

# Duplin County Attorney Ingram Appointed Military Magistrate

Charles M. Ingram has recently been appointed a military magistrate for the Navy-Marine Corps Tidewater area, which encompasses the Norfolk Naval Base and the military installations in the surrounding Hampton Roads (Virginia) vicinity. The Tidewater area contains approximately 70,000 service members.



LCDR Charles Ingram

Ingram, a Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) in the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC), U.S. Naval Reserve, was appointed by Rear Admiral J.F. Frick, Commander Naval Base, upon recommendation of Captain Richard D. DeBobs, Commanding Officer of the Naval Legal Services office, Norfolk.

Military magistrates are appointed by the commanders exercising general court-martial authority, pursuant to instructions of the Secretary of the Navy. Magistrates conduct pre-trial hearings in cases where service members have been charged with violation of the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ), and have been placed in pre-trial confinement.

The purpose of military magistrates is three-fold: to determine if there is probable cause to believe that an offense has been committed, and that the service member committed it; if there is apparent court-martial jurisdiction over the service member for the offense involved; and if the service member should continue in pre-trial confinement.

Ingram stated that military magistrate hearings combine some of the functions of the first appearance and probable cause hearings in North Carolina criminal procedure. "Since there is no provision for monetary bail in the military justice system, the key factors for consideration are the seriousness of the charge and measures necessary to insure the presence of the accused at trial. The UCMJ mandates that an accused person may be confined prior to trial only where other less onerous measures have been attempted and determined to be inadequate," Ingram said.

"The primary purpose is to make certain that all constitutional and other rights and protections are afforded the accused. Of course, the special needs and requirements of the military service must be considered. But even with the limitations inherent in a system of military justice, the provisions of the UCMJ are in many instances more attentive to procedural safeguards of the rights of individuals than our civilian courts frequently are. I have been greatly impressed with the general fairness of the military justice system."

LCDR Ingram has assisted with the prosecution of courts-martial, and has been certified by the Judge Advocate General of the Navy as both a trial counsel (prosecutor) and defense counsel. His other experience includes legal assistance, and claims, in which latter capacity he represents the government in medical malpractice and other matters under the Federal Tort Claims Act. He has completed courses in the Uniform Code of Military Justice and Military Justice in the Navy, and completed with honors the U.S. Naval Justice School at Newport, R.I.

Ingram currently is assigned to Naval Reserve Legal Services Office Oceana Detachment 207 commanded by Capt. Z. Creighton Brinson of Tarboro. His duties include service as division officer and assistant training

officer. His military magistrate duties will be performed while on periods of active duty for training with the Navy.

Ingram is a member of the Naval Reserve Association, Reserve Officers Association, American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and other professional military associations.

He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from UNCH-CH and the Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Cumberland School of Law. He is a member of the Bar of the

State of North Carolina; the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of North Carolina; U.S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit; and U.S. Court of Military Appeals, Washington, D.C.

Ingram is presently engaged in the private general practice of law in partnership with his wife, under the firm name of Ingram and Ingram with offices in Kenansville. He is married to the former Carolyn E. Burnette of Lake Junaluska and they reside in Warsaw. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ingram of Kenansville.



**WEDDING INVITATION** - Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Ray Bostic of Beulaville announce the approaching marriage of their daughter, Tina Gwyn, to Randall Kennedy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph James Kennedy of Route 2, Beulaville. A July 25th wedding is planned for three o'clock in the afternoon at the Beulaville Missionary Baptist Church in Beulaville. No local invitations are being mailed. All relatives and friends are invited.

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## Along the Way

By **Emily Killeto**

Today the average American has one reaction when confronted with the subject of taxes, and that reaction is to cut taxes. No one today could imagine suggesting that taxes be raised, but in 1906 a group of Duplin citizens requested a tax increase to the Duplin County commissioners!

Americans have raised taxes to pay for numerous social programs, the development of a transportation system, educational programs and institutions, national defense, and the list continues. The average American cannot even begin to list all the programs paid for by tax dollars. But, even the politicians agree there is a need to balance the national budget and this could possibly mean a reduction in the programs offered to the taxpayer.

How do you decide what program is the least important, and would be of limited benefit -- is there such a program? Or, do you stop progress within a program and just maintain the present system to save tax dollars? And, with each program cut and each program cut-off at a limit a string of unemployed people begin to appear. Some of the unemployed come from the direct abolishment of a program and others come from a chain reaction of limiting growth. With each unemployed person there becomes one less taxpayer and less money

being collected to pay the national debt.

However, the politicians in Washington continue to guess at solutions to possibly end the current recession and the average Americans continue to grit their teeth and wish for a tax break.

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners were faced with an entirely different problem than we have today during a June meeting in 1906.

Judge A.J. Blanton provided the January 24, 1935 issue of the DUPLIN TIMES with an article published in a 1906 newspaper. The article was a petition presented to the 1906 Duplin commis-

sioners by county citizens. "Petition to Board of Duplin County Commissioners From It's Citizens to Levy A Tax": We the undersigned citizens of Duplin County respectfully petition your Honorable Board that at your June meeting, 1906, you levy a tax not to exceed 15 cents on the \$100 valuation of property, and 45 cents on each poll to provide a road fund for the purpose of building permanent roads in Duplin County and that you organize a convict force for work upon such roads. Respectfully, R.D. Carr, Charles J. Southerland, J.W. Johnson, H.C. Carr, D.H. Wallace, Yancey Albertson, and J.W.R. Bass.

The current North Carolina transportation system has been a topic of concern during the cutting of funds to balance the state budget. And, special taxes have been suggested to replace funds

lost to budget cuts from the Department of Transportation. The agricultural state of North Carolina depends on its roads to transport crops to market

Local citizens in Duplin and other North Carolina counties have petitioned and

suggested special taxes and paid them willingly since the early 1900s in order to have decent farm - to - market roads. Today we should take a close look at the highway system in the state and continue to support efforts to maintain and improve our roads.

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