

# SPECIAL ELECTION

## GOP

Continued from A7

Department of Health and Human Services transition team under Gov. Pat McCrory.  
 ■ Member of Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society, senior class president at UNC Chapel Hill and a Morehead Scholar.  
 Personal information:  
 ■ Member of Grace Fellowship Church in Kinston.

## MICHAEL SPECIALE

Home: New Bern  
 Age: 63  
 Qualifications:  
 ■ 20 years in the U.S. Marine Corps.



SPECIALE

■ In his fourth term in the state House representing District 3, which includes Craven County.  
 ■ Associate degree in business management/operations management, graduate of basic law enforcement training and graduate fellow of the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership.  
 ■ Former chairman of the Craven County Republican Party, serving in the role twice. He also has served as vice chairman of the Craven GOP and was both a precinct chairman and member-at-large.  
 ■ Founded and was the first chairman of the Coastal Carolina Taxpayers Association, founded and is chairman of the N.C. House Freedom Caucus, and served as a director of Chapter 92 of the Retired Enlisted Association.  
 ■ Recipient of the Navy Commendation, the Claudia Rogers Legislator of the Year Award, and the Conservative Achievement Award.  
 Personal:  
 ■ Member of Freedom Baptist Church in Havelock. He is the father of two children, Michael Jr. and Dawn, and he has eight grandchildren.

## DEMOCRAT

Continued from A7

## ALLEN THOMAS

Home: Greenville  
 Age: 49  
 Qualifications:  
 ■ Undergraduate degree in business management from ECU; masters degree in business administration from UNC Chapel Hill.



THOMAS

■ Three-term mayor of Greenville; executive director of the North Carolina Global TransPark from 2017-2019; vice-president and co-founder of IQMax Healthcare.  
 ■ ECU Board of Visitors, former Boy Scout troop leader, former treasurer of the N.C. Metropolitan Mayors Association, former chairman of the Greenville Zoning and Planning Commission.

■ Recipient of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government's Cahn Public Service Fellowship; recipient of the Interfaith Clergy's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. award, recipient of ECU's Robert Wright Society Leadership Award.  
 Personal information:  
 ■ Member of Holy Hill Pentecostal Holiness Church

## LIBERTARIAN SHANNON BRAY

Home: Apex  
 Age: 46  
 Qualifications:  
 ■ Chief information security officer, Secured Systems; worked as technical architect 6 for the U.S. Department of Defense, chief information security officer for ShareSquared, and chief architect for Planet Technologies.



BRAY

■ Associate degrees in history and science from Arapahoe Community College; bachelor's degree in information technology from Colorado State University; master's degree from the University of Delaware. Currently working on doctorate in computer science at Missouri University of Science and Technology.  
 ■ Served as quartermaster aboard a ballistic missile submarine in the U.S. Navy.  
 ■ Regional director for the U.S. Naval Sea Cadets with current rank of lieutenant commander. Member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, serving with the Computer Directorate for its National Team.  
 ■ Microsoft certified master, a certified information security manager, and received a Letter of Accommodation from the U.S. Coast Guard.  
 Personal:  
 ■ He and wife, Stephanie, have two daughters, Eden and Kenna; and a son, Hayden Poe

## ONLINE

Visit the State Board of Elections website at [www.nssbe.gov](http://www.nssbe.gov) for more information about the special election and other election data including a voter lookup tool. The tool generates personalized data about voting districts, polling places, ballots, voting history and more.

## Special election facts and information

### Adams Publishing Group

State election officials set the primary for April 30, when all precinct polling places will open across the district.

Early voting stations open in each of the district's 17 counties on Wednesday.

Early voting continues through April 26.

Fact sheets provided by the state Board of Elections spelled out the following important information about the special election:

■ **Second primary:** A second primary will be held July 9 if necessary. The runner-up may request a second primary, or runoff, if no candidate receives more than 30 percent of the votes.

The greater the number of primary candidates the more likely a second primary will be necessary. The top two vote-getters would be on the ballot for the second primary.

■ **General election:** A general election featuring the top Democrat, Republican, Libertarian and Constitutional party candidates and will be held July 9 if no second primary is necessary.

It will be held on Sept. 10 if a second primary is needed.

■ **District 3 counties:** The following counties are in District 3: Beaufort, Camden, Carteret, Chowan, Craven, Currituck, Dare, Greene, Hyde, Lenoir, Jones, Onslow, Pamlico, Pasquotank, Perquimans, part of Pitt and Tyrrell. Pitt voters may look up their registration information at <https://vt.ncsbe.gov/RegLkup/> to determine if they live in District 3.

■ **Who can vote:** Friday was the deadline to



### ONE STOP SITES

Following are early voting sites and hours in the Adams Publishing Group coverage area:

■ **Beaufort County** Board of Elections Office, 1308 Highland Drive, No. 104, Washington, N.C.: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-18 and April 22-26.

■ **Camden County** Board of Elections Office, 117 N.C. 343 North, Camden: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-18 and April 22-26.

■ **Chowan County** Board of Elections Office, 730 Granville St., Edenton: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-18 and April 22-26.

■ **Currituck County** Board of Elections Office, 2811 Caratoke Highway, Currituck: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-19 and April 22-26; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 13 and 20.

■ **Greene County** Board of Elections Office, 110 S.E. First St., Snow Hill: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 10-12; 1-4 p.m. April 14; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 15-19; 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 20; 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. April 22-26.

■ **Pasquotank County** Board of Elections Office, 1409 Parkview Drive, Elizabeth City: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-19 and April 22-26.

■ **Perquimans County** Board of Elections Office, 601 S. Edenton St., Hertford: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-18 and April 22-26.

■ **Pitt County** Community Schools and Recreation Building, 4561 County Home Road, Greenville: 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on April 10-12, April 15-18 and April 22-26.

register to vote in the special election, however, voters may register and vote on the same day during the early voting period. Registered party members must vote in their party's primary.

Unaffiliated voters may choose to vote in the Democratic or Republican primary but not the Libertarian primary. There is not a Constitutional party primary because only one candidate is seeking the nomination. Voters will not be required to show an ID during the special election.

### MORE CANDIDATES

The following primary candidates filed to seek the District 3 seat but did not provide biographical information to Adams Publishing Group.

#### Libertarians

■ Tim Harris, New Bern

#### Republicans

■ Graham Boyd, Wake Forest  
 ■ Celeste Cairns, Emerald Isle  
 ■ Don Cox, Belhaven  
 ■ Jeff Moore, Raleigh  
 ■ Michele Nix, Kinston  
 ■ Eric Rouse, Kinston  
 ■ Phillip Shepard, Jacksonville

#### Democrats

■ Gregory Humphrey, Beulaville

# Thank you for what you did, Walter Jones

After taking a semester off from East Carolina University to run an eastern North Carolina Republican field office during 2008 election, I was back at school with a full schedule of classes — and a yearning to stay involved in politics.

Jonathan Brooks, Congressman Walter Jones' campaign consultant, suggested I apply for a paid internship with the congressman's Greenville office. After an interview with Jones' district director, Millie Lillie, I was the new intern, and would eventually be hired as a full-time employee after graduation.

On my first day I was introduced to the congressman's legendary constituent services staff. In addition to Millie, there was Deborah Marm, Jason Lowry, Frankie Moye, William Moore, Gloria Fletcher and Debbie Taylor. I also met Congressman Jones during those first few days. He had no reason to pay any attention to me, one of dozens of interns that had worked in his offices, but he couldn't have been more welcoming.

One gesture by Walter Jones that still sticks with me is how he would regularly say to staffers, "Thank you for what you do." He had no obligation to express his gratitude to staff as frequently as he did — these were employees, after all. Still, it wasn't a throw-away line; you could sense the sincere gratitude he felt toward all of those staffers who had been loyal to him for so many years.

At that time Congressman Jones was among the most vociferous objectors to our country's presence in the Middle East,



PATRICK SEBASTIAN

to the Iraq War, had determined he had voted for the war based on false information.

Congressman Jones wasn't a blowhard in his opposition to the Iraq War, though he did not hide his disdain for George W. Bush and Dick Cheney's military decisions. He would amplify his opposition in the media sometimes, but he never made the issue about him, as many politicians have.

Congressman Jones' close friend and devoted aide Frankie Moye would retrieve the death notifications of fallen soldiers and locate their family members so the congressman could write them personal condolence letters.

Frankie taught me how to use the office's old-fashioned typewriter to address the envelopes. While typing addresses on envelopes is considered a menial task, it was imperative that every letter on every envelope was lined up perfectly. I was there for only a fraction of the thousands of letters Walter Jones wrote.

By the fall of 2012, after detours in South Carolina and Washington for campaign

voting numerous times to bring the troops home. Congressman Jones in 2005 had renounced his 2003 vote to authorize the U.S. invasion of Iraq. The man who had persuaded the House cafeteria to change the menu item "French Fries" to "Freedom Fries," after France announced its opposition

to the Iraq War, had determined he had voted for the war based on false information.

Congressman Jones had not softened his criticism of U.S. Middle East policies over the years, and it's safe to say he was not a favorite of GOP congressional leadership. Republicans had gotten behind Romney, with Walter Jones being a rare exception.

Having Congressman Jones announce his endorsement of the Romney-Ryan ticket would be beneficial to both Romney and Jones. Undecided voters in eastern North Carolina might be persuaded to support Romney if the widely-respected Walter Jones gave his stamp of approval.

Also, Mitt Romney wasn't George Bush, and U.S. combat in the Middle East had declined drastically during President Obama's first term. Surely Jones would appreciate that and be open to publicly endorsing Romney, I thought. The congressman's office arranged a phone call prior to the rally.

After exchanging pleasantries, I made the ask: "Congressman, you have probably heard Paul Ryan will be in Greenville tomorrow for a campaign rally, and I thought with him being here, we could arrange a phone call with you and Governor Romney, and if you decide to endorse, you could announce it at the rally with Paul Ryan," I said.

His response was gracious, yet firm.

"Patrick, I appreciate you calling about the event and offering to arrange a call with Romney," he said. "But Romney supports keeping us involved in Afghanistan. Tell him I would be happy to talk to him if he changes his stance."

It was obvious Congressman Jones was as passionate about this issue as ever and wasn't going to get behind any politician who supported that war, and that was that.

Despite not receiving the answer I desired, I felt even more respect for the man than I had before. If his independent streak would keep him from being chairman of a prestigious congressional committee, or lead to losing relationships with donors and Republican activists, or hinder him from having a relationship with the potential next president of the United States, so be it.

That's the definition of a man with unwavering principles.

Until his final breath, Walter Jones was the humble, sincere maverick the people of eastern North Carolina had known since the 1980s. He will rightfully be remembered as a political institution, and more so, an immensely decent and compassionate man.

It's why today it's our turn to tell him "Thank you for what you did."

*Patrick Sebastian is a former aide to U.S. Rep. Walter Jones who's worked on several statewide political campaigns. He now lives in Raleigh and works for Majority Strategies, an influence marketing services firm.*

**BALLOT MARKING INSTRUCTIONS:**  
 A. With the marking device provided or a black ball point pen, completely fill in the oval to the left of each candidate or selection of your choice as shown.  
 B. If you tear, deface or wrongly mark this ballot, return it to request a replacement.

**FEDERAL OFFICES**

US House of Representatives  
 District 3  
 Unexpired term ending 2020  
 (The next election is 2022.)

Allen Thomas  
 Ernest T. Reeves  
 Dana E. Outlaw  
 Ike Johnson  
 Gregory Humphrey  
 Richard Bow

End of Ballot

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US House of Representatives  
 District 3  
 Unexpired term ending 2020  
 (The next election is 2022.)

Tim Harris  
 Shannon W. Bray

End of Ballot

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**FEDERAL OFFICES**

US House of Representatives  
 District 3  
 Unexpired term ending 2020  
 (The next election is 2022.)

Michael Speciale  
 Phil Strouder  
 Eric Rouse  
 John Perry  
 Mike Payment  
 Michele Nix  
 Greg Murphy  
 Jeff Moore  
 Phil Lee  
 Francis R. El Lane  
 Don Cox  
 Chimer Davis Clark, Jr.  
 Gary Cress  
 Cassie Cairns  
 Graham Boyd  
 Paul Beaumont  
 Kevin Basso

End of Ballot