

# Home is where you hang your hats

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Don't ask how many, because Dub Blalock lost count a long time ago.

They come from minor league baseball teams and paving companies, the Amish Country and famous bars, tourist shops in South Africa and car dealerships three counties over.

Hats, hats and more hats. Blalock's cap collection has grown so large that they cover the walls of his large two-car garage on Dixon School Rd. Plus, he keeps a dozen or so more "signature" caps completely out of the elements in a rec room upstairs.

In many ways, the retired brick mason's collection reflects his interests. He loves NASCAR and the late legend, Dale Earnhardt. Correspondingly, he owns about 25 caps related to The Intimidator and other racing icons like Larry McReynolds and Sterling Martin.

The Kings Mountain native and his wife Carolyn love taking cruises, and he's devoted a section of one his garage walls to caps from cruises they've taken together.

"There's a lot of stories up there," Blalock said, pointing broadly to his garage walls.

He's also a big sports fan in general - he's on the board of directors of the Kings Mountain Sports Hall of Fame. He loves golf and Kings Mountain and ACC sports, especially the North Carolina Tar Heels.

They're all categorized neatly on his walls - rows and rows and rows of caps from many U.S. Opens and the handful of ACC teams and pro baseball teams that are his favorites.



Dub Blalock has so many hats they cover the walls of his two-car garage.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

Blalock, 75, admits that many of the items in his large collection were given to him by friends, family and business associates who know he can't say no to a cap ... and will keep it forever.

He's got hats emblazoned with the Krispy Kreme logo, a Bass Pro Shops cap, one from the Reese's candy people, a green St. Patrick's Day-themed Clemson University cap and one that appears to represent a French rugby team. One of the hats on his wall is from the minor league baseball team his son played for the 1990s, the

Statesville Owls. One day about 25 years ago Blalock had a heart attack on the golf course.

"The next thing I know I was in a helicopter on my way to Charlotte," he said, remembering the day clearly.

It didn't take long for the pilot of that helicopter to deliver a Charlotte Memorial Hospital cap personally to Blalock's door as he was recovering.

That was in the early days of his cap collecting, when he really didn't know how big it would

grow. "I worked in homebuilding - that's how it started," he said. "The people I did business with would give me a cap and I'd hold onto it."

A cursory estimate brings the number of caps Blalock owns to more than 1,200. When he built a new house about seven years ago, the collection moved with him.

So what's Blalock's everyday cap, the one he throws on to run an errand or go fishing?

An emerald green Cheers cap, from the popular TV show and fa-

mous Boston bar, which he picked up while on a detour to visit Cooperstown some years back. Of course, he's got a couple of hats from the Baseball Hall of Fame, too.

Both Blalocks have a flair for collecting. They share a collection of more than 100 nutcrackers of different styles, and Carolyn keeps a room filled with Teddy Bears.

As far as his cap collection goes, Blalock says it continues to grow all the time.

"I got five last week," he said recently with a laugh.

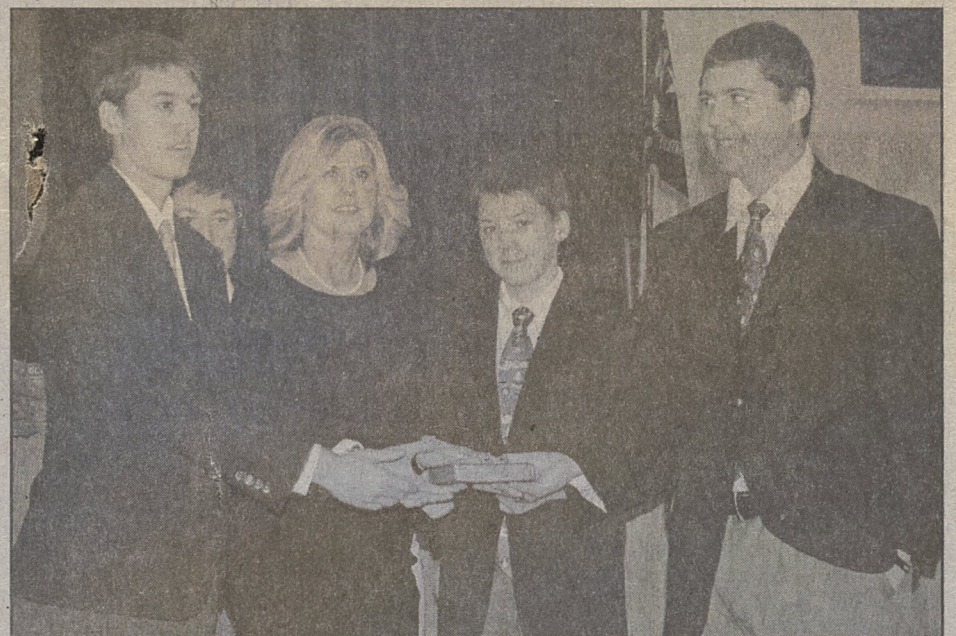


**HONORED FOR SERVICE -**

City commissioner Dean Spears, left, is presented a plaque and a watch from the city for long service on city council. Mayor Rick Murphrey makes the presentation.

Photo by ELLIS NOELL

## CC school board swears in members



Grover's Kathy Falls is joined by her husband and children during Monday night's swearing-in ceremony for new and returning school board members.

Photo by DAVE BLANTON

Newly elected Cleveland County Schools Board of Education members Donnie Thurman and Danny Blanton were sworn in Monday night before a room packed with supporters and school system employees.

Kathy Falls and Phillip Glover, who won re-election in the November election, also took their oaths in the ceremony.

The board also moved to re-elect Jack Hamrick as chairman and Shearra Miller as

vice-chairwoman.

Thurman and Blanton replace George Litton and Dale Oliver.

In regular business, the board was presented with school calendars for 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 by the school system's executive director of human resources Jennifer Wampler. No action was taken on the calendars, which will be reviewed by board members, school personnel and the community.

I want to take some time to wish my best friend, my soul-mate, and most of all my beautiful wife Denise Cobb a happy anniversary.



It will be four years on December 21st that I gave my heart and all the love I could ever give anyone to you Denise. But, after four of the most amazing, greatest years I have ever had with you, I realize now that my heart and love grows more and more for you each and every day.

I know we have had a very stressful year, but with our strength and our faith in each other, and especially in our savior Jesus Christ, we have and will overcome anything we face. Babe you are the most amazing woman I have ever known. I am so thankful and honored to be your husband. I know no marriage is perfect, but ours is as close as it gets. We know it's that way because we are best friends first and would rather spend time together than with anyone else, and also because we put God in the center of our marriage.

Babe, I really love us praying together each night, I also like being in our great church on Sundays together. These things are so special.

Thanks babe for loving me when I didn't love myself. Denise, words could never express how much I love you with all my heart. Babe you could look in all the world and you could never find a love as true as mine.

You are an amazing wife, a great mom, and a super na-na. You mean so much to so many people. I look so forward to our future together, we will be in our house at the lake in a few weeks. No matter what we face in our future together, I have no doubt that all our dreams and hopes we have will come true. I will see to that.

Our faith in Christ will see us through all things. I promise babe to make our life together better day by day.

Denise you are my rock and, thank God, my wife. Thanks for the most amazing, four years of my life.

I Love you, Pete

**We Wish You A Merry Christmas A Happy New Year!**

The Kings Mountain Herald  
**WILL BE CLOSED**

after 12 pm Dec. 24 thru Dec. 25

in observance of Christmas and will re-open with regular hours on Thursday, Dec. 26

after 12 pm Dec. 31 thru Jan. 1

in observance of New Years Day and will re-open with regular hours on Thursday, Jan. 2

**Deadline for all Display/Classified Ads for the week of January 1 will be at 12:00 pm on Thursday, December 26!**