

Vote DeGiorgi for Charles County Commissioner

Authority: Friends of Johnnie DeGiorgi, Harry Blacker Treasurer

I would like to introduce myself. I am Johnnie DeGiorgi and I currently live in Nanjemoy. I am also running for District 2 County Commissioner. I want to give you a little more of my background. I am the real guy next store. While I am not a Charles County native my visits to the county started when I was very young with summertime visits to Camp Merrick and birthday visits to Popes Creek. I was born in the District of Columbia. I was placed foster care at 6 months. I was in many homes until I was 6. At 6 I was placed in the family that I stayed with the rest of my life. I have been a cement finisher, police officer, woodworker and driving instructor at various times during my life. I worked until retirement in support services at the Naval Research Laboratory and EODTECHDIV. I retired from government service in 2003.

Rather than concentrate on issues tonight, I thought I would spend some time telling you about myself and go into more detail on who I am.

I feel that I would be a valuable asset to the citizens of Charles County for a variety of reasons. There are three positions that I have held that I feel make me uniquely qualified to represent the citizens of Charles County. These are:

1. I have been a substitute teacher. I worked in PG County. This taught me a lot about our school systems.
2. I have worked as a sworn police officer. I worked as a 'beat cop.' I worked various small towns that border DC. This brought me in contact with many different people. I learned a lot about the needs of communities.
3. I am an EMT. I have worked Charles County as an EMT. This taught me a lot about the County. I have met many people and listened to many concerns about our county.

I have been an active volunteer for most of my life. I was a football coach in Camp Springs Boys and Girls Clubs in the 1970s. I did one year coaching softball and my team won the county championship. I was a football coach for the Indian Head Braves for a brief period but I stopped because of my objections to the use of 'sweat pills' administered by other coaches. I have been very active in search and rescue dogs since the early 1990s. With my canine partners I put on many demonstrations explaining what search and rescue is and what to do if you get lost. The goal of these demonstrations is to teach children, and adults, how not to get lost.

I was active in teaching first aid and CPR with the American Red Cross in Charles County. I served as Disaster Action Team chairman for awhile. I was active in disaster response for both single resident, such as house fires, and larger storm related damage team response. I received many awards for the number of volunteer hours I worked each year during the time I was an active Red Cross volunteer.

I have given more than 11 gallons through the American Red Cross blood donation program.

My wife and I have always supported various 4H clubs, including The Mounted Wanderers.

I have not been a member of business organizations in Charles County because it honestly did not matter to my government job. I decided I did not want to open my own business once I retired. I am proud of my years of government service to the US Navy as a civilian.

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I do work part-time teaching at Best Driving Academy. I do this because I enjoy teaching high-school age students. I find it very rewarding. I teach Driver Improvement classes because I am concerned about our young drivers and want to help them. My time as a police officer helps in this task.

I have held management positions. I love to snow ski and during my time at NRL I became active in the laboratory's ski club. I was on the board of directors and served as President for 4 years.

When I was at NRL I became an active union member. I was a member of the union negotiating team for the lab-wide contract in the 1980s. I was a shop steward and chief shop steward at NRL (Local 174 Metal Trades Council AFL-CIO). I was a shop steward for AFGE at the EODTECHDIV.

My last position at the EODTECHDIV was running the hazardous materials center for the base.

I became involved in politics many years ago. I have worked on many campaigns over the years. I never took a leadership role because I worked for the federal government. I was a member of Jesse Jackson's Rainbow Coalition. Once I retired from the federal government and was no longer limited by the Hatch Act, I decided to become more active in politics. I was not happy with the direction leadership was steering our County. Talking to friends I found out many felt the same way. I decided it was time for a change. I entered politics in 2005 as a candidate for Charles County Commissioner for the 2006 election.

I ran in 2005 because I did not like the programs and direction the Commissioners was taking the County. I am extremely unhappy with where the current Commissioners have taken the County since 2006. That is why I am running.

We need change. We need to manage growth. We need transparency in government. We need to take care of our citizens, not our elected officers.

My top topics for the future of Charles County are:

- We need to provide affordable health care for all county residents. There is the continuing matter of the Nanjemoy Health Services Clinic closing. This will leave 750 people including myself without medical services. Many of these are on Medicaid, Medicare or un-insured. Many do not have the ability to pay or have transportation to go to other clinics. We need to keep a clinic at this location. We need to continue to find ways to provide basic services to all regions in the county.
- We need to manage growth. We need to look at the character and impact of proposed development. For instance, I am against the proposed Research Facility on Liverpool Point Road in Nanjemoy. It brings nothing to the county. It brings research in firearms, terrorist response training and research in weapons of mass destruction to an isolated rural area. This is not good for the community.
- The Charles County Connector extension is not needed. We already have roads connecting east and west in this area of the county. A better use of the funds would be upgrades to existing roads (shoulder additions, correcting blind intersections and such).
- The Capital Clubhouse is a money loser. We never should have bailed out the private owners and the County needs to sell this white elephant.

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- The Baseball Stadium needs to continue to be financially successful. I was not for this facility. I am happy to see that it has made more than expected in its first year.
- We need to decide on the 301 Bypass NOW. I am amazed at the development just north of the county line. This will severely limit what can be done for the bypass. If you look south of Waldorf, the congestion is horrible. The longer we wait the worse it will get. We've been studying this for decades. Now is the time to commit or eliminate the possibility.
- We need to extend Van-Go, not reduce services. This is the only transportation for some. We need to make it attractive to more who are not limited to Van-Go only. We need to look at adding routes and changing the fares charged.
- The Charles County Sheriff's department must be supported. I would fully support the Sheriff's department. As an ex-police officer I look forward to working with the sheriff's department. I also feel that Animal Control should be under the Sheriff's Office rather than EMS.
- We need to look closely at the expense of planned schools. Do we really need all of the extras proposed for the new schools? Now is the time we need to be responsible with money. I would like to see more schools built. We need to balance college preparation and vocational tracts.
- We need to take water supply into consideration when new developments are proposed. We should not be placing ourselves in a position where we must pay for outside water. We definitely should not be charging residents with well water to pay for the over-building of the region.
- The county needs to seriously look at alternative work schedules for county employees. This includes 4 day work weeks, compressed work schedules and flex-time. We need to have offices open when residents, including those who commute, can visit. This may include having one day a week when offices stay open late. I am not opposed to union efforts.
- We need affordable housing in the county. This is not only a need in Nanjemoy but in the entire county. We need affordable housing built in a timely manner. The building permit process needs to be streamlined. It should not take months to get the necessary permits for additions.
- We need transportation. We need to facilitate transportation between Charles County and DC. DC is our major employment center but we also cannot forget about Indian Head, Pax River and Dalhgren. We need options like bus, light rail, ferry and carpool/bus lanes.
- We need to add jobs to the County. But we need more than retail and restaurant jobs. I don't know the answers but will work with business organizations to bring new businesses to the county. We need to make Charles County business friendly.

We need CHANGE in Charles County. We need to protect the good things we have here in the county. The current Commissioners have not kept faith with the citizens of Charles County.

There have been several new candidates enter the field for District 2 Commissioner AFTER Commissioner Patterson announced she was not going to run for re-election. I content that all three support the policies and

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programs of Commissioner Patterson. Otherwise, why would they announce only after she decided not to run for District 2? Miss Davis actually said she would never run against Commissioner Patterson. Because this is NOT a popularity contest I can only take that statement as directly supporting the present state of things. We need CHANGE. I am in direct opposition to the majority of Commissioner Patterson's programs and policies. The other candidates cannot say this. WE NEED CHANGE.

I have a website (www.votedegiorgi.com) and will be adding information in the upcoming months. I would like you all to visit and send me your comments. My email is:

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