

Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

Honoring Fmr. U.S. Senator Kay Hagen



By

DonnaMarie Woodson

Former U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan, a one-time Capitol Hill intern who went on to become North Carolina's first Democratic female senator, died Monday at her Greensboro home. She was 66.

Click to Play



Hagan died in her sleep after a three-year battle with encephalitis, caused by Powassan virus.

In 2008 the former state senator beat Republican Sen. Elizabeth

Dole. She lost to Republican Thom Tillis in 2014 in what was then the nation's most expensive Senate race.

"We are heartbroken to share that Kay left us unexpectedly this morning," her family said in a statement.

Hagan, the niece of a former U.S. senator, spent 16 years as a lawmaker in Raleigh and Washington. Before the onset of encephalitis in 2016, she had an active lifestyle. An exercise junkie who loved yoga and Pilates and early-morning runs, she took the same energy to politics in Raleigh and Washington.

Gov. Roy Cooper called Hagan “a fierce advocate for North Carolina” who “represented our state with courage and grace her entire career.”

He ordered flags to fly at half-staff through Tuesday.

Hagan was born Janet Kay Ruthven in Shelby, NC, the daughter of Jeanette (née Chiles), a homemaker, and Josie Perry "Joe" Ruthven, a tire salesman. Her uncle (mother's brother) was the Lakeland



native and [U.S. Senator Lawton Chiles \(D-Fla.\)](#), who later became Florida Governor following his service in the U.S. Senate. The second of three children, the family moved to Charleston when she was 2 and later went on to Lakeland, Fla., where her father would serve as mayor. Hagan went to public schools and learned survival skills from her brothers.

“Being the girl in the middle,” she says, “I had to fight for everything I got.”

She earned a B.A. degree from Florida State University in 1975 and a J.D. degree from the Wake Forest University School of Law in 1978, later pursuing a career as both an attorney and banker. While a student at Florida State, she met fellow student Chip Hagan. After their first date, she called her mother.

“I told her I met the man I’m going to marry,” she once recalled.

They moved to Greensboro, where the Hagan family was well-established. Chip Hagan led the local Chamber of Commerce and the



Guilford County Democrats. Kay Hagan, a corporate lawyer, served with groups such as the YWCA and the arts council. She was an elder at her Presbyterian church.

In 1992 and '96, Kay Hagan chaired Democrat Jim Hunt’s Guilford County gubernatorial campaigns. In 1998, he helped recruit her to run for the state

Senate. She was, he would say later, “a real dynamo.”

A memorial service for former U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan will be 2 p.m. Sunday, November 3rd at Greensboro’s First Presbyterian Church.

The family has asked that memorials be made to Arts Greensboro or Women to Women through the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

Works Cited:

<https://www.charlotteobserver.com>

<https://www.wral.com>

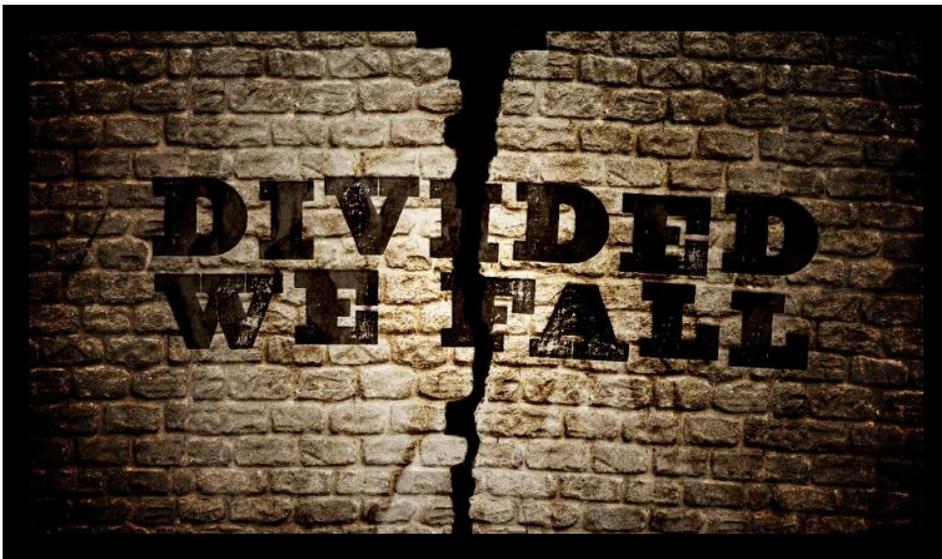
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kay_Hagan

Editorial

Resign, Mr. Trump, Resign

By Tarik Kiley

November 1, 2019



Fueled by xenophobia and racism, President Trump, refuses to recognize the fact that a border wall may not be

the most effective way of achieving border security for the USA. In other words, people can fly into the country, they can dig tunnels under the wall, and also enter America through other ports of entry, such as the entire border with Canada. Actually, “the wall” is not about border security at all. It is about racism. President Trump hates brown people so much that he wants to build a testament to white supremacy, which he believes will be symbolic of the nationalistic hatred which he harbors.

On the campaign trail, President Trump said that Mexico would pay for the wall. Now, he wants the American taxpayers to pay for the wall. He would force American federal workers to work for free, and cause suffering for so many. Mr. Trump has reached the point at which he is hurting the American people. He has shut down the government over his temper tantrum to get funding for his "border wall." He is not only narcissistic, but he also seems to be paranoid. It is the same type of paranoia which led Hitler and the Nazi Party to exterminate Jews. He labels brown people from Central and South America as "criminals" and uses language which vilifies them without any evidence to support his statements. After all, racism is a social construct and has no merit or basis in scientific fact. Just, as the segregationists tried to make dark skin a stigma, so now does Mr. Trump attempt to make brown skin and Spanish speaking a stigma. He would separate families of asylum seekers at the southern border, and treat them inhumanely, and use ICE to continue to ensure that brown people are stigmatized and denied their humanity.



At this juncture, in history, America is as divided as ever. America is moving in two conflicting directions. First, America is becoming more diverse and more information rich than ever before, in history. Secondly, out group vs. in group divisions are leading to greater political polarization throughout the country. People are smarter than ever, but at the same time people are fighting one

another more than ever over identity. There are Democrats vs. Republicans, Whites vs. Blacks, the Rich vs. the Working Class, English speakers vs. Spanish Speakers, etc.

Also, even though America is actually at this point in history, more capable of achieving great things than ever, in history, we follow a man who has no respect for scholarship, for critical thinking, or for emotional intelligence. We the smart American people are following a man, who is actually not that smart.

This is what happens when people create a bogeyman—when people find a scapegoat for their own unhappiness. Instead of fixing our problems, we point our fingers at an out group, and blame them for everything. At this point, our imaginations become our own worst enemy.

What could we be doing instead of hating and scapegoating others?



Well, first of all, we could be building. We could be building our families, our communities and strengthening the fabric which holds our communities together. We could work to alleviate suffering at home and abroad. We could be educating our children and

honoring our educators for the hard work which they do. We could be advancing science, technology and the arts.

For the federal government, this means investing. We could invest in the infrastructure much as President FDR did. We could invest in high speed rail to interconnect the country and to reduce car dependency. We could invest in clean energy such as solar and wind, recognizing that dirty coal is not coming back. We could improve our air transit system by investing in low space flight. This list goes on.

We also need to prepare our workers for the post industrial world.

The old industrial cities of the Northeast and the mid-West have



primarily de-industrialized. I know for a fact, as a transplant to a southern town from the old industrial city of Baltimore, MD. Baltimore, MD is a perfect example of what happens when a city de-

industrializes. Crime rose, and opportunity declined, but we can fight this decay by investing in sunrise industries and divesting from sunset industries. Not only is coal and some forms of manufacturing not coming back, but there are also industries which are ripe for investment such as robotics, artificial intelligence, low space flight, and clean energy.

We have to also consider our social responsibility to the world. Nowhere in the world, should there be famine or suffering due to senseless war. This was the whole purpose of the League of Nations proposed under President Woodrow Wilson, and the rise of International Law. We should be helping farmers across the world improve their agricultural techniques, and do our best to mediate peace between nations.



But most of all, we need proper leadership. We need a president with vision. We need a person who can envision a better future and lead us there. Unfortunately, President Trump is not that

person. So, he should resign. He should stop his vitriol, and do what is right for his fellow Americans and his fellow human beings. He should quit, now.

Works Cited

<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/01/23/us/politics/house-democrats-trump-wall-shutdown.html>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/polls-show-trump-is-bleeding-support-during-shutdown?source=articles&via=rss>

<https://www.cnn.com/politics/live-news/government-shutdown-month-2019/index.html>

Announcements



"A Vision for Charlotte 2040"

A Forum on the Housing Crisis

Sunday November 3rd – 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm

Dinner 5:30 PM - Forum 6:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church

200 W. Trade St.

Charlotte, NC 28206

RSVP for dinner \$8 - <https://www.firstpres-charlotte.org/event/a-vision-for-charlotte-2040/> or call: (704) 332-5123

N. Meck Democrats Monthly Meeting

Thursday, November 7th at 7:00 PM

Cornelius Elementary School Media Center

21126 Catawba Ave.

Cornelius, NC

Announcements



N. Mecklenburg Progressives Dinner

Monday, November 11th at 6:30 PM

Famous Toastery

12715 Conner Dr.

Huntersville, NC

(just off Gilead, across the parking lot from Earthfare)

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

November Membership Meeting

Wednesday, November 13th

Reception: 6:30 PM – Meeting 7:00 PM

Belmont Regional Center

700 Parkwood Ave

Charlotte, NC

"Dem Friends"

Thursday, November 13th at Noon

Asian Buffet & Grill

11032 East Independence Blvd - Matthews, NC 28105

704-246-6962 - (Every 2nd Thursday of the month)

Announcements



African American Caucus of Mecklenburg County

“Party Time”

Thursday, November 21st at 6:30 PM

Hickory Tavern

2005 E Arbors Dr.

Charlotte, NC 28206

RSVP by November 15th

RSVP HERE FOR THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21st!

Community-Wide Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Hosted by Mecklenburg Ministries

Tuesday, November 26th - 6:45 PM – 9:00 PM

Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

3400 Beatties Ford Rd.

Charlotte, NC 28216



Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.

Happenings Gallery!



North Charlotte Democrats "Dem Good Time" October 23, 2019



North Charlotte Democrats "Dem Good Time" October 23, 2019. DonnaMarie Woodson, Philip Benson, Heidi Pruess

North Charlotte "Dem Good Time" October 23, 2019-Joe Morrison, Brenda Morrison, Maxine Howard, Elyse Dashew, Commissioner Elaine Powell, Bud Barro, DonnaMarie Woodson, Commissioner Trevor Fuller, Ray McKinnon, Collette Alston, DonnaMarie Woodson, Kevan Woodson, Heidi Pruess

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck

The Executive Corner:

Executive Director - Jade X. Jackson

Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley