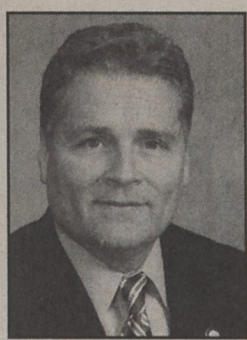


# Rep. Kelly Hastings to help lead committee

N.C. House Speaker Thom Tillis recently announced that Representative Kelly Hastings will serve as chairman of the Homeland Security, Military and Veterans Affairs Committee.



Kelly Hastings

"Understanding and assisting with the complex interactions between the local, state and federal governments is not always easy; I feel honored that Speaker Tillis asked me to help lead this committee," Hastings said.

The state of North Carolina is home to thousands of military personnel, veterans and others who are involved in safety, security and defense. From law enforcement officers, firefighters and emergency

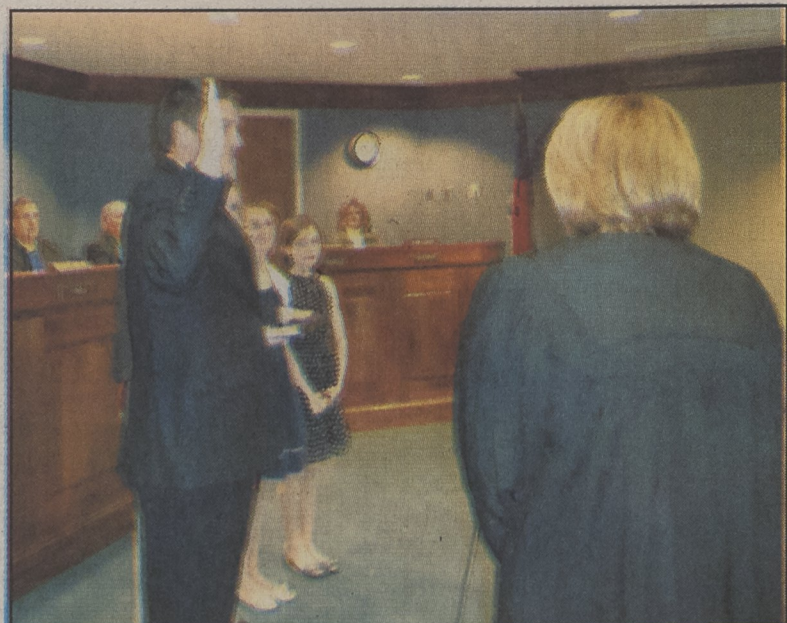
services personnel, to the most skilled military operators, North Carolinians play a vital role.

"I am excited to be able to interact with many of our best and brightest and I am honored to be able to work closely with our veterans," Hastings said.

Hastings will be sworn in on Jan. 9, 2013, in Raleigh, N.C. He will also serve as vice chairman of the Banking Committee; he will be a member of the Appropriations, Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Environment, Insurance and Transportation Policy committees.

Hastings served as the co-chairman of the Energy Independence and Alternative Fuel Committee during his first term. Earlier in his career, he handled veterans' issues for former Congressman Charles Taylor. He graduated from Appalachian State University and received an Honorable Discharge from the United States Marine Corps and Reserve.

He and his family reside in Cherryville.



Senator Warren Daniel takes the oath from Judge Donna Stroud as his wife and children look on.

Photo by Lib Stewart

## SWORN IN: Moore, Daniel take oaths

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oath of office.

"Senator Daniel and I have a great working relationship and you commissioners are a great team to

work with," said Moore. He added that redistricting in the state brought about demographic change, reiterating that more job opportunities and expansions are challenges for the future.

## BRIEFS

### Income tax assistance for seniors

Senior citizens 55 and older can get free income tax assistance at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22 and March 8, 22 and April 5 and 12 by calling 704-734-0447 for appointments beginning at 9 a.m. and scheduled at 30 minute intervals with the last appointment at 3 p.m.

A picture ID, social security card, 2011 tax returns, federal and state, record of any estimated tax paid, W-2 wage statement, 1009's interest and dividend distributions, 1009 Social Security benefit statement, charitable donations for 2012, Social Security or other

income from 2012, 2011 state tax refund, if you filed with itemized deductions in 2010.

Tax preparers cannot assist with rental property, stocks and bonds, sale of property and securities or farm income.

### Black History Month

The H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life & Conference Center will celebrate "Black History Month" on Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 10 a.m. in Conference Room 1.

Mrs. Mary Helen Brown and Mrs. Erma Lockhart, coordinators for the program, have invited Rev. Billy Houze, pastor of People's Baptist Church, to share words of inspiration and Mrs. Sarah Miller

to present a musical selection.

Mayor Rick Murphrey will give the address of welcome. The public is invited.

### Special Olympics games announced

Special Olympics Cleveland County will hold its annual Spring Track and Field Day on April 27 at Shelby High School.

Athletes interested in participating should call Pat McDonald at 704-487-9941 before Feb. 13. Athletes medicals are due on Feb. 13, and time trials are due on April 12.

Anyone interested in volunteering should contact Keila Parker at 704-487-9941 or [kparker@clevelandcountyschools.org](mailto:kparker@clevelandcountyschools.org) by Feb. 13.

### GROVER: board

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a loan from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources to help fund the plant project but Mayor J.D. Ledford said that if the grants are received the money will help defray the cost to citizens who are looking at increases in water and sewer.

In other actions, the board:

+Hired Michelle Emory as an office assistant.

+Updated projects on Dogwood and Ivy streets where catch basins won't carry water flow and washed out streets. Problems were also reported on Briarcliff which runs parallel to Ivy where concrete pipes are not joined properly, according to maintenance workers. They are contacting engineers and getting estimates on costs to correct the problems. Councilman Bill Willis said that one driveway is under water on Briarcliff and a collapsed catch basin on Ivy Street is under 2-3 feet of standing water. "There are some really deep spots," Willis said.

### PHOTO CONTEST:

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available at the city's website, [www.city-of-km.com](http://www.city-of-km.com) or by calling Lynda Mattox at 704-734-0333.

The exhibit will be in the City Hall lobby through the end of January, then transferred to Patrick Senior Center for the month of February in observance of Black History Month. The competition is produced in cooperation with the City of Kings Mountain, Corry Law Firm, the Southern Arts Society and NAACP.

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