



News Release

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Public Information Office
Contact: Sally Shutt, Communications Manager
Telephone: 910-437-1921
E-mail: sshutt@co.cumberland.nc.us

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New County Commissioner Sworn In

FAYETTEVILLE – Phillip Gilfus, 29, was sworn in as a Cumberland County Commissioner this morning at the beginning of the board’s regular meeting. The oath of office was performed by District Court Judge Talmage Baggett.

Gilfus was appointed to the vacant at-large seat formerly held by Breeden Blackwell, who resigned from office effective Jan. 31. Blackwell accepted a position as the Director of Government Relations for Cape Fear Valley Health System.

A native of Cumberland County and a graduate of Terry Sanford High School, Gilfus graduated from East Carolina University in three years with a major in communications and a minor in public administration. He worked as a staff member in the North Carolina Senate in Raleigh after graduation.

He joined the U.S. Army after the September 11 attacks and was commissioned through Officer Candidate School. Gilfus served as an officer in the Ordnance Corps and was stationed at the Army’s National Training Center in Fort Irwin, Calif., with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR). Gilfus served in Mosul, Iraq, with the 1/25 Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) in 2005. After returning from the deployment, he was promoted to captain and soon left the military to attend law school.

Gilfus earned his law degree from the Norman Adrian Wiggins School of Law at Campbell University. He is a criminal and traffic attorney with The Mitchell Law Group in Fayetteville.

He is an active member of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, where he serves as a lay reader, usher, and a member of its Vestry. He is currently pursuing his master’s degree in public administration through Golden Gate University.

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