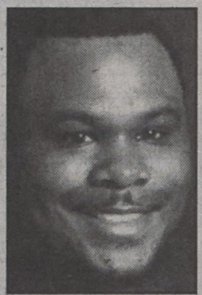


## OBITUARIES

**Roderick Darren Alston**  
KINGS MOUNTAIN - Roderick Darren Alston, 41, 411 N.Cansler Street, Apt. D, died Friday, Oct. 14, 2011, in Flushing, New York.



A native of Passaic, NJ, he was the son of Roger Alston and the late May Frances Warren Alston.

The funeral service will be conducted Friday, Oct. 28, 2011 at 2 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Gastonia, interment following in Mountain Rest Cemetery in Kings Mountain.

The family will receive friends Friday from 1:30-2 p.m. at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Gastonia and at other times at 1700 Northwoods Drive in Kings Mountain.

Surviving are his sister, Tomarcie Alston-Young (DI) and nieces, Jeniah and Deniah; his grandmother, Mary Warren; 10 aunts, six uncles, other relatives and friends.

Costner Funeral Home, 2425 W. Franklin Blvd., Gastonia, NC is in charge of arrangements.

**Costner  
Funeral Home**

**Charles Gene Bumgardner**

KINGS MOUNTAIN - Charles Gene Bumgardner, 88, resident of Kings Mountain, went to be with the Lord on Oct. 24, 2011 at Kings Mountain Hospice House.

He was born in Cleveland County, NC to the late John Cleveland Bumgardner and was also preceded in death by his brother, John Bumgardner.

Mr. Bumgardner was retired from Foote Mineral with over 20 years of service, a member of the Baptist faith and a loving husband, father and grandfather. He served in the United States Navy during World War II

on the USS Intrepid in the Pacific Theatre.

Surviving are his wife of 64 years, Frances Turner Bumgardner of the home; son, Larry D. Bumgardner and wife, Sandra, and Mike E. Bumgardner and wife, Becky, all of Kings Mountain; brother, Jack Bumgardner of Rocky Mount, Va.; four grandchildren: Allyson Chapman and husband, Don; Amy Smith and husband, Leonard; Mike Bumgardner II and wife Jennifer; and Beth Etters and husband, Justin.

The graveside service will be conducted Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011 at 2 p.m. at Mountain Rest Cemetery in Kings Mountain. Rev. Don Williams will officiate and interment will be in Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The family will receive friends Wednesday, Oct. 26, 2011 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. prior to the service at Harris Funeral Home in Kings Mountain.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, KM Hospice House, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, NC 28150.

A guest register is available at [www.HarrisFunerals.com](http://www.HarrisFunerals.com).

Harris Funeral Home of Kings Mountain, NC is in charge of arrangements.

**Harris  
Funeral Home**

**Jerry Eugene Ellis**

SHELBY - Jerry Eugene Ellis, 66, of 206 College Ave., died Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2011, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

The funeral service was conducted at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 20, at Pleasant Ridge Baptist Church, interment following in the church cemetery.

**Ronald Philip Gibson**

SHELBY - Ronald Philip Gibson, 62, of 119 Crane Court, died Saturday, October 22, 2011.

The funeral service was conducted Tuesday, Oct. 25, at 2 p.m. at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home of Shelby Chapel. Interment was in Sunset Cemetery.

**Benjamin Ray Towery**

SHELBY - Benjamin Ray Towery, 34, of 716 Liveoak St., died Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011, at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

A memorial service was held at 11 a.m. Friday, Oct. 21, at Clay-Barnette Funeral Home of Shelby Chapel.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### On choosing the right candidate

#### Hoyle has vision

As you go to the polls this November, I hope you will cast your vote for Jerry Hoyle, Cleveland County School Board.

I had the opportunity to work with Jerry at East Elementary as Support Staff Site Director with Communities in Schools. I saw firsthand his compassion, understanding and vision for the students and their families. His goal was for every student to have the opportunity to receive the best education possible beginning at elementary level and continuing through college. It was his belief and desire that every child could and should go to college.

He was able to not only encourage the students but the staff as well; which allowed East Elementary to become a school of Excellence several times! This school was also one of the TOP 25 in the state of North Carolina.

He has a heart for the students and their families. Jerry has the knowledge, skills and work ethic to be a team player on the Cleveland County School Board. He will work diligently to make our schools the best they can possibly be.

I hope you will take time to learn who he is, what he's about, and see that he should be your candidate of choice when you vote this November.

**Terrie Lewis  
Kings Mountain, NC**

#### Clary supports Blanton

*Letter from Senator Debbie Clary to Danny Blanton, Candidate for Cleveland County School Board*

I am writing to wish you the best and thank you for your candidacy for Cleveland County School Board. The Board has long needed someone of your dedication to the children, parents and teachers in our schools.

I have always appreciated your diligence in searching for ways to save money for our schools. I recall our first conversation when you called to ask for money to assist with paving parking areas, and expressing to me the needs for turn lanes and caution lights at our schools to help make the traffic patterns safer. Together, we used the discre-

tionary highway funds available to legislators to accomplish this task and saved the county dollars for more important classroom activities.

I know your genuine, heartfelt approach to solving the problems of the average parent in the school system is what we need on the board. Again, thank you for offering your time to be a member of the board.

I am,  
**Sincerely yours,  
Sen. Debbie Clary**

#### Hoyle gets it right

For the first time in my life I have a campaign sign in my yard, Jerry Hoyle for School Board. I worked with him in education for 23 years and know first hand that he can help all schools in Cleveland County become high performing schools. During his tenure as principal at East Elementary in Kings Mountain, the school went from being a poor performing school to one of the best schools in the county. I had the privilege of presenting with him at the state's Closing the Gap Conference on two occasions and at the national Communities in Schools Conference in Washington, DC in recognition of our school's successes.

Jerry Hoyle worked tirelessly to get the right staff, the right programs and the partnership of the parents and community to create a school where all students learned and achievement gaps were almost non-existent. He proved that all schools can be high performing regardless of socio-economic or ethnic make-up. He truly loved and believed in the students and I know that as a school board member he will bring his successes at one school to all the schools of Cleveland County.

A vote for Jerry Hoyle will be a vote for excellence in our schools.

**Grace Costner  
Kings Mountain, NC**

#### Mullinax is devoted

On November 8th you have a choice to choose a man who is devoted to his family and all the people of Kings Mountain. This man is Jerry Mullinax. Now Jerry manages a 54-unit apartment complex and deals with all kinds of people and their problems

everyday.

He also works at Greene's Funeral Home in Gastonia, where he assists with funerals and helps people in their time of grief and despair. He is a real people person and everyone who knows him is proud to call them (him) their friend. He is a friend to all no matter what race you are, man or woman, old or young, rich or poor, high standing in society or just a person with an average income, jobless or homeless, makes no difference he calls you all his friend!!

Jerry has also done lots of community volunteer work. The new Kings Mountain Hospice House one of them. He knows he can't "fix" things for them, but is there to lend a kind word and listens to their cares and concerns. It is sometimes heartbreaking and overwhelming to him, but he gives freely of himself helping people with problems in their day-to-day lives.

What more could be said about a man's true character? Jerry was the voice of the water wheel at the Cleveland County Fair pageant booth this year and many years in the past. He enjoys meeting the many people, assisting the security locate a lost child, wishing someone a very "Happy Birthday".

He worked at the former WKMT radio as DJ and played Gospel music until midnight six days a week, following Mr. Gene Austin who was the host for several years. He will appreciate your vote Nov. 8th. Jerry Mullinax for Kings Mountain City Council at large.

**Anne Hildreth  
Kings Mountain, NC**

#### Hoyle right choice

As election day nears and concerned citizens are trying to decide who would be best to serve the county on the school board one name that should be carefully considered is that of Jerry Hoyle. Having worked alongside of Jerry as both a teacher and a Principal for 33+ years I am confident in his ability to work with the board and the Superintendent to help move our schools forward to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Jerry's accomplishments as an educator are almost legendary as

he led East School to state wide and national recognition. I invite you to visit his website at [www.Jerry-Hoyle.com](http://www.Jerry-Hoyle.com) to see his accomplishments and to read his ideas for moving our school system forward. Jerry is a man of great integrity, intellect and vision. His knowledge of how children learn, his ability to motivate and lead different people groups and his desire to see children and our county well as a member of the Cleveland County Board of Education. Jerry is a proven leader and I urge you to carefully consider casting your vote for him when you go to the polls. He is eager to have the opportunity to serve the citizens as a member of the Board of Education. Vote Jerry Hoyle.

**Sherrill Toney  
Shelby, NC**

#### Hoyle wise choice

With the election of government officials just a few weeks away, I would like to encourage the citizens of Cleveland County to consider Jerry Hoyle for the Cleveland County School Board.

We are very fortunate to have someone with his leadership qualities, years of experience in education, and ability to work with people as a candidate for this position. As a retired teacher with 30 years experience at East Elementary School, I saw East become one of the top rated schools in North Carolina with Jerry Hoyle as principal.

He always worked to provide new programs, methods and resources to meet the needs of the students. He encouraged teachers, parents and students to give input into the setting of high standards and determining the strategies to meet them. His involvement in the Boy Scouts of America, Communities in Schools, Kiwanis Club and First Baptist Church demonstrates his willingness to serve his community. To continue to have a great school system, we must select excellent leadership for our school board.

I believe Jerry Hoyle as a highly motivated citizen of Cleveland County, would be a wise choice.

**Marie Ballard  
Kings Mountain, NC**

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**CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**  
Mrs. Reatha Blackwell and Mrs. Nora Nelson of Resurrection Lutheran Church assist with the cookie decorating table at the church's Oct. 15 Fall Festival from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. It was a joint fundraiser involving the church, Resurrection Lutheran School and Kings Mountain Rescue Squad.

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