

Opinions... ♦♦♦

Quote of the week

Yours, Ours, Others

"The things that we love tell us what we are."

Thomas Aquinas

Governor's Address was highlight of NC General Assembly session

This week marked the first full week of the 2015-16 long session of the N. C. General Assembly.

On Tuesday it was my honor to attend a ceremony in the House Chamber of the Old State Capitol building honoring World War II veteran James Hamby of Valdese, awarded the French Legion of Honor by the Republic of France.



Senator Warren Daniel
NC Senate
District 46

On Wednesday, we heard from Governor Pat McCrory during the biennial State of the State Address in a joint session with the House and Senate. I am honored to have as one of the House members in my district Speaker Tim Moore from Cleveland County. Speaker Moore is assigned seat 109 in the House Chamber but he was with dignitaries for the Governor's address and he gave me his seat in the Chamber for the event.

The Governor started his keynote address by stating that "North Carolina is strong and it's going to be stronger and the future is bright."

Some key notes from the Governor's address:

JOBS – Governor McCrory spoke candidly about the need for more tools to recruit and retain businesses. A new tool called North Carolina Competes will be created in order to help place workers in jobs. NC Competes will require safeguards to provide a positive return to state revenues. The Governor applauded our state for almost

erasing a 3 billion dollar unemployment benefit debt from the federal government. Our unemployment rate is the lowest in over 6 years great news for our current economy. The Governor noted that he wants North Carolina to become the vertex of the National Innovation Triangle – connecting N.C. To Boston and the Silicon valley.

TAX CREDITS – The Governor also wants to restore the expired historic preservation tax credit that developers use to renovate old factory buildings in our state. The tax expired on Jan. 1, 2015 and many developers want it restored because it is critical to reviving urban centers.

TRANSPORTATION – Improving our current transportation infrastructure was another highlight of the Governor's address. Connecting small towns to urban commercial centers is important to the Governor to make it easier for people to travel to jobs, schools, hospitals, and parks. Spending \$1.2 billion over 25 years would fulfill this goal.

EDUCATION – Moving towards paying teachers a base salary of \$35,000 is another goal the Governor pointed out for North Carolina to become a teaching destination. Our state saw the highest graduation rates ever last year. In an effort to help schools hire teachers the Governor suggested moving towards an expedited teaching certificate program that recognizes individuals' experience and subject matter expertise.

VETERANS – The Governor proposed that the Veterans Affairs Department would be strengthened by operating under one roof called the Department of Military and

Veterans Affairs. This department would be responsible for protecting our military bases, promoting the health and safety of veterans and military families, helping our veterans get jobs and working with the unique needs of base communities.

I am looking forward to seeing the specifics of the Governor's proposals in the next few weeks and working with colleagues to implement policies that will help make our state a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

There were several bills filed this week that are designed to help businesses grow. One of the bills I co-sponsored would deal with business start-ups by promoting crowd funding which is essentially a form of grass roots investment. Another bill would help businesses in the building and construction industry by limiting the regulatory burden imposed by zoning and aesthetic building ordinances (SB25). I also co-signed Senate Bill 2 which would allow magistrates and Registrars of Deeds to recuse themselves from performing marriage ceremonies if that violated their religious beliefs, a freedom guaranteed under the First Amendment. I also co-sponsored a bipartisan bill that would allow retirees to return to part time work for the state and retain their health benefits.

It is always nice to see visitors from the district in Raleigh. This week I met with numerous individuals from this district including Cleveland County commission chairman Jason Falls. It is an honor to represent the people of Burke and Cleveland County in the NC Senate.

Letters to the Editor

To The Editor:

He asks for more.

Just as I reach a point where I think I have nothing left to say, my mind explodes with thought. I am not that "thinker" in my own right, so I have to credit God for things that flow through me.

Kings Mountain and Cleveland County have seen a sharp rise in Christ's people speaking up against things that are wrong. For one, I am both appreciative and uplifted by what God does in His own time.

My thanks go out to all those Christians that stand for right.

Recently, a large group of area Pastors signed a letter of unified stance against a proposed casino. Several of them have spoken at both County and City meetings in front of the elected and asking the elected to withdraw support of a casino and again I am grateful.

I've been told by more than one Pastor that they (some of them) don't want to speak out publicly, but they've said they have spoken privately to some or each of the elected. I'd like to know Pastors, and others in the flock of the Lord, how's that working out for you?

From other Pastors I've been told to pray and leave it in the hands of the Lord and/or in the hands of the leaders. I have a difference of opinion on that issue. First, the elected are not leaders. The elected are "our" representatives that we put into office. God gave us a country that is not and has not been reigned over by any monarch. We choose to put folks in office and it's apparent our choices have not been the best. Second, of course we should pray. We should

be praying everyday for our country and those who we put into office and even those that disagree with us, but we should never be accepting of behavior of those who will not recognize God's Word as Supreme Law.

Throughout Scripture, God has backed those who fight for Him. In some instances He even sent only one or two to represent Him in battle, but unless He has told you to stand down, you should automatically be standing up against ungodly things.

Loving your enemy is one thing. Giving them kudos for some good deeds while they perform bad deeds is just plain foolish.

You and I have no right to judge, but that doesn't mean we can't evaluate the action of others and warn them about bad actions until they either change their actions or flat out openly deny God.

The issue of a proposed casino is as obvious to me as the "Rabid Dog" story that Reverend Mark Creech talked about. You must do something to stop it. If you are unable, God will know you tried and that you didn't give up. God will also know that you trust that you are working under His authority and on His behalf.

Stand and be blessed. Do nothing and be cursed. The Reverend James T. Lochridge, Jr. said it well.

The Reverend Franklin Graham said "...we must get involved in politics".

How/when will you stand? Pastors/Christians, a one time voice and one letter doesn't constitute a battle or a war. Are you all truly Christian Soldiers?
Beauford Burton
Kings Mountain, NC

Boots on the Ground

The war against Isis may require boots on the ground. These boots should not be the soldiers of the United States of America. I have been as incensed as any other American over the barbaric beheadings of our own Americans, and burning of a recent Jordanian prisoner. Isis is truly the scum of the earth. They are worse than scum. My Christian upbringing



Glenn Mollette
Guest Editorial

will not allow me to use words to express my feelings about Isis. They are evil and need to be eliminated from the planet. Our world cannot tolerate this cancer that is filled with such vicious hate for the rest of the planet.

America should help, but not with boots on the ground. Isis would love nothing more than for America to send 20,000 troops over to fight with them. That's not the answer. We've had boots on the ground for too many years in Afghanistan and Iraq. Americans are sick and tired of the Middle East. For years the Middle East manipulated us with their vast amounts of oil. America has worried too much about the flow of oil from this part of the world because of our dependence on oil. We have plenty of energy and we must stop all senseless Middle East wars just to protect oil interests.

The boots on the ground against Isis should be the people in the region where Isis is at work. America can help with air strikes that already are costing us millions of dollars. America has the best intelligence in the world. Let's use our intelligence forces, drones, air strikes and strategically coordinate with Jordan, Turkey, Israel, Iraq and Afghanistan the elimination of Isis, for a time. Unfortunately this will be a malignancy that will come back. This is all the more reason why the people in the Middle East must be do the ground work.

Why get into a ground war that will cost us two trillion dollars and sacrifice 4000 more of our men and women? This would become a war that would be another ten years or maybe an assault that might go on forever. The armies and soldiers of the Middle East can fight this war. We can help them with arms, intelligence, airstrikes and money but keep our troops off the ground.

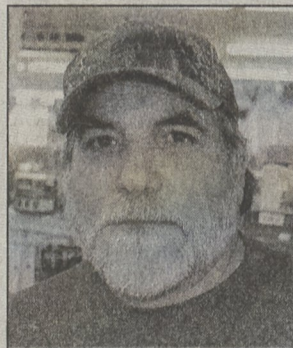
Kobani is a good example. After 112 days of fighting and many US and Arab airstrikes the Kurdish fighters took back the city of Kobani. The city is in ruins. However the Kurds with US and Arab air support eventually ran Isis out of this strategic spot. With weapons, ammunition, air support and our Intelligence helping these Kurdish fighters, Jordan and other Arab allies we can eventually beat back and destroy much of Isis for the time being.

In the meantime we must secure our own nation. As terror plots are hatched in our own country it will be up to us to defend America. When those times come, America will have boots on the ground - all of our boots.

(Ed. Note: Dr. Glenn Mollette is a syndicated American columnist and author. He is read in all 50 states.)

Sidewalk Survey

It's tax filing season. Are you dreading it or expecting a refund?



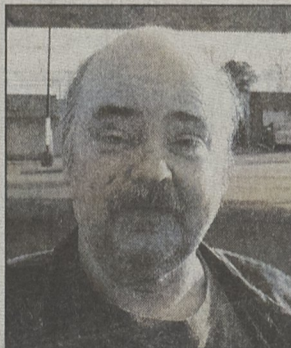
I haven't done it yet. I'm not dreading it, but actually I'm not sure how the laws have changed since last year.

–Joe Yablonski



I don't dread the process. I'm actually expecting a refund. They were slowing getting my W2s to me though.

–Lucas Ziegler



When I used to get one, I would pay bills with it. One year we bought a used computer with the refund.

–John Taylor



I let H&R Block do all my work. I'll use the refund – if I get one – on a vacation to Jacksonville, Fla. I have family down there.

–Steven Beller

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E-mail: kathy.kmherald@gmail.com

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Lib Stewart - Managing Editor
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