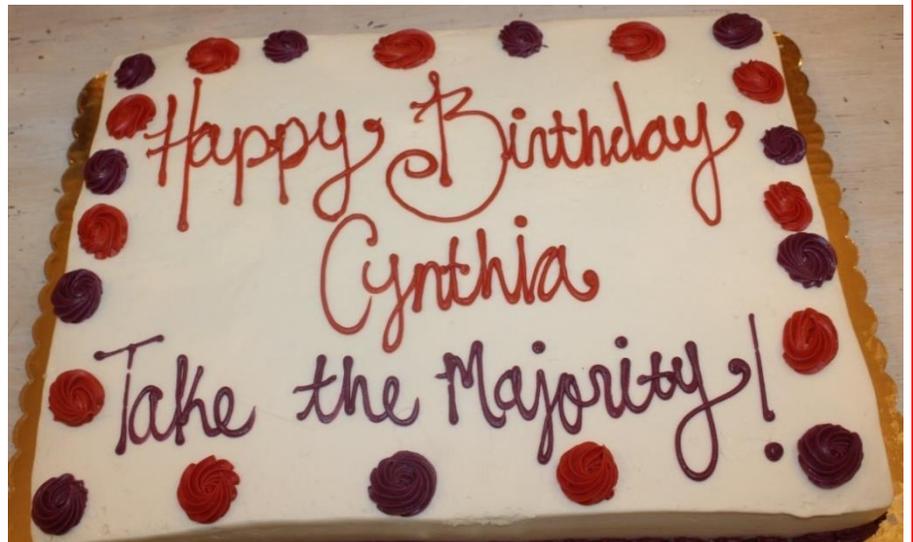


**Guests listened carefully as Attorney General Stein paid tribute to Cynthia's excellent record in the General Assembly.**



**The radiant birthday girl!**

**The Birthday Cake expressed two happy messages!**





**ATTORNEY  
TIFFANY POWERS  
ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN  
FOR SUPERIOR COURT  
IN ROBESON COUNTY!**

For several years now, readers of The Robesonian newspaper in Lumberton have voted Attorney Tiffany Powers “The Best Attorney In Robeson County.” They did it again this year!

Now they will have the opportunity to elect Tiffany their Superior Court Judge.

She is running for the seat which is being vacated by the retiring Judge Frank Floyd.

**Last Friday Tiffany resigned as Chair of the Robeson County Board of Elections. Last Saturday was the first day of her campaign for Superior Court Judge.**

**Tiffany may be contacted at: [TiffanyPowers@BellSouth.net](mailto:TiffanyPowers@BellSouth.net)**



**GRACE AND JOE!**

**Distinguished military newsman Joe Galloway and Dr. Grace Galloway, President of the NCDP Asian-American Pacific Islander Caucus, recently met with the leader of the Vietnamese citizens of North Carolina working to get more Vietnamese citizens to register and vote Democratic.**



### **DEMOCRATIC LANDSLIDE IN APEX!**

**Democrats Terry Mahaffey and Cheryl Stallings were elected to the Apex Town Council on November 5th. This means that Democrats are now holding all five seats on the Town Council!**

**From the left the new Town Council is made up of: Nicole Dozier, Terry Mahaffey, Cheryl Stallings, Audra Killingsworth, and Brett Gantt.**

**Terry Mahaffey points out that the people of Apex are now represented by Democrats all the way up: Six Democrats in the Apex town government , three Wake County Commissioners, one member of the Wake Board of Education, and four Democrats in the General Assembly. He points out that this is a big change from a few years ago!**



### **FRANCISCO ELECTED!**

**Seventh Congressional District Chair Francisco Rivas-Diaz was elected to the Town Council of the town of Wallace, North Carolina where he has lived since he was nine years old. He is the first Latino elected official in this town of about 4,000 people. His wife, Brenda, is with him above.**



### **MATT ELECTED!**

**NCDP Second Vice Chair, Matt Hughes, was elected to a full four-year term on the Town Council of his hometown of Hillsborough. Last year he was appointed to complete the term of a Council member who retired. Matt was the top vote recipient in the election in this town of 8,000.**



### **CHARLIE REECE WAS RE-ELECTED!**

**Democrats across the state were happy to get to know Charlie Reece during the year he served as NCDP State Treasurer. They are rejoicing that on November 5<sup>th</sup> he was re-elected to his second four-year term on the Durham City Council.**

**BOBBIE  
RICHARDSON ADDRESSES  
WAKE DW!**

**Our popular NCDP  
First Vice Chair,  
Bobbie Richardson,  
delivered the  
Keynote Speech  
at the November  
meeting of the Democratic  
Women of Wake County.  
Henrietta Coursey is President  
of the Wake DW.  
Ruth Merkle is pictured on  
the right.**



**DUPLIN DEMOCRATS CELEBRATE MELVIN'S BIRTHDAY!**

**At the end of their November 25<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, Duplin County Democrats surprised NCDP Secretary Melvin Williams by presenting him with two Birthday Cards which had been signed by everyone at the meeting.**

**Joining Melvin in the picture above are Marzella Morrisey, Amos Dobson, Bruce Henderson, Johnny Shaver, and Farrah Farior. This picture was made by Duplin County Democratic Party Chair Vernon Moore.**



**CAL CUNNINGHAM  
TRAVELED ALL OVER NORTH CAROLINA  
IN NOVEMBER!**

**Cal Cunningham took his US Senate campaign to voters in many different parts of our state during the month of November.**

**Left: Cal with Tiffany Muller, President of END CITIZENS UNITED before an ECU event in Raleigh. At that meeting Cal rolled out his plan to take on corruption in Washington.**



**Cal attended a Barbershop Rap Session in Cary**



**Cal spoke to a Town Hall meeting hosted by the Mecklenburg County Democratic Party and Indivisible NC District 9.**



**Cal met with veterans, service members, and military families at a roundtable in Durham.**

**Cal in a happy discussion with a veteran in Durham**



**Meeting with the UNC-Chapel Hill College Democrats**



**Cal spoke to the International Association of Firefighters Convention in Raleigh**



**SENATOR JEFF JACKSON UPLIFTS SOUTH MECKLENBURG DEMS!**

**Wherever State Senator Jeff Jackson goes, it is "A big event!" Recently he spoke to a group of Southern Mecklenburg Democrats. He makes a strong positive impact every time he speaks!**





**MECKLENBURG  
YOUNG  
DEMOCRATS!**

**From the left in this  
Election Night picture  
are: Alison Allen,  
Sam Smith, Britt  
Benavidez, President  
Jonathan Peebles,  
former YD President  
Vonnie Brown in  
back.**

**Congresswoman Alma Adams  
with Young Democrats President  
Jonathan Peebles**



**Mecklenburg Democrats eagerly phone banking for Dan McCready**



Tricia and her family

## TRICIA SHIELDS HAS A CAMPAIGN KICKOFF EVENT!

Tricia Shields was honored at an event on November 20 for her campaign for the NC Court of Appeals. She has 34 years of trial and appellate experience, and is running for an open seat on the Court.



In addition to her law practice, Tricia teaches Trial Advocacy at Campbell Law School. Many of her students and friends from Campbell attended to support her. Tricia is committed to mentoring young people.





**Sen. Terry Van Duyn**  
Candidate for Lt. Governor



**Judge Linda Stephens**

More pictures of happy Democrats at  
**TRICIA SHIELDS' CAMPAIGN KICKOFF!**



**Judge Lucy Inman**  
Candidate for NC Supreme Court



**Judge Chris Brook**



**Judge Allegra Collins**



### **10<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT DEMOCRATS GET ADVANCED VOTE BUILDER TRAINING!**

**Blaine Perry (far left) of Buncombe County invited NCDP Data Director Vicky Szufliita to go to the Tenth Congressional District to host a two day training session on Advanced Vote Builder Training. Vicky's training sessions were held in Polk County on November 12<sup>th</sup> and in Lincoln County on November 13<sup>th</sup>.**

**The Democrats in the picture above are: Blaine Perry of Buncombe County, Polk County Party Chair Andy Millard, NCDP Data Director Vicky Szufliita, Tenth Congressional District Chair Betsy Wells, Cezanne Vielkanowitz of Gaston County, Polk County Vice Chair Pat Salomon, Gail Raynor of Gaston, and 10<sup>th</sup> District Second Vice Chair Ray Raynor from Gaston.**



**The training session at the Lincoln County Democratic Party Headquarters in Lincolnton. Among the Democrats who attended were: Tenth District Treasurer Donna Luckey, Lincoln County Chair Elaine Jenkins, Gaston Chair Party Chair Danny Caudill, and Tenth District Chair Betsy Wells.**



### **MECKLENBURG'S PRECINCT 206 IS GOING STRONG!**

The happy civic scene pictured above was the very successful Candidate Forum on Livability and Community Justice staged by Precinct 206 in the town of Davidson. Members of the Davidson College Dems canvassed to invite Davidson townspeople. Large groups of townspeople and students attended the event just before the November 5<sup>th</sup> election. Greg Snyder is Chair of Precinct 206. His email is [Greg@precinct206dems.com](mailto:Greg@precinct206dems.com)



### **ONE DEMOCRAT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE: CUTLER RENARD – DAVIDSON!**

Recently the State Board of Elections formally declared that the Davidson College CatCard, the basic student ID, would be acceptable ID for voting in the 2020 election.

This happened only because Cutler Renard, President of the Davidson College Dems, saw an opportunity buried in the fine print of House Bill 646 which was passed last summer. That bill relaxed the ID rules for college students.

Cutler petitioned the Davidson College Administration to submit a revised application. The SBOE approved the revised application! This will make it easier for hundreds of Davidson students to vote.

Congratulations, Cutler!

His email is: [curenard@davidson.edu](mailto:curenard@ davidson.edu)



**WAKE COUNTY EVENT FOR JEN MANGRUM,  
CANDIDATE FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION!**

**Two weeks ago Truett and Cindy Ray held a happy fundraising event for Dr. Jen Mangrum in the Wake County country store which they have renovated.**



**Jen with some of her supporters at the event.**



**Cindy Ray with some of the food and refreshments she prepared for the guests.**



**Jen with some of her supporters**



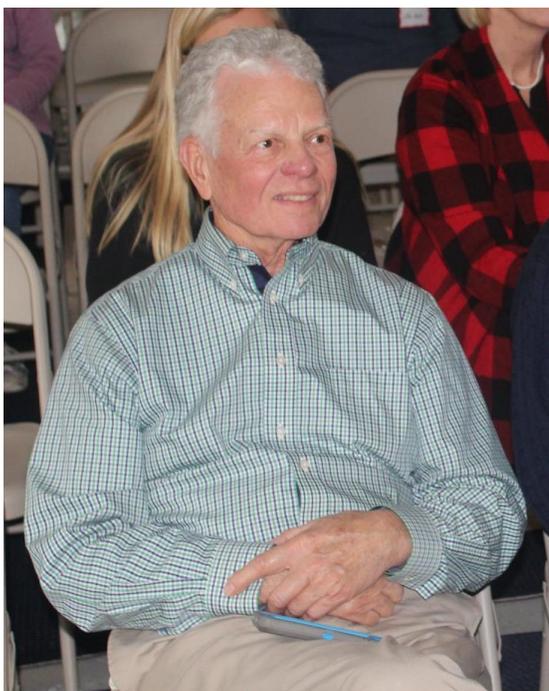
**Special treat: All of Jen's supporters enjoyed an hour-long concert by THE CHATHAM RABBITS, which is the stage name of Sarah Osborne McCombie and Austin McCombie. "COME HOME," a song they wrote and performed has been selected as the theme song for the Public Television show "NC, MY HOME."**



**Dr. Jen Mangrum's supporters were fascinated by the J. K. Ray Store. Above - the store in 2015**



**The store today!**



**Left - Host Truett Ray told guests the story of the store. It was built by his grandfather, J. K. Ray, in 1916 to replace an even older store.**

**After his grandfather died in 1953, Truett's uncle modernized the store by adding a new part and making it a convenience store. In the late 1990s the building was rented to a cabinet maker.**

**In 2015 Truett and Cindy bought the store. They found a very good renovation firm - Arrowhead Building Company. Arrowhead spent two years off and on working to preserve the building.**

**The first event held in the newly remodeled building was a family reunion and community open house in June of 2018.**

**Since then they have had several family dinners, karaoke parties and two events for their local legislator, the Honorable Joe John.**



**DR. STEVE WOODSMALL!**

**Voters in the Eleventh Congressional District are proud that Dr. Steve Woodsmall is campaigning vigorously to change the district from red to blue. Above he is with Veterans in Tuxedo Park on Veterans Day 2019.**



**Steve with Political Science Students at Mars Hill University as they watched the Democratic Presidential Debate.**

**Steve participating in a Transgender vigil in Hendersonville**



**Send your GOOD NEWS to:**  
[melvin535@gmail.com](mailto:melvin535@gmail.com)

**Happy Thanksgiving  
To Everyone In Our  
North Carolina Democratic Family!**

**Your Democratic Friend,  
Melvin Williams, Secretary  
North Carolina Democratic Party**