

GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

February 12, 2020



DEMOCRATS MARCH ALL OVER NC!

On January 18th Democrats marched from the mountains to the coast to stand up for women's rights and draw attention to women's issues.

Above: In Charlotte Rep. Mary Belk, Pineville Town Commissioner Amelia Stinson-Wesley, Rep. Rachel Hunt, Rep Becky Carney, and Senator Natasha Marcus joined DWMC Board members Lisa Ellsworth, DonnaMarie Woodson, and Maytee Sanz to march behind the DWMC banner!



Three young Democratic activists joined Rep. Becky Carney, Charlotte City Councilwoman Julie Eiselt, Rep. Nasif Majeed, Rep. Mary Belk, and Rep. Rachel Hunt. Their signs say:

“Fight Like A Girl”

“Little Girls With Dreams Become Women With Visions”

“Respect Existence Or Expect Resistance”



**The two sons of Rep. Brandon Lofton and Mrs. Kellie Lofton carried a sign which says
“BOYS WILL BE ALLIES!”**



Fifi Francis enjoyed marching and cheering at the Raleigh Women's March with her grandmother, Elizabeth Crudup, and Alan Longman of Harnett County.

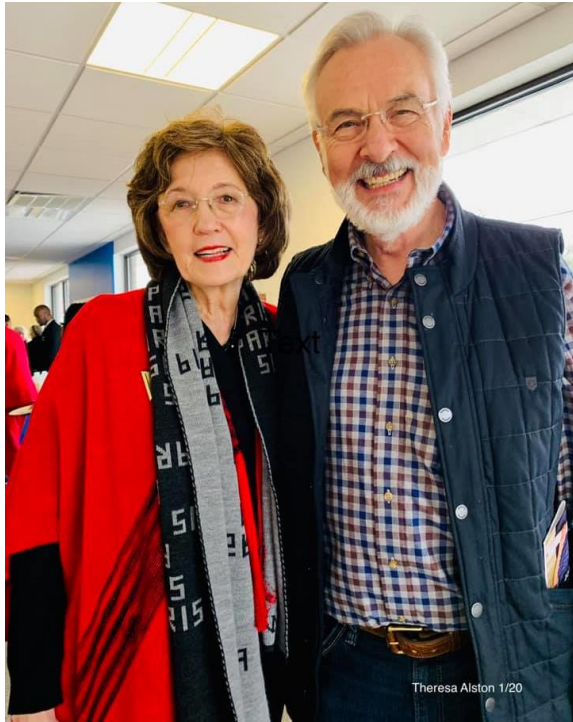


Front row view at the Women's March in Raleigh



**Far left:
Raleigh Teen Democrats**

**Near left:
Yvonne Brannon speaking at the Raleigh March.**



GRAND OPENING – NEW NASH COUNTY HEADQUARTERS!



109 SOUTH GRACE STREET IN ROCKY MOUNT!



Honoring NCDP Passport Patrons: Rep. James Gailliard, County Commissioner Mary Wells, former State Party First Vice Chair Gwen Wilkins and Charles Johnson who has headed up the NCDP Sustaining Fund since 1968. Larry McAdams is also a Passport Patron.



Preparing the food: Robin Latham, Roxanne Taylor, County Chair Valerie Steele, Pat Maulden, Linda Edwards, Laura O'Neal, and Mumtaz Shaik



Left: Sisters Elois Anderson and Ruby Richardson

Right: Linda Virgil





**Left: Allen Thomas brought his campaign for Lt. Governor to the Grand Opening.
Right: Marvin Arrington and State Senate candidate Al Pacer**



Judge Lucy Inman running for Supreme Court, Linda Virgil, Justice Mark Davis running for a full term on Supreme Court, State Senator Don Davis, and Jacqueline Lauterback

**Most of the pictures in this article
were made by Theresa Alston Stokes.**



DURHAM DEMOCRATIC CENTURY CLUB!

State Representative Zack Hawkins and his wife, Tracey Hawkins, held a social hour for members of the Durham County Democratic Century Club at their elegant home on Sunday afternoon January 26th. Zack is welcoming everyone in the picture above.

This entire picture was included so Democrats could see what a large home Tracey and Zack have.



Easily visible in the registration area are DNC Member Shelia Huggins, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, Court of Appeals candidate Tricia Shields, Congressman David Price, Senator Mike Woodard and many other Democratic stars.



Chief Justice Cheri Beasley gave an eloquent address. Zack and Tracey were terrific hosts!



When there is a Democratic event in Durham, Durham Democrats always want Brenda Pollard to be there. On the left Brenda is with State Party Chair Wayne Goodwin. On the right she is with Durham City Council Members Vernetta Alston and Dedreana Freeman.



MLK PARADE – Sarah Grusin, Carl Mitchell and many others proudly represented Durham Democrats in this highly meaningful event.

4TH ANNUAL
SOBAD
GOLF
TOURNAMENT

AUGUST 16, 2020
CAROLINA NATIONAL
GOLF CLUB

\$85/person
Registration begins 8 AM
Start Time 9 AM

Proceeds support
Brunswick County
Democratic Party



REGISTRATION DEADLINE
August 8, 2020



The format will be a
scramble / captain's
choice. Entry Fee includes
golf, cart, range balls,
lunch, tons of awesome
prizes, and an opportunity
to hear from our
candidates!

Registration forms available at brunswickdem.org/golf
For questions, contact Neil Gilbert at 267.987.2447

BRUNSWICK COUNTY DEMOCRATS!



**January 26th was also
Viola's Birthday!**

**The full lineup of
Caucus Officers that was
installed was**

Secretary/Treasurer:

**Air Force Veteran –
Cynthia Peters (left)**

Commander:

**Viola Ryals Figueroa
Army Veteran**

Senior Commander:

**Donald Wooten
Army Veteran**

VIOLA FIGUEROA INSTALLED AS COMMANDER OF WAYNE COUNTY VETERAN CAUCUS!

**At 6:54PM on January 26th,
Viola Ryals Figueroa
received the Oath of Office
as the first Commander of the
NCDP Wayne County Veterans
and Military Families Caucus.**

**That exact minute was
selected because it was the first
year anniversary of the time her
veteran husband, Sgt. Aaron
A. Figueroa, passed away.**

**State Senator Don Davis
administered the Oath.**

**State Representative
Raymond Smith delivered remarks
during the ceremony.**



2-22-99
1-26-19
Forever



*Our LOVE
is to the
Grave and
Beyond ♡♡*

Everyone at the Installation Ceremony paid tribute to Viola's husband and to all the Veterans who have passed. The dates above are the dates of Aaron's life.



Judge Curtis Stackhouse with Viola



Viola Figueroa with her granddaughter, Zarae.

Viola's granddaughter, Zarhi, joined her for this Veteran's Day portrait.



Viola at a Christmas Reception with Governor and Mrs. Roy Cooper

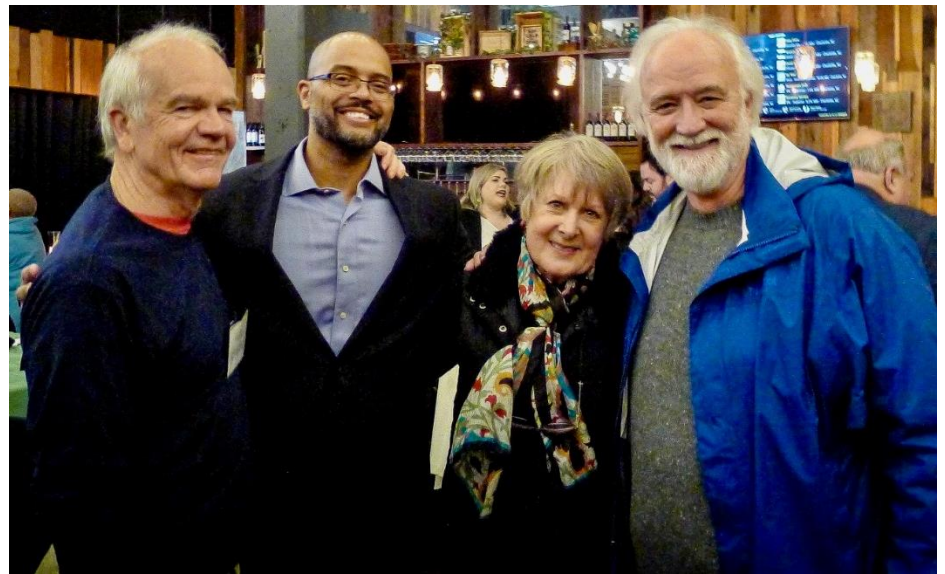


MECKLENBURG DEMOCRATIC WOMEN WILL NOT YIELD!

Many Mecklenburg Democrats attended an event featuring Mecklenburg Democratic Women House legislators with special guest Rev. Deb Butler. They celebrated 100 years of women suffrage and they are working hard to build a big Blue Wave in 2020!

From the left: Rep. Christy Clark, Rep. Rachel Hunt, Rep. Carla Cunningham, Rep. Becky Carney, Rep. Mary Belk, Rep. Deb Butler with a future NC legislator.

Lou Lesesne, Rep. Brandon Lofton, Tammie Lesesne, and Rep. John Autry



Lisa Ellsworth, the new President of the Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County, introduced the speakers.



Rep. Deb Butler has been preparing for a major leadership role for many years. When the Republicans in the General Assembly gave her an opening, she was ready to display her leadership skills.



Cynthia Wallace worked her heart out trying to get Dan McCready elected in 2018 and 2019. Now she is running for the Ninth District seat in Congress and she is running strong.



All of these outstanding ladies are running for elected office this year.

What a great lineup!

ALL DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES ARE INVITED TO

SEND PICTURES WITH CAPTIONS TO:

melvin535@gmail.com



SERVICE WITH INTEGRITY

*Help elect Monika to
North Carolina's
Congressional District 2!*

Primary Elections

Early Voting
February 13 - 29

Election Day
March 3

MONIKA IS CAMPAIGNING FOR CONGRESS IN SECOND DISTRICT!



Wake County Board of Education Member **Monika Johnston-Hostler** is enjoying campaigning all over the newly-drawn Second Congressional District.

This entire new district is within Wake County where she has served on the School Board for almost eight years.

Monika is Executive Director of the NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault.

Left: Monika was one of the speakers at the Raleigh Women's March 2020 . Monika paid respect to the Black and Brown shoulders she stands on, charged the audience to believe survivors of sexual assault, and reminded everyone that "Survivor justice looks like reproductive justice, survivor justice looks like every form of social justice!"



ORANGE DEMOCRATS' COUNTY TO COUNTY OUTREACH!

The picture above shows only half of the large crowd of Orange County Democrats who gathered on January 26th to kick off the terrific "COUNTY TO COUNTY OUTREACH" of the Orange County Democratic Party. The people who gathered will be doing phone banks and canvassing in purple and red counties in the Piedmont part of the state. They already know Orange County will vote Democratic so they are happy to work to carry neighboring counties Democratic in 2020.

Orange Democrats have carried out this project in previous elections and they are excited about having a real impact on the 2020 election.

Among the Democrats you can spot in the crowd are County Party Chair Marilyn Carter, judicial candidate Hathaway Pendergrass, County Commissioner Renee Price, NCDP Vice Chair Matt Hughes, Deborah Gilgor, Trystlynn Barber, Nan Nixon, County Commissioner candidate Jean Hamilton, and Jonah Garson. Every Democrat in this picture is a star!

The pictures and text in this article are by Mary Swann Perry.

**MORE ABOUT ORANGE COUNTY'S
"COUNTY TO COUNTY OUTREACH"
ON THE NEXT PAGE!**



County to County
Elect Democrats Now!



**Pictures of Orange County Democrats
At "County To County Kickoff!"**

Atul Goel: A Fresh Approach for Democrats to Win the US Senate

www.atulgoelforsenate.com



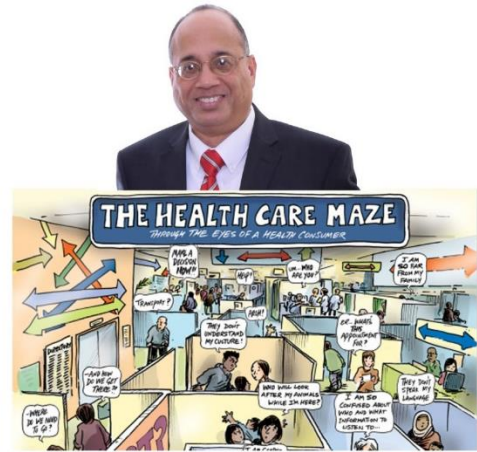
@AtulGoel4Senate



facebook.com/AtulGoel4Senate

Atul is the ONLY candidate qualified to bring affordable health care for ALL

Atul has personal experience with inner workings of the health care industry as a physician, a former Medical Director in the Medicare system, and former Medical Consultant for Disability & Vocational Rehabilitation. He won't have to rely on special interests and lobbyists. **Atul is the ONLY candidate that can ensure that you finally have affordable healthcare for your spouse, kids, and parents.**

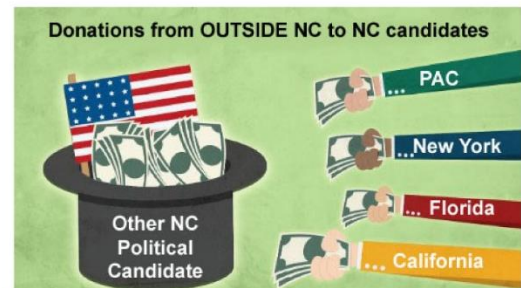


Atul is the ONLY Democratic candidate that can win the general election in November

We cannot win in the General Election without support of Unaffiliated voters. In his visit to all 100 counties, Atul learned that Unaffiliated voters will NOT support another party's candidate if he/she has a history of attacking the Republican opponent or the Republican party. Atul's message has always been of UNITY and of working with everyone to solve problems. **Democrats will lose the General Election if we nominate any Democratic candidate with a record of Attack Politics.**

Atul has refused to take donations from people residing outside NC or from any PACs

AS a US Senator from NC, Atul believes in putting North Carolina First. He also believes that Big Money donors will significantly influence the decisions of any politician after the election. He believes that any politician that takes hundreds of thousands of dollars from people living outside NC and from PACs cannot put North Carolina first. **Atul has refused to take a single penny from any resident outside North Carolina.**



Atul is the ONLY Democratic candidate that can reduce gun violence.

Atul belongs to a gun club. We cannot solve the gun violence problem without establishing a dialog with the Republicans. In his 100 county visit, Atul talked to Republicans across the State and was able to develop a dialog where he can work WITH them to solve this problem. The Republicans WILL NOT WORK to solve this problem with any candidate that continually attacked Republicans and/or their party's elected Senator on the campaign trail.

If you finally want to see some policies that reduce gun violence and get past the gridlock, then vote for Atul since he is the only candidate that will be able to work across the aisle to finally solve this problem.



Atul is the ONLY Democratic candidate that can REALLY deliver for our Veterans

Atul is a veteran and he deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. As a medical officer, he went on convoys to give medical support in case anyone got shot or injured in a bomb blast. He was also on medical staff as a physician at a combined Military/Veteran's Hospital. The biggest problem for Veterans is getting the health care they need. **As part of his health care promise, Atul will guarantee that we will finally solve this problem for our veterans because he understand the health care system, and the Veterans Hospital system, from PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.**

Atul is the ONLY Democratic candidate with a first hand knowledge of the immigration system

Atul is an immigrant. He also believes in controlling our borders and in legal immigration. Atul understands what we need to do to change our immigration system from personal experience. We CAN, and we MUST, develop humane immigration policies. We also need to have immigration policies that keep families together. **Atul KNOWS how to do this. Any other candidate will have to rely upon special interests and lobbyists.**





TREVOR FULLER – CAMPAIGNING FOR US SENATE!

Popular Mecklenburg County Commissioner, Trevor Fuller, made many new friends as he marched in the MLK Parade in Wilmington. In the happy picture above Drew Wright of Charlotte and Trevor's Campaign Coordinator Dee Jones joined him.

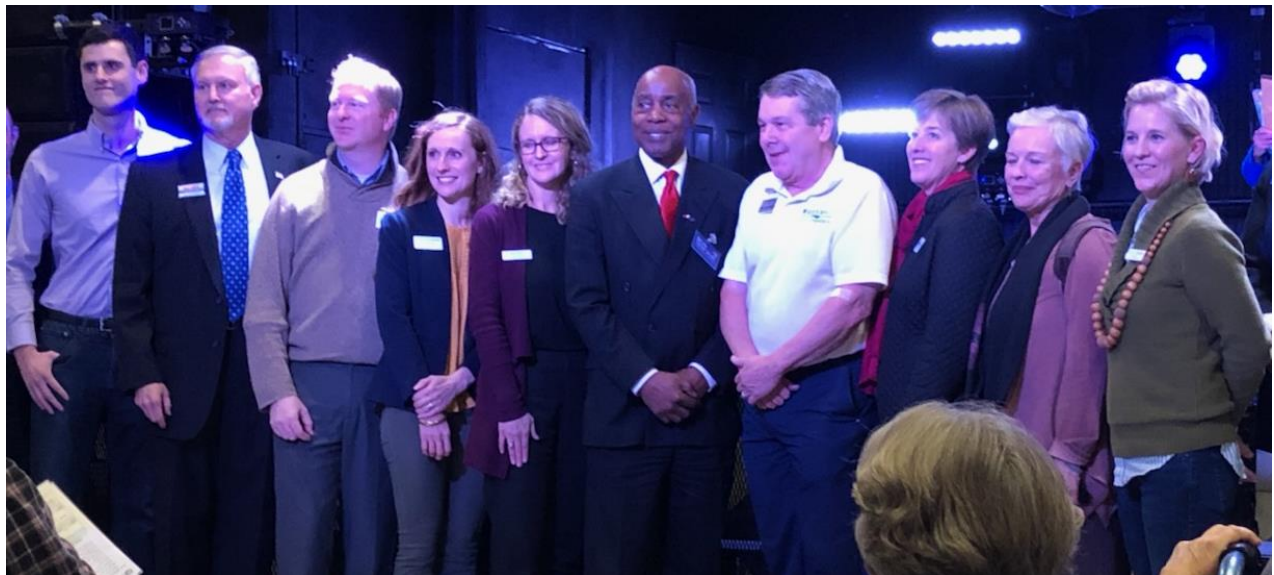


Trevor likes people and he enjoyed meeting lots of southeastern North Carolina voters who turned out to honor Dr. King.



RONALD NEWTON – CAMPAIGNING FROM THE OCEAN TO THE MOUNTAINS!

Brunswick County Democratic Party Chair Tom Sapp welcomed Lt. Governor candidate Ronald Newton to an event in Brunswick. From Brunswick on the coast to talking with Julie Montanea in the mountains (right) Ron is making new friends every day.



Ron joined Democrats who are running for a variety of offices at a rally in Asheville.



**Left: Ron at his
Durham
Headquarters**

**Right: Ron with his
Campaign Manager,
his wife, Deborah.**





TOOLE
LT GOVERNOR

**MONTHLY
EVENTS**

January

Moore County Democratic



Special Facebook Live Town Hall
with Carolina's Cannabis Convention



Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend





CHAZ BEASLEY FOR LT. GOVERNOR!

State Representative Chaz Beasley is running for Lt. Governor and is traveling all over the State to connect with Democratic voters. In the picture above Chaz is with a group of supporters at a recent meet and greet.



Chaz enjoys meeting good Democrats at Party meetings. In this picture he is speaking in front of the Moore County Democratic Party's membership meeting.

His website is: www.ChazBeasley.com



TERRY VAN DUYN FOR LT. GOVERNOR!

Hundreds of people cheered and applauded when State Senator Terry Van Duyn delivered a dramatic speech at the Wilmington Women's March.



Senator Van Duyn posed with Chief Justice Cheri Beasley and State Senator Paul Lowe of Forsyth County in this cheerful picture.

WAYNE GOODWIN
IS PROUD TO BE
ENDORSED BY



**PROFESSIONAL FIREFIGHTERS &
PARAMEDICS OF NC**



THIS GROUP KNOWS THE DIFFERENCE!

During Wayne Goodwin's eight years as Commissioner of Insurance, Professional Firefighters & Paramedics of NC learned that he is a man they could count on to help them and their mission. (The Commissioner of Insurance is also North Carolina's Fire Marshall.)

During the past four years when the current GOP Commissioner has been in office, the PFPNC has learned that they cannot get any cooperation from him. In fact the current GOP Commissioner has been a major roadblock to everything the PFPNC needs.

THIS WHY THE PFPNC HAS STRONGLY ENDORSED WAYNE GOODWIN! They are working statewide to get Wayne back into office.

Our challenge: To spread the word to everyone we know that we must RE-ELECT WAYNE GOODWIN TO THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE IN NOVEMBER!

Wayne is unopposed in the March 3rd Primary.



JOHN G. MCNEIL IS RUNNING FOR STATE HOUSE SEAT 24!

John G. McNeil is living an amazingly dramatic life.

It is also an amazingly inspirational life!

The second youngest of seven children, John was educated in Wilson County Public Schools, where he was an All-American basketball athlete in high school.

He played for the legendary coach Harvey Reid at Ralph L. Fike High School and was part of the 1984 State Championship winning team.

**John with Attorney Erica Wilson of the
UNC School of Law**

John received his Bachelor's degree in Management in 1992 from Elizabeth State University. He married his high school sweetheart, Anita, & they were blessed with two sons: John McNeill II and La'Ron McNeil.

After completing college, John moved his family to Atlanta to pursue his dream of playing for the NBA. When an opportunity with the Atlanta Hawks didn't pan out, he became a successful businessman.

John's life took an unexpected turn in December, 2005. He and his family had just moved into their dream home in an affluent neighborhood in Kennesaw, Georgia, when a disagreement with the builder led to a hostile confrontation in which the builder came onto John's property & threatened John & his son with a knife

John warned the man to back away and leave his home, but he lunged toward John, prompting him to fire a fatal shot. Authorities found that McNeil acted in self-defense, but nearly a year after the incident, the district attorney charged John with murder.

During the trial, police testified on John's behalf. Still, he was sentenced to life in prison in 2006.

Seeking justice John's wife, Anita, started a grassroots awareness campaign, enlisting support from the NAACP and various community leaders. While in prison, John spent hours studying the law. He became a certified paralegal and would research his case and others. His advice helped free two inmates.

Miraculously, after years of public outcry, court appeals and a new trial, JOHN WAS FREED IN 2013 – but not in time to reunite with Anita, who lost her battle with cancer 10 days prior to his release.

Returning to Wilson that year, John set out to give back to the community that stood by him throughout his ordeal. He became a mentor working with adjudicated youth at the Daniels Learning Center and at Save-A-Youth in the afternoons.

A man of deep faith, he spends Sundays in church and found love again with his current wife, Teresa. He also wrote a book entitled *BREATHE FREEDOM: THE JOHN MCNEIL STORY* which chronicles the details of his legal battle and to inspire others to never give up the fight for justice.



Dr. Carol White, Chair of the Education Committee of the Wilson Area NAACP with John.



John talks with Reggie Webb at Wilson Community College.



John's personal experience with the judicial system sparked his interest in running for state office.

One of his supporters says: "He has a heart for helping others, especially those affected by incarceration, poverty and injustice. He envisions a thriving future for Wilson County and believes the key issues to bring about change to District 24 are education (making sure schools have the proper resources to effectively serve all students), prison reform (re-examining self-defense laws, creating programs for families of incarcerated individuals) and agriculture (supporting the economic plight of farmers.)"

John concludes: "I am running for the N. C. House because I simply care about the well-being of the people. I am the strong, battle-tested leader Wilson County needs to represent District 24 effectively in the General Assembly and to move the community effectively."

A Wonder in Wilson: Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield and Her Continued Service to the State of North Carolina



Rep. Farmer-Butterfield presenting the Order of the Long Leaf Pine to Bucky Robbins

After teaching junior high, she continued to work for the state in the Division of Health and Human Services. She currently works as the Director of LIFEGuardianship for The Arc of North Carolina, a non-profit that focuses on advocating for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has two daughters, Valeisha and Jenetta, and two grandsons. In 2002, she became the first black woman in eastern North Carolina elected to state office when she won her seat in the General Assembly, representing the people she has grown up to see as family.



Rep. Farmer-Butterfield held a Facebook Town Hall with Rep. Shelley Willingham and Sen. Toby Fitch regarding Medicaid expansion

Rep. Jean Farmer-Butterfield has spent a lifetime of service to the city and county of Wilson. A native of the county she represents, she grew up knowing the importance of civic duty. Her mother taught others to read by using the preamble of the Constitution. Her favorite classes growing up were civics and history, too. She was the first black woman elected to student body in Wilson County. After her bachelors, masters and law school at North Carolina Central University, she continued her life of service.



Rep. Farmer-Butterfield with representatives from Wilson Fire and EMS

In the 17 years she has served in the North Carolina state legislature, she has been at the forefront of powerful legislation. During the 2005-2006 legislative session, she was the primary sponsor on legislation that modernize and strengthened our sex offender registry lists and made human trafficking a felony in this state. In the 2007-2008 legislative session, she was the primary sponsor of a bill that expanded definitions of home care services to better care for our state's aging populations.

Another act of legislation she is proud of took place during the 2015-2016 legislative session. She sponsored to Enact Uniform Law on Adult Guardianship. Her expertise in this area allowed for our state to work with neighboring states to properly and effectively care for those who cannot care for themselves. She has also served as Majority Whip, a three-time chair of the Aging committee, founder of the IDD caucus, and recently was on the Joint Legislative committee for Congressional Redistricting.



Rep. Farmer-Butterfield at the 2020 Wilson
Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting



Rep. Farmer-Butterfield with a legislative page
from her home district

Rep. Farmer-Butterfield has been lauded for her work at the state legislature. She has been recognized by The National Guardianship Association, Democracy North Carolina, AARP, and NCAE for her outstanding work. She continues to want to outstanding work for the state, and enlists her constituents for her help through her Legislative Citizens Advisory Board. Her primary goal for her next term include helping expand Medicaid so that thousands of more people can be provided vital healthcare.

She has faithfully served her district for nearly 20 years. She is proud to be part of a party that puts:

Respect over Disrespect

Facts over Fake News

Unity over Division

SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT ELECTS NEW OFFICERS!

The Seventh Congressional District Executive Committee met at the New Hanover County Party Headquarters in Wilmington on February 1st to elect new District Officers following the statewide congressional re-districting. The committee moved Sonya Bennetone of Wilmington from First Vice Chair to become the new District Chair. This busy Democrat is also the Regional Director of Region 9 in the Democratic Women. Everyone expressed appreciation to outgoing District Chair Francisco Rivas-Diaz for his excellence.



The full lineup of outstanding new District Officers will be:

District Chair – Sonya Bennetone, New Hanover

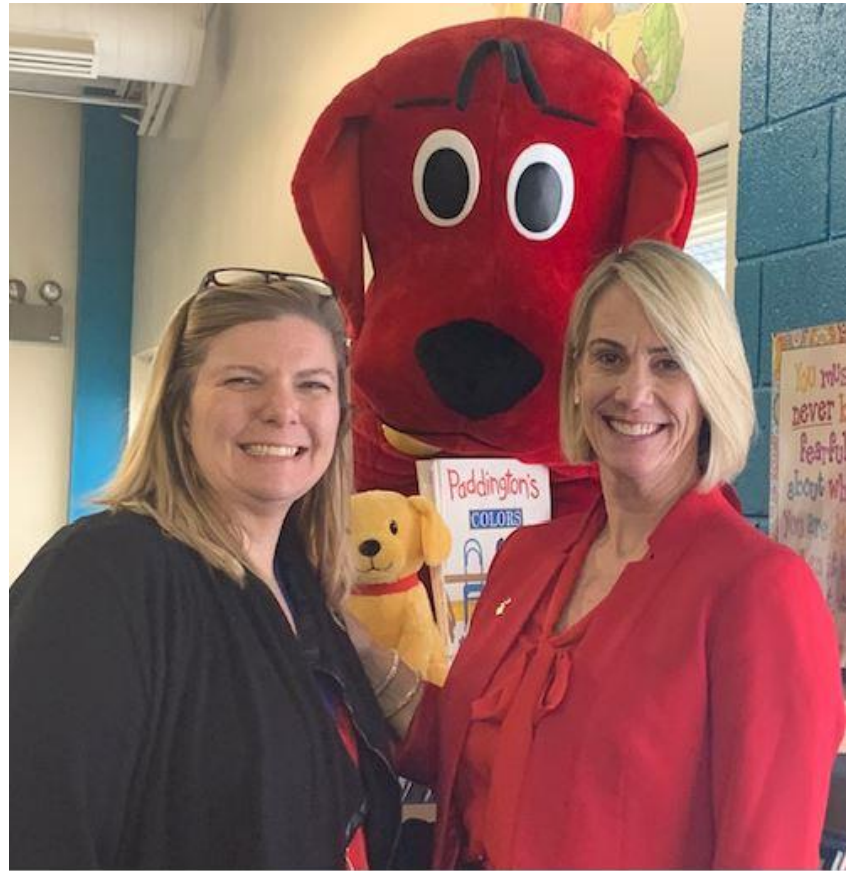
First Vice Chair – Tom Simmons, Brunswick

Second Vice Chair – Lorie Stephens, Columbus County

Third Vice Chair – Elizabeth Crudup, Harnett County

Secretary – Dante Murphy, Pender County

Treasurer – Pamela Graham, Bladen County



STRONGEST SUPPORTERS OF GOOD NEWS ABOUT DEMOCRATS!

If awards were given for the two Superintendent of Public Instruction candidates who have given the most support to this publication during the 2020 Primary campaign season, those awards would go to Constance Lav Johnson and Jen Mangrum.

Both of these Democrats have consistently sent pictures and captions from their campaigns. They are among many Democrats who have offered their talents to the voters of the state of North Carolina.

**Their websites are:
ConstanceLavJohnson.com
www.JenMangrumForNC.com**

Let it be noticed that NCDP Secretary Melvin Williams has not endorsed any candidate for any race. I have been glad to feature candidates who have been willing to share their pictures and captions.

As far as endorsing a candidate for President, I have not decided. Yet I will agree with every North Carolina Democrat that each and every one of our Presidential candidates would be a 1,000% improvement over the current occupant of the White House!



MINORITIES IN POLITICS!

Lots of Democratic stars were shining at the recent Minorities In Politics event that was organized by Eunice Jones in Raleigh. All of these pictures were made by Ed Jones.



State Auditor Beth Wood, Antoine Marshall with Supt. of Public Instruction candidate Jen Mangrum



Second Congressional District candidate Monika Hostler-Johnson with Eunice Jones



Jeremiah Pierce is running for Wake County Commissioner



Nancy Jane and Wake County Commissioner Sig Hutchinson



**State Senator
Jay Chaudhuri
and State Auditor
Beth Wood**





**JUSTICE AND MRS.
MIKE MORGAN!**

**As we head into Valentine's Week,
we can joyfully salute
Supreme Court Justice Mike Morgan
and Mrs. Audrey Morgan.
This picture was made at the
Annual Valentine Gala of
the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity.
All North Carolina Democrats
appreciate the way Justice
Morgan has continued to speak
at Democratic events all over
the state since his election in 2016!**

**Dear GOOD NEWS readers, congratulations on all the pictures and captions
you are sending to me!**

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