

YOUR RIGHT TO SAY IT

Dr. Roberson appreciates 'family' of patients

Dear Editor,

To all of my dear patients at Kings Mountain Medical Center:

I wanted to write this letter on behalf of myself and my family. I have been in Family Practice and the Kings Mountain Medical Center for over 12 years. With very mixed emotions, I resigned my position as physician with CLECO at Kings Mountain. There were multiple circumstances that lead me to make this decision. I have made lifelong friendships and have become very attached to my patients. I believe that the word Family Practice is appropriate because my patients have been a great part of my "family."

I have seen people grow up in the community over the last 12 years and it gives me a great fulfillment in my heart to have been accepted by so many. I will miss everyone that has been so gracious to allow me to provide the best medical care I could for them. I will miss the times of sitting in rooms talking, getting to

know my patients, knowing the families, and trying to find out more than "What is wrong with you today."

Kings Mountain and the surrounding area has been very accepting of me. When I came to town, I joined at that time my future father-in-law, Dr. T.G. Durham. I could not have asked for such a wonderful physician, person, and friend to work with. I learned so much from him about how to treat patients. I was told to treat patients as if it were your family. I have tried my best to adhere to that idea. I knew that I could never fill the shoes of Dr. Durham when he passed, but I knew our patients still needed our care. I have kept him in my heart daily, and know I was brought to Kings Mountain for a reason.

I wish the best for each and everyone of my patients. I wish the best and have the greatest admiration for all the nurses, doctors, extenders and staff that I have worked with at Kings

Mountain Medical Center (Terri, Karen, Susan, Holly, Audrey, Sheila, Gail, Kim, Maria, Robbie, Sabrina, Lynn, Eureka, Betty Spears, Jackie McRae, Dr. Adams, Dr. Saluke, and Dr. Collias). I also want to thank my family Sallee, CJ, and Katie for being supportive of this decision. This has not been an easy time for any of us.

Kings Mountain Medical Center is one of four practices that is run by a business administration board called CLECO Primary Care. Kings Mountain Medical Center will continue to be staffed and open to continue care. At this time it is not known who my permanent replacement will be.

It has truly been an honor and my greatest pleasure serving each and everyone that has allowed me at Kings Mountain Medical Center. We will still be in town and I am sure that we will be seeing many of you.

My best wishes,
Lewis H. Roberson, MD

Thanks for supporting Bethware Fair

To the editor:

On behalf of the Bethware progressive Club, I want to congratulate you on a wonderful insert in last week's Herald publicizing the 60th annual Bethware Community Fair. In spite of the hot weather, we had record crowds each night and appreciate the support of this annual event. We had many volunteers who worked so faithfully.

I especially want to pay tribute

to the businesses who made possible 1,000 T-shirts which were given away on Youth Night, Thursday, August 9: Cherokee Auto Auction, Cleveland County Fair Association, Coldwell Banker/Horn Real Estate, Falls Insurance Agency, Ric Francis Insurance Group, Harris Funeral Home, Herndon's Small Engine Shop, The Herald, Edward Jones Investments, Kings Mountain Pharmacy, Scoggins Nursery,

Smith & Dad Asphalt Paving and Warlick & Hamrick Insurance Company. Additional contributions were made by Dr. Paul Hendricks, DDS and Carolina Chiropractic Plus.

Without the above businesses support, the free T-shirts given away would not have been possible.

Our sincerest thank you,
Lois Blanton

OPINION PAGE POLICY

The Herald welcomes your letters to the editor for publication in each Thursday's paper. All letters must be signed, and for verification purposes include the address and phone number. Letters should be limited to 500 words.

Mail your letter to Editor, The Herald, P.O. Box 769, Kings Mountain, NC 28086; fax to (704) 739-0611; or e-mail to Letters@kingsmountainherald.com. Letters sent by fax and e-mail must also include name, mailing address and phone num-

ber for verification purposes.

Letters may be edited.

Letters to the editor and columnists who appear on the editorial page do not necessarily represent the views of the Kings Mountain Herald.

OUR VIEW

We must be a house united

I was a sophomore in college when two planes took down the Twin Towers; one plane crashed into the Pentagon and another one, headed for Washington, crashed into a field in Pennsylvania. Like December 7, 1941, September 11, 2001 is "a day that will live in infamy." Both attacks hurled us into wars.



Emily Weaver
Reporter

I, of course, wasn't alive in 1941 to witness how the country reacted to the attack of Pearl Harbor. But I was alive in 2001. The terrorist attacks on our country's soil produced the death of thousands, panic and a media-frenzy. But it also brought the nation together. American flags waved from nearly every edifice, half-mast for the fallen. Democrats and Republicans stood side-by-side. It was a house united.

When intelligence came to President George W. Bush's desk outlining who was responsible for the attacks and that nuclear bombs and weapons of mass destruction were in Iraq, he was faced with a monumental decision. I don't envy his position. Although it was probably a no-brainer at the time, the aftermath would prove to be much more complicated.

The United States of America could not and would not roll over and play dead. The second the terrorists decided to make their mark on our soil, at the expense of innocent women, children and men, was the very second they sealed their country's fate. Even though a family may not always agree, when an outsider attacks one member it becomes a family issue.

We went to war because our family was attacked. The men and women of our nation took up arms to defend our freedom and safety. Strapped with artillery, a helmet, and a bulletproof vest they embarked on their mission to conquer the threat and to bring peace to a ravaged nation. Even with all of their studies, they had no idea what would be lurking in the shadows of Iraq. How can a human being strap a bomb to a child or to a woman just to kill a few Americans? As the bomb wearers, how can they not protest? But they weren't just trying to knock off our soldiers they were killing their own people - destroying their own family. Doctors and professors who seemed to live normal productive lives, hidden in the masses, were all of a sudden joining the ranks of suicide bombers. They were spreading a plague of hatred and violence in the supposed name of their religion.

Why are we so consumed with helping a nation that seems to be bent on self-destruction? Because Americans have a heart that beats red, white and blue - the colors of freedom. As a free people, we want to feel safe at home from terrorism and its ugly deeds. We also want other people to have the opportunity to be blessed by the same freedom. It's hard not to care about the state of the world so we put ourselves in harm's way to try to make a difference for others.

This is the job we've given to our heroic troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and in many ways they are making a difference. But it's the bombs and the killings that make headlines, not the friendships and the accomplishments. For their sakes we must not be a house divided. Let's continue to stand together. For the sake of humanity, let freedom ring wherever men are wise enough to value it.

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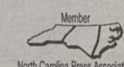
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