

*****SPAM*** Final Black History Month Inspirations - Moore & Hoke**

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Dear Steve,

Today is "officially" the end of Black History Month 2021 so this is the last installment of our look at inspirational Black leaders across NC's 9th Congressional District. We have highlighted folks who are making a difference in their counties and who influence lives every day. I have found their stories incredibly inspiring, and please know that recognizing Black changemakers is about all of us.

You can go to my Facebook, Instagram or Twitter accounts to revisit the folks we covered from Mecklenburg, Union, Anson, Scotland, Richmond and Robeson counties.

Today, our journey concludes in Moore and Hoke counties, the newest additions to the ninth district since November 2019.

MOORE COUNTY:

Town Commissioner Wilma Laney: In October 2017, Wilma was sworn in as Town Commission in Aberdeen North Carolina. She is the first Black person to hold this position and the first Black person to be elected to any office in Aberdeen since 1893. She served as the chair to the Moore County Democratic party and had a long career in public service serving on numerous boards and volunteer positions.

Councilman Paul Murphy: Reverend Dr. Paul Murphy, pastor of Trinity AME Zion Church in Southern Pines, practices what he preaches by being an active member of the Moore County community. He joined the Southern Pines Town Council in 2018 and currently serves as mayor pro tem. He and his family use their considerable musical talents to bring the joy of music to the citizens of the county, young or old.

HOKE COUNTY:

Judge Regina Joe: In July of 2005, Judge Joe was appointed by then Chief Resident Superior Court Judge B. Craig Ellis as the Chief Public Defender for both Hoke and Scotland counties, making history by becoming the first Black female Chief Public Defender in the history of the state. She ran for and won her current position as District Court Judge of Judicial District 16A (Scotland/Hoke counties) in the November 2006 election, making history once again as the first black and the first female judge in District 16A. Due to redistricting, she ran in 2018 to maintain her district judgeship in the new District 19D which includes Hoke and Moore counties.

Chair Jim Davis: Mr. Davis was the first black sheriff elected in Hoke County's history in 1998. Prior to returning to his hometown of Hoke, he served more than 30 years in Washington, DC with the Metropolitan Police Department, as

an Instructor, Deputy United States Marshal, the International Police Organization (INTERPOL) and U.S. Department of Justice. He was elected chair of the 9th Congressional District of the North Carolina Democratic Party (NCDP) in May 2020 after serving as Hoke County Democratic Party Chair and 8th Congressional District Chair. Active in his community, he currently serves as Chair, Hoke County Senior Services Advisory Board, Vice-Chair, Hoke County Board of Health, and co-founder, Blue Springs-Hoke County Community Development Corporation.

I learned a lot about the folks right here in my own backyard and hope that you enjoyed their stories as much as I did. Black History Month isn't only about those names that we all know, but it should also include those unsung heroes who are making a difference in their local communities without well-known names. Please share their stories with your friends and family and share stories of other important community leaders with me!

Warm Regards,
Cynthia



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