

## Transcripts tie Copeland to 'fault'

Staffers kept log of discussions

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

Former County Manager Cliff Copeland acknowledged responsibility for the Capstrat controversy that cost county taxpayers \$260,000 for what has since been deemed suspect assistance, according to conversation transcripts.

Then County Manager Peter Rascoe detailed an April 29, 2009 conversation with Copeland.

The conversation occurred at 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at John A. Holmes High School parking lot after a Rotary Club breakfast. It was



Copeland



Rascoe

detailed conversations between Copeland and county employees that occurred when confronted by the retired manager and after Chowan's

then that Copeland initiated a discussion with Rascoe, according to the log that included copious

near financial collapse. "Copeland) did comment about Capstrat saying 'That was my fault. Things got hectic' and he said 'I assumed the town was contributing to it and they were not. (Mayor) Roland (Vaughan) says he didn't say it, but he just doesn't remember saying it,'" Rascoe wrote.

When asked last week about his comments, Copeland again accepted responsibility.

"I was responsible," Copeland said. "I was the county manager at the time and that's how the system works."

Copeland admitted, however, that he did not know that staffers were documenting his comments.

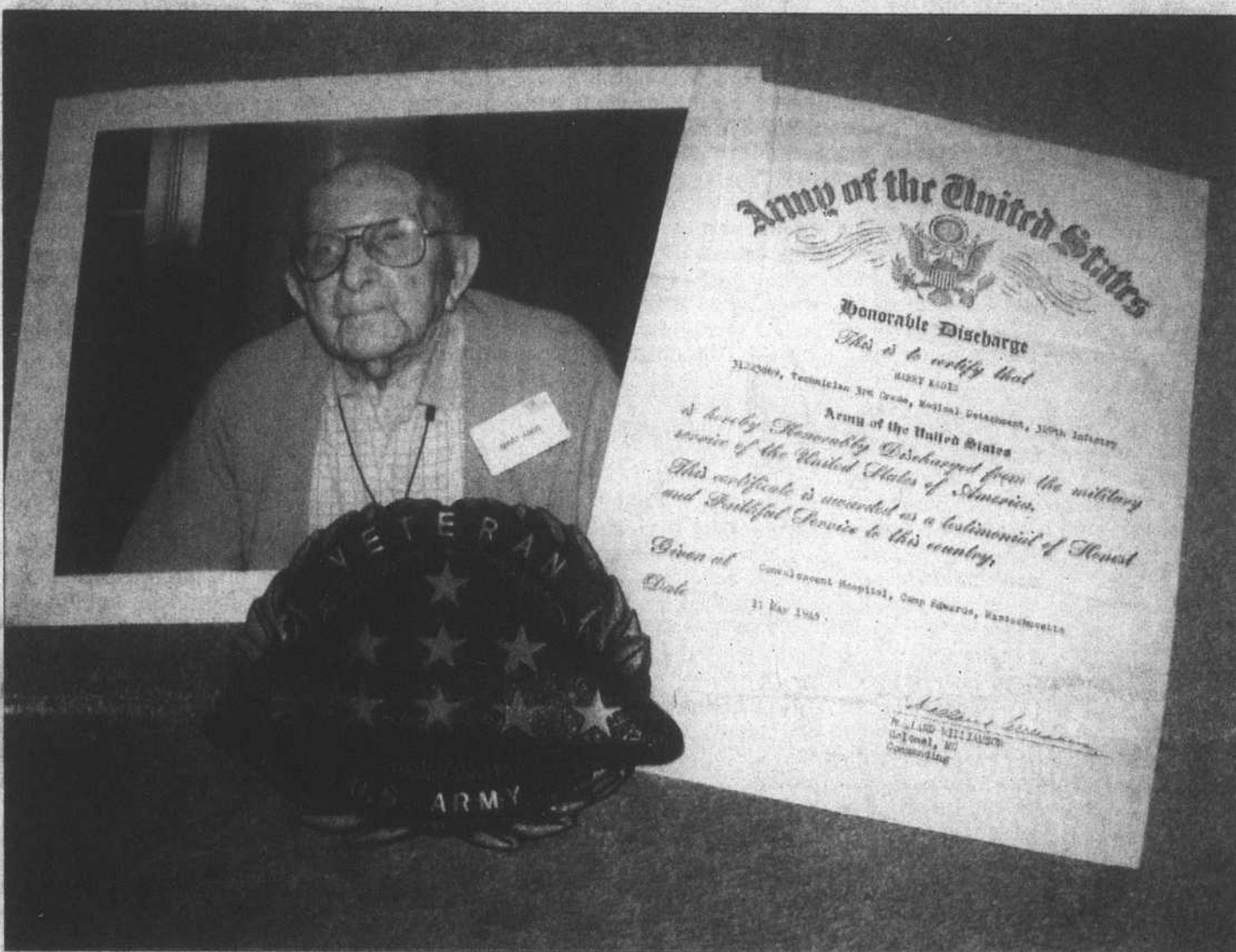
On September 4, 2009 at 3:15 p.m., Copeland told County Clerk Susanne Stallings "he always thought the town was paying their share." Copeland paid Cap-

strat, a Raleigh lobbying firm, to assist on several projects and allegedly without the knowledge and required approval of the Board of Commissioners.

Chowan County and Capstrat have received subpoenas to turn over documents to federal authorities investigating the county's near financial collapse in 2008. The U.S. Attorney's Office for

See COPELAND, 2A

## MEDALLION MEMORIAL



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Harry Rosenblatt of Edenton made this montage honoring the life and military service of his late stepfather, Harry Kadis, seen in the photo (top left). The montage also includes Kadis' discharge papers from the U.S. Army, and the medallion Rosenblatt ordered to be affixed to Kadis' gravestone in a New York cemetery.

## Memorializing veterans' service

By REBECCA BUNCH  
Staff Writer

A new benefit for veterans is available, and one of the first to take advantage of it is Edenton resident Harry Rosenblatt.

The benefit is a bronze medallion that can be installed or affixed on the grave markers of veterans who were buried in a non-military cemetery without a military headstone on their grave.

"This is a brand new benefit which became available on the first Monday in June," said Mike Nacinsik, chief of the Communications Division for the Department of Veterans Affairs' National Cemetery Administration. "At the present time, less than half a dozen of them have been ordered. People are just finding out about them."

Rosenblatt was one of them. He said he couldn't

remember where he read about the benefit, but decided he would like to order one for the grave of his stepfather, Harry Kadis, who died Sept. 3, 2009 at the age of 104.

But Rosenblatt found it difficult to get any information because the medallions were so new. He contacted an area VA office. And his friend, Retired Col. Harvey Binns made some calls on Rosenblatt's behalf. "But it was difficult to get any infor-

mation," Rosenblatt said.

That is something the military is working to change.

The National Cemetery Administration has created a Facebook page that contains helpful information for those interested in learning more.

A helpful question and answer section about the medallion is also available online by visiting [www.cem.va.gov](http://www.cem.va.gov).

See MEDALLION, 2B

## Familiar faces seek school board re-election

From staff reports

Two incumbents on the Chowan County Board of Education have filed to run for re-election, the only ones so far.

District 1 representative and the board's Vice Chairman Gene Jordan filed last Friday, the first day available, according to Rebecca Lowe, Board of

Elections director. Kay Wright, who holds the seat for District 2 filed Monday. She's pursuing a fourth term.

Jordan has served two six-year terms on the board with his sights on another.

Jordan was the only person to file, Friday.

Like most board of education members, Jordan knows without question that his biggest challenge if re-elected will be working on the district's budget.

"All of our funding entities are really stressed right now," Jordan said. "I'm afraid it's go-

ing to be a struggle."

In order to navigate tough financial times, Jordan says he plans to continue speaking with government officials, and on a more local level, work to maintain a positive relationship between the school board and the county commissioners.

Beyond the financial side, Jordan says he'd like to see the district place a greater emphasis on improving its math and science education.

Jordan says he'd also like to work on bringing and keeping talented teachers in the school system.

"We need to continue trying to attract high-quality people," Jordan said. "If we can get high-quality people, we need to find new ways to hold on to them. We have to sell our county and sell our town and make sure that young people who are going into teaching see our name."

A message left for Wright was not immediately returned.

Filing for the Edenton-Chowan school board runs through noon July 30. The filing fee is \$30.

(Daily Advance staff writer Kristin Pitts contributed to this story.)

## County set to hire interim manager

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners expect Tuesday night to approve the hiring of an interim county manager (after the Chowan Herald's press deadline).

Commission Chairman Eddy Goodwin confirmed Tuesday morning that the county has set its sights on Paul Parker, formerly of Pender County.

Parker has been spotted at the Public Safety Center where the county manager's office is undergoing a move from the county office building.

A meeting has been called for Tuesday night so commissioners can officially vote on Parker's hiring.

Parker last worked as Pender County's facilities and property manager until leaving to pursue the interim job here, according to Sandy McIntyre, a Pender County Human resources spokeswoman. Prior to that position, Parker served

See MANAGER, 2A

## Steinburg narrowly misses prize for funding

NC House District 2 candidate third out of 63

By RITCHIE E. STARNES  
Editor

N.C. House District 2 candidate and political newcomer Bob Steinburg got his first taste of an election and while he came up on the short end, there's plenty to celebrate.

Steinburg finished third out of 63 Republican candidates vying for the NC Republican Party House Committee favorite candidate with the top vote getter collecting \$4,000 for campaign funding. No GOP incumbents were eligible.

With two days left in a race that started June 1 and ended at midnight last Friday, Steinburg held a narrow

See STEINBURG, 2A



Steinburg



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