

*****SPAM*** Black History Month Inspirations - Anson & Richmond**

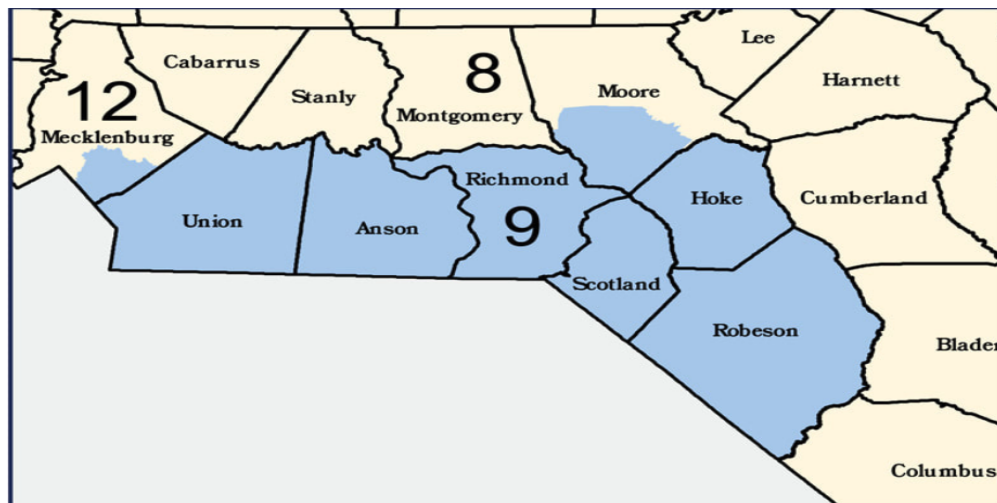
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CYNTHIA 
WALLACE
FOR CONGRESS

Dear Steve:

We're on week 3 highlighting Black History inspirations across the counties of the 9th district who are impacting countless lives in a meaningful way. We've done this journey moving from the farthest East and the farthest West portions of the district and are making our way inwards! We highlighted changemakers from Mecklenburg and Robeson County in week 1, and in week 2 we highlighted folks from Union and Scotland County. If you don't remember all the counties of District 9, check out the map below.



This week's journey takes us to the middle of the district – Anson & Richmond County.

You can learn more about them and the previous highlights on my Facebook, Twitter and Instagram accounts.

ANSON COUNTY:

Dr. Altheria Patton: Dr. Patton served in the Anson County School system for over 60 years.

She was the first African American female principal of Anson Jr. High School, the first African American female assistant superintendent, the first African American female vice-chair of the school board, and a two-term member of the North Carolina School Board Association. In 2016 she received the highest award from the NC Governor's office, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. In honor of her 94th birthday, on Saturday, January 23, 2021 the East Polkton School Alumni sponsored a "Birthday Celebration Drive Thru" in the old Walmart parking lot on Highway 74 West, outside of Wadesboro.

Leon Gatewood: In May 2005, when Mr. Gatewood learned that the level of reading for black boys in Anson County was alarmingly low, he took action. He started a nonprofit organization HOLLA!, which stands for Helping Our Loved Ones Learn & Achieve focused on youth in Anson. The non-profit headquartered in Morven has attracted wide attention including a visit by Governor Roy Cooper's wife Kristin. Most recently he worked with Black Voters Matter to get out the vote in 2020 in Anson.

RICHMOND COUNTY:

County Commissioner Tavares Bostic: Elected in November 2018, Commissioner Bostic is the youngest county commissioner serving in Richmond. He got an advanced degree in Pennsylvania and returned home to follow this mantra he heard "once you graduate, go off, get your worldly experience and education, then come back and help rebuild." Before he was elected to the county commission, he took on the task of chair of the Richmond County Democratic Party. In Richmond, he founded an awesome organization Brothers Leaning on Another Creating Kings (B.L.A.C.K) and his business Bostic Counseling & Consulting. Our rural towns across the country need more young people to return and become community leaders like Commissioner Bostic!

Dr. Fred McQueen: Dr. McQueen was the first medical doctor to recruit pediatricians to Richmond County to address the infant mortality rate and the first black doctor to serve as president of the Richmond County Medical Society. He practiced in Richmond for over 40 years until his retirement in November 2020. Dr. McQueen served as president of the Richmond County chapter of the NAACP for more than 30 years. In 2016 he received the highest award from the NC Governor's office, the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. He helped secure the historical marker for Hamlet-born jazz saxophonist and composer John Coltrane in the 80s and opened the Coltrane Blue Room in 2020.

Based on responses, many of you are enjoying reading these as much as I am enjoying preparing them! Don't hesitate to shout out other history makers in response!

Warm Regards,

Cynthia

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