

Clerk

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people and I know you have a heart for service and I'm really excited about your leadership."

Other speakers during the ceremony were Mayor Pro Tempore Vivian Burke, retired U.S. District Court Judge James A. Beaty Jr., Apostle Gloria Samuels, attorney Donald Buie, attorney A.L. "Buddy" Collins, and Forsyth County Assistant District Attorney Pansy D. Glaston.

As Clerk of Court, Linville will manage more than 90 employees, which is about 40% of all the people who work in the courthouse. Additionally,



The Honorable Cheri Beasley, Chief Justice of the N.C. Supreme Court, congratulates Renita Thompkins Linville on her appointment to serve as Forsyth County Clerk of Court.

she will be responsible for recording and maintaining thousands of documents including court calendars, subpoenas, judicial orders,

injunctions, and judgments. In her new position, Linville will earn an annual salary of \$123,554.

Appeal

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that is willing to ignore evidence, logic, and common sense.

"My legal documents are online; I have nothing to hide. I was a young black man charged with sexually assaulting a very wealthy white female. I was tried by a white D.A. before a white judge and convicted by an all-white jury." Long continued, "They have no physical or biological evidence to connect me to the crime."

The Appeal

Over the years, Long has filed several appeals but all have been dismissed. But as more evidence from the case started to come to light, including the hidden evidence mentioned earlier, and thanks to the UNC Innocence Project, a judge has ordered police and prosecutors to find and preserve all physical evidence and records.

Since 2016 Long's case has been handled by the Duke University School of Law's Wrongful Convictions Clinic. Jamie T. Lau, supervising attorney of the Duke Wrongful Conviction Clinic, said when he

came across Long's case in 2014, he saw someone who fell victim to backlash from the state in response to progress that occurred in the 1960s. Lau said, "This system in North Carolina can wear you out and wear you down and that's what they've been trying to do in Ronnie's case."

Heading into the hearing in March, Lau said when looking at the evidence, it's clear that the law enforcement officers who investigated the case lied to conceal information and evidence that proved Long was innocent.

During the hearing in Richmond, Lau and his team which included more than 30 professionals and the N.C. Innocence Project, argued the unreliability of eye witness identification, and the discovered fingerprint that did not match Long's. According to Long's wife AsLeigh, when presented with the evidence of the fingerprint, the judge said, "Just because it's not inculpatory does not mean it's exculpatory."

When discussing her thoughts on the appeal, AsLeigh said because she knows how the judicial system works, she fears

that the Fourth Circuit Court will send Ronnie's case back to the state.

"I worry that the Fourth Circuit will send Ronnie back to the State courts to argue the newly discovered fingerprint evidence, claiming it's due to jurisdictional reason, but really it's because all the judges in our legal system lack the courage to do their jobs," she continued. "No judge wants to overturn another judge's conviction. It's about feelings, not facts or evidence."

Whenever and whatever the decision, Long said he plans to take it in stride. He said after fighting for more than 40 years, there's no reason to give up now.

"Being innocent of the charges I'm convicted of, why would I give up now after 43 years of fighting to prove my innocence? If I give up, the opposition has won," he continued. "I feel as long as I continue to put forth that effort to overcome all forms of adversity, then the opposition can't win."

For more information on Ronnie Long's initial case or appeal, visit freeronnielong.com or visit "Free Ronnie Long" on Facebook.

Gregory 'Catman' Good leaves a legacy to 'Express yourself' Local celebrity passes away at age 62

BY FELECIA PIGGOTT-LONG, PH.D. FOR THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem community lost a loving local celebrity on Friday, July 5, when Gregory "Catman" Good passed away in hospice care after a lengthy illness. Known as the Carolina Panthers' most famous fan, Good traveled to Clemson University in 1995 to watch the inaugural season of the NFL franchise and to Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium to support his team from 1996 until 2017 when his health began to decline. For more than 22 years, Catman has been a dazzling icon on the Panthers' field, signing autographs, cheering the team and pumping up the crowd. His son, Greg Good, Jr., now 31, plans to keep his father's legacy alive by making sure that Catman's seat on Row 1, Section 104, Seat 7 is still occupied by a Pop-Locking Panther.

Gregory "Catman" Good, has always been comfortable as the center of attention. One of his earliest stages was in his

education instructor by day, but his dancing skills spilled over into the community by night.

In the Bowen Park Community, two of his friends - Cedric Moser and Ben Piggott - as well as other performers joined him in dancing and singing at various local talent competitions. Moser and Good were both Fine Art majors at WSSU, members of the track team, and they hooked up with Ben Piggott to compete at a Hanes Mall talent show in 1981. They called themselves the Bowen Park Brothers, which Good suggested. On their first time out, they won second place in the lip-synching contest called "Puttin' on the Hits" by rapping and singing "In Jail Without Bail" by The Fat Boys. The first-place winner was a guy who sang "R-E-S-P-E-C-T" by Aretha Franklin in full drag.

"There was no way we could compete with that act," said Moser. "He was dressed and talented."

Moser and Good worked together in a business Good created called Dr. Good's



Left to right: Gregory "Catman" Good, Ben Piggott and Cedric "Mozart" Moser at Ziggy's in 2016, when Bootsie Collins was in the house. Ziggy's was on the corner of Ninth and Trade streets. It's now called The Ramkat.

own living room mirror in the Bowen Park community on East 24th Street in Winston-Salem, where he grew up with his parents Robert and Claudette Good, and his siblings Frances, Doug (Maxine) and Katrina (Maurice). It was a common occurrence to hear his music blasting as he danced to the song "Express Yourself" by Charles Wright & the Watts 103rd Street Rhythm Band. The lyrics of this song echo his drive for self-expression: "Express yourself! Express yourself! ... Some people have everything and other people don't/ But everything don't mean a thing if it ain't the thing you want. Express yourself!"

Good found a myriad of ways to express himself as an artist. He graduated from North Forsyth High School where he played football and threw the shot put and the discus on the men's track team. At Winston-Salem State University, he majored in fine art and psychology, but he also earned All-CIAA in the shot put and discus, performed with the Drama Guild, led WSSU's ROTC Fancy Drill Team, and was an undefeated "Pop-Lock" dancer at the Student Union during his tenure in Ram's Land. Good worked with the Alexander Youth Network as an in-home therapist. He worked for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools as a special

Creative Video in 1985. They worked together for six years and Greg, Jr. helped his dad with this project after that.

Piggott recalled that he and Good would often compete in various dance contests at local clubs such as the Black Velvet, Disco 311, Sugar Bears, and other talent arenas. They practiced together while watching Soul Train, watching the dance moves of Jeffrey Daniels of Shalamar, and learning grooves from youth in the community. Sometimes they won trophies, or a check for \$150 or more. They were having fun.

"We actually watched and studied the dances on Soul Train. We were sliding on dirt from the Red Field, a basketball court in Bowen Park, while doing the Moon Walk. We would be pantomiming like we were pulling a rope, pulling ourselves up by the collar, pulling our hands as if we are in a mirror, floating as if suspended from an umbrella, roping, popping, and locking," Piggott said. "We would come home from college and that's how we came together. We would go to Goodwill, buy a big coat, a skinny tie, baggy pants, a big apple hat, white gloves, something black and white. We took the people back to Vaudeville. Gregory even put lights on his hands and shoes."

See Catman on A3

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