

## Ketner files for coastal congressional run

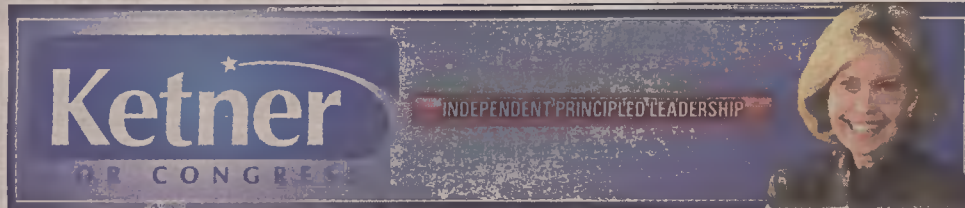
Food Lion heiress seeks to join ranks of Reps. Frank, Baldwin

by Matt Comer . Q-Notes staff

CHARLESTON — On March 20, Democrat Linda Ketner officially filed to run for Congress in the Palmetto State's 1st District. As the first openly gay U.S. House of Representatives candidate in South Carolina history, Ketner faces a tough battle to defeat incumbent Republican Henry Brown.

"Many of you know that I grew up in a little town called Faith, and that I adored my grandmother," Ketner said in an email to supporters. "Ma told me when I was a small child that if I saw something wrong, God counted on me to fix it. I took that lesson to heart and have spent my life working to solve problems and make a difference.

"We'll forge a path that leads to an America which is again respected around the world — not because we have bigger guns and more money, but because we live our val-



Ketner is the daughter of Ralph Ketner, founder of the Food Lion grocery store chain. The Salisbury, N.C., native has been active in various community organizations, including the Coastal Community Foundation of South Carolina, Crisis Ministries and the Mayor's Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing. In the LGBT community, she has been active with Charleston's Alliance for Full Acceptance and the South Carolina Equality Coalition.

ues of a level playing field, opportunity for all, fairness and compassion," she added.

The conservative, coastal 1st District — stretching from Charleston north to Myrtle Beach — has been represented by Brown for four consecutive terms. According to the progressive HuffingtonPost.com, many Republicans have dismissed Ketner's campaign as "wishful thinking." Brown received a zero rating on the most recent Human Rights Campaign Congressional Scorecard.

Ketner has already come under spurious attack for her pro-LGBT politics. The blog PalmettoScoop.com used a column she wrote for Q-Notes nearly two years ago to argue that Ketner is patently anti-Christian. In reality, the piece acknowledged the importance of faith in Ketner's life, even as she strongly denounced those who use religion to justify homophobic discrimination.

If elected to office, Ketner would be the fifth openly gay elected official to serve in the U.S. House, following Reps. Gerry Studds (D-MA), Barney Frank (D-MA), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI) and Jim Kolbe (R-AZ). ▀

## Pride releases 2007 finances

compiled by Q-Notes staff

CHARLOTTE — The 2007 Pride Charlotte festival was an overwhelming success. Based on estimates from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police and Pride organizers, 8,000 people filled Gateway Village for a day of musical entertainment, guest speakers, arts and crafts, merchandise and food vendors, visibility and empowerment.

The phenomenal turnout topped 2006's then-record crowd by 2,000 and beat the Task Force's goal by 500.

The organization has committed itself to openness and transparency. They've released their 2007 financial report to Q-Notes.

### Receipts

Task Force Contributions	\$ 2,585.85
Sponsorships	\$49,689.00
Contributions	\$ 100.00
Fundraising	\$ 1,943.40
Vendor Fees	\$21,014.00
Ad Sales	\$ 2,860.00
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>\$78,192.25</b>

### Expenditures

Entertainment	\$ 6,640.37
Logistics	\$24,260.28
Printing	\$ 8,998.00
Vendor Fair	\$16,597.12
Other	\$ 6,045.60
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$62,541.37</b>

Net Proceeds	\$15,650.88
2007 Seed Money	\$ 4,965.00
<b>Net Gain</b>	<b>\$20,615.88</b>

### Contributions

House of Mercy	\$ 1,000.00
Lesbian and Gay	\$ 9,615.88
Community Center	\$ 9,615.88
<b>Total Contributions</b>	<b>\$10,615.88</b>

<b>Balance on hand for Pride 2008</b>	<b>\$10,000.00</b>
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### Calendar

MONDAYS	FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
Monday Night Madness with: Morgan Richards & Special Guest	Fri., April 11 Elaine Davis
WEDNESDAYS Game Night with Bingo & Other Games Hosted by Bimbos of the Beach	Sat., April 12 C.L.A.W.S. & Red Ribbon Friends Dining with Friends Benefit Show
THURSDAYS Customer Appreciation Night. Free pool! Pool Tournament at 11:30 pm. \$50 Cash Prize Disco Diva Show at 12 Midnight	Fri., April 18 Morgan Richards, Imani Tate, Kristina DeeVine
	Sat., April 19 Isabella Diamante, Brittany Fontaine, Leslie Lain

Karaoke Tuesday - 11 pm • Karaoke Sunday - 10 pm  
Thursday Nights - Evening with Briley at the Piano - 7-10 pm  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday - No Cover (excluding special holidays or events)

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Sunday — Services at 11:00 am and 5:00 pm  
Choir Rehearsal at 3:45 pm each Sunday  
Wednesday Evening — Bible Study: 7:00 pm  
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