



TCIF Bible College Holds Graduation Ceremony

The TCIF, Inc. Bible College held their first graduation ceremony on July 7 at New Parkers Grove Missionary Baptist Church. Pictured here, from left, are: Dr. Henry McNeill, preacher for the graduation, Bishop Walter R. Ellerbe, D.D., President and Pastor Sandra G. Ellerbe, B.Th., Vice President/graduate, Aquilla Ellerbe, Viney Steward and Priscilla Marsh, all graduates.

Legislative Update

From Rep. Frank McGuirt: Last week, the governor concluded her review of the bills passed by the General Assembly during the final days of session allowing all of them will go into law. The governor did decide to let two controversial bills – one on how to measure sea level rise and another that would take a water system from the city of Asheville and turn it over to a regional authority – go into law without her signature. She did not issue any vetoes.

The high school graduation rate in North Carolina topped 80 percent for the first time in state history in 2011-12, according to the latest data from the state Department of Public Instruction. The information proves that the state's investment in the past in public education is paying off for our students. Just since 2006, the graduation rate has climbed nearly 12 percentage points – a 17 percent improvement. However, cuts to public education during the past two years threaten our success. I voted against those cuts. More than 6,000 educators – including 3,000 teachers and many school assistants – have been fired in the past two years. More cuts are expected in many school systems this year. The loss of teachers and support staffers will mean larger classes and fewer adults in our schools to guide our children.

Last week the Affordable Care Act gave millions of women more control over their health. For the first time ever, preventive services like annual wellness visits, contraception, mammograms and diabetes screening will now be available to women free of charge. These preventative care measures keep women healthy by potentially catching serious conditions at earlier more treatable stages. It also protects families from skyrocketing medical bills from insurance companies that result from treating these medical conditions. Secure, affordable coverage is quickly becoming a reality for millions of American women and families. The health care law puts women and their doctors, not insurance companies or the government, in charge of health care decisions.

Rather than refighting old political battles, President Obama is moving forward and putting women in control of their own health care, while continuing to press Congress to act on his plans to reduce the deficit in a balanced way and invest in education, clean energy, manufacturing and infrastructure to create jobs.

As the governor has not vetoed any additional bills the legislature may not need to return to Raleigh again this calendar year. I will continue to serve my constituents here in the district, however with any state government issues. I will also continue to report to you frequently on state government matters.

Thank you for your interest in the legislature and state government. Please let me know if I can be of service to you or your family. 919-715-3007. Frank.McGuirt@ncleg.net

SPCC Practical Nursing Grad Has Surprise Visitor at Pinning Ceremony



As South Piedmont Community College's Practical Nursing graduates were lining up for their pinning ceremony Monday evening (July 23) at Shiloh Baptist Church in Monroe, graduate Hillary Mangum of Waxhaw scanned the audience to pick out her family members. Then, she noticed someone she didn't expect to see. "I said, 'Oh my God, my dad is here,'" she recalled afterward. "I started tearing up."

She did not expect to see her father, Buck Mangum of Monroe, because she thought he was in Afghanistan. A civilian contractor doing construction and HVAC work, he was not due home for another two weeks. Her dad, who had not been home since February, had other ideas. He arranged to get his leave moved up two weeks. "I didn't want to miss this," he said. "I really wanted to see her graduate."

Even though Mangum actually left Afghanistan on July 15, he knew he would be cutting it close to make the ceremony. "I wanted to make sure I got out," he said.

His journey home took him through Kuwait and Indiana. Once in Indiana he was scheduled for a flight that would have him landing in Charlotte at 5:30 p.m. on Monday. The ceremony was to begin at 7 p.m. that day. When he realized there was an earlier flight with an open seat, he explained his situation and managed to get that seat. He landed in Charlotte around 2 p.m.

He made it to the ceremony in plenty of time and took his place with the rest of Hillary's family. Once "Pomp and Circumstance" began playing, the audience turned to face the door and that's when Hillary saw her dad.

"I had no idea," Hillary said. "I started crying when we were lining up." The effort it took to get home was worth it for Buck Mangum. "She's a special girl," he said.

Veteran Services Extends Office Hours

The Veteran Services Office, located in the former Bell Building in uptown Wadesboro, will now be open four days a week, Monday through Thursday, From 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For information on services contact Ted Ward, Veterans Services Officer, at 704-694-4418.

Anson Senior High Class of 1992

The Anson Senior High School Class of 1992 will hold their reunion on Saturday, August 18 at Twin Valley Country Club. For more information, such as the time of the event, contact Kelly Horne at 704-851-9466.

Ansonville Historical Museum

The public is invited to come visit the Ansonville Historical Society Museum. The museum is open the fourth Sunday of each month, from 2 to 4 p.m. For information call 704-826-8228.

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