

November 4, 2024

Tonight is my last monthly business meeting as Commissioner for District 2 and my last day will be November 30, 2024. It has been an honor to serve the citizens of Sampson County the last eight years. During this time, I had the privilege to serve as Vice Chair one year and two years as Chairman. I was also fortunate to serve six years on the Board of Directors for the NC Association of County Commissioners representing Sampson, Harnett and Cumberland Counties. I was selected to Chair the Agriculture Steering Committee for the State Association for the last two years.

Upon being elected County Commissioner, my intentions have always been to serve and represent this county with dignity, respect and fairness. I was born and raised here. I grew up working in a business that my parents started and which I have managed 47 of its 67 years. And today, we are still a thriving business just down the street from here.

Everyone knows the story that when I was approached by the Republican Party to run for Commissioner that I first declined due to my workload of running a business. After speaking with my mother regarding this request her response was “We all can do a little bit more.” After talking and praying with my wife, we decided that she was right, and I would find the time. I ran for Commissioner for one reason and one reason only...to help.

We never imagined that my willingness to serve the citizens of Sampson County, my family and I would be so viscosly attacked with lies and assaults on our character. My family roots in Sampson County date back to the 1820's. These falsehoods and disinformation also has an effect on my family as well, especially my family name. A campaign should be about one's personal goals, aspirations and platform...not about false accusations and fake innuendos. This wonderful world of social media has empowered people to say anything...truth does not matter...slander, fear mongering and outright lies are the norm...and not to mention the circus show that our Commissioner's meetings have become at times. Where is the respect that we grew up with and were taught? There is no civility anymore, just meanness and rage. Sad. Truly Sad. We have denigrated down to Washington politics in Sampson County. Is this what Sampson County has become? Is this what the citizens really want?

It has been a pleasure working with my fellow Commissioners on both sides. We worked through issues and came out united. You know what? It is really strange that my colleagues on the left are more respectful and honest than some of the people within my own party.

I wish nothing but success and prosperity for Sampson County and the future Board of Commissioners.

It is with pride that I can return to my family without any regrets...that I met my mother's wishes of “doing a little bit more” for our citizens.

With best personal regards,
R. Jerol Kivett

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