Testimonial: Candidate Johnny Lance Wilson

Johnny Lance Wilson, 39 years of age, was born in Catawba County in 1974. From birth he was raised in Caldwell County beginning in the Lower Creek area of Lenoir and moving to the Mount Herman area of Hudson in 1981. He was born to Karen Triplett Wilson (Karen Triplett Hendrix) and the Late Johnny Mack Wilson of Lenoir, NC in June of 1974.

Lance's father, mother, brother and sister



Unfortunately, his father was killed in an alcohol related shooting incident in Burke County two months before he was born so he never had the opportunity to meet his father. Lance's mother, Karen, raised his brother, Johnny Rhett, sister, Angelique, and she faithfully fulfilled both roles of the mother and father. She raised the children up in a Christian home and taught the importance of Christian, moral and ethical values. She taught the children what respect & character was all about. As a single parent raising three children she quickly adapted to the leadership role of father and mother. She had to be the leader of the family after his father was killed as she had no choice. She had to stand up and assume the sole leadership position for the family. There is no doubt where Lance's leadership abilities came from. She pressed on faithfully by raising three children and teaching them not only character, respect and principles of moral and ethical standard but by teaching them about integrity and doing the right thing. The Wilson family faithfully attended Gospel Baptist Church in Newton, NC. His mother would take Lance and the siblings to church from Lenoir to Newton-Conover three services per week. As Lance has looked back through the years he knows that it was not easy for his mother.

Lance and his siblings getting ready to go to church



Lance's father, Johnny Mack Wilson



The death of Lance's father was very hard on his mother but she was determined to succeed. Her love, dedication and commitment to her children were a priority. She is a leader and will always be. She took a stand and got the job done. Lance's father was a man of many talents and a leader as well. His dad, Johnny Mack, was a gifted athlete and a very talented boxer; however, he made some poor choices and decisions that cost him his life. He was involved in an alcohol related shooting in April of 1974 in Burke County and he would never see his family again. He would never meet his unborn son who would later write about him and share about his life in testimony.

Lance's father's death, due to those wrong choices by means of alcoholism, his mom's inspiration and will to do what is right has driven Lance to become what he is today. This is what inspired Lance as a young childhood boy to go into the field of law enforcement and help others and combat against what his dad chose to do. This is the plan GOD had in Lance's life, to be a servant for others and a lifeline of assistance to all who need it.

Choices



Little did he know what the plans would be in his life? Lance can remember in the first grade on the bus headed to Hudson Elementary School getting out and a Hudson Police Officer, Dewey Haynes, being there to meet him and the other children. Officer Haynes made an impression in his life by being there in uniform near his patrol car at the school. A plan for his life began at that time and was in place. It would be to help and serve others.

Lance in his younger years



Lance was a hometown kid with a big heart. Once very shy and bashful, he attended Hudson Elementary School, Hudson Middle School, Alexander Central and South Caldwell High Schools. He really had a successful childhood, middle and high school years. He was always the quiet one until he got older. Lance also served on the Hudson Police Explorers. Lance was blessed to be a talented athlete and he starred in the sport of Track and Field earning numerous honors and awards and the setting of many records while running for six years. Several colleges were looking at Lance to come and run track for them but the plan was laid out for Lance to go into another direction. His teachers and coaches were always very influential in his life.

Lance during his High School days



Lance graduated from South Caldwell High School in 1992. As many do, after high school Lance had to get a job. While most others in his family after graduation opted to serve our great nation in the military, Lance was eager to start his law enforcement career as soon as feasible and did just that. The vision from the first grade was coming to fruition. Lance was persistent in what he was going to do. He enrolled at Caldwell Community College after high school and took various courses waiting on the opportunity to go to Basic Law Enforcement Training. He then attended Basic Law Enforcement Training at Caldwell Community College when turning 21 years of age. He graduated Basic Law Enforcement in the fall of 1995 and immediately started his law enforcement career without hesitation. He was eager and excited serve and to get onto the streets and make an immediate impact in the community. This is where he started and this is where he remains. He does not serve to receive accolades. He does not serve to receive medals and honors. He does not self- serve or do it to make himself look special. Lance serves because he truly wants to serve. He serves to make a difference in lives. He strives to touch hearts and lives on and off duty. The badge does not make him who he is but it is what is under the badge that makes him who he is. From a childhood boy there was a vision. The vision turned into full view in 1995. When asked by others, "Why do you want to become a police officer, deputy or trooper?" His answer is and will always be, "To make a difference in lives, to help and serve others." This calling in his life was being fulfilled. Lance has fulfilled the calling in his life and has served proudly as a law enforcement officer since February of 1996.

CAREER EXPERIENCE

Lance started his career as a young rookie at Lenoir Police Department as a Patrol Officer in February 1996.

Lance during his time as a Lenoir Police Officer Lance with his wife Julie

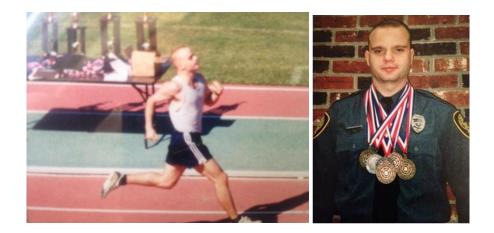


It was during this time he met his lovely wife, Julie. They met in 1996 and a few years later in 1999, they joined together in matrimony.

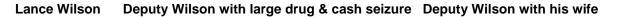
He continued his career in law enforcement at the Granite Falls Police Department in 1997 and remained there until 1999 and served a Patrol Officer. During his tenure at Granite Falls Police Department he was very active in the community. Lance was especially active with the North Carolina Special Olympics holding the title of Departmental / Fundraising coordinator. He started his career early becoming very active in the community by coordinating events and fundraising. He constantly assisted with the North Carolina Special Olympics and supported the Torch Run. The police department was given awards during his tenure as coordinator. The department held various fundraisers to benefit the Special Olympics.

Health and Fitness have always been an important priority in his life from his early years. Lance was fortunate enough to represent the Granite Falls Police Department in 1998 at the North/South Carolina Police Olympics. Lance humbly received numerous medals during the competition in various events. He received a commendation letter from Caldwell County Representative Edgar Starnes for the achievements and representation.

Police Olympics Champion 1998 Charlotte, NC



Lance left the Granite Falls Police Department in 1999 and started a new journey with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff under the direction of Sheriff Roger Hutchings. He served with the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy Sheriff until from 1999-2003.





In 2003, another opportunity presented itself within the Sheriff's Office. The Caldwell County Sheriff's Office applied and received a new traffic safety grant through the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program in Raleigh. Lance applied for the position under then current Sheriff Roger Hutchings. Lance has always had a sincere desire to serve in traffic enforcement and this was a huge opportunity for him. After the interview process, he was blessed and fortunate to receive the promotion to the position of Traffic Enforcement and Safety Officer with the Sheriff's Office. This was a first for Caldwell County. This was a specialized position and one of its own generated by the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program as stated. The position accepted was for a three year grant position awarded to the Sheriff's Office. Numerous responsibilities came with the acceptance of the position. During Lance's tenure in this position he was able to satisfy and exceed all expectations through the requirements of the grant. Also, during the process of the new position, administrations changed. Sheriff Clark and a new administration took office. Lance was able to work with the new administration and team just as he did with Sheriff Hutchings and the former administration.

Caldwell County Sheriff's Office 2006 Mustang GT Traffic Safety Vehicle and Deputy J. L. Wilson





Lance humbly received numerous accolades for the job that he done not only from superiors in the office and Sheriffs of Caldwell County but the staff from North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program. After the initial grant position the county received, Lance was able to meet with the GHSP staff and the Sheriff's Office was approved for yet another grant position which once again included a working budget to obtain a fully funded position and fully equipped patrol vehicle just as the first one. The grants were operated on approximately \$300K budget. Sheriff Clark entrusted Lance with the entire process from the application of the position and all paperwork included to the purchase of all equipment to include the vehicle and all necessary equipment for the position. An additional officer was selected to serve in the traffic enforcement safety division putting another officer on our streets and highways and in our neighborhoods of Caldwell County. Lance was able to build those strong, standing relationships with the Governor's Highway Safety staff in Raleigh as well as meet and exceed expectations of the program. During the course of the second grant position, Lance was working on obtaining a third position as well as acquiring new equipment for the department. Lance remained serving as the Traffic Enforcement Safety Officer until he resigned in 2007 when he was accepted to begin a career with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. Lance's experience was great and he is very appreciative for the opportunity afforded to serve the citizens of Caldwell County in that capacity. Unfortunately, the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office no longer has either of these positions as they lost funding for them. They were unable to meet the expectations of the program. Lance worked so hard during this time and was deeply disappointed to hear of the loss of the division at the Office. The federal and state funded positions are opportunities to better provide the citizens with protection and service and there is no excuse for not being able to maintain them.

Caldwell County Sheriff's Office 2003 Ford Crown Victoria



Lance began his career as a Cadet with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol in January 2007 in the 119th Basic Patrol School. During the process and being the leader he is, Lance was selected as a Basic School Sergeant of the entire platoon of 63 cadets. He was chosen to this position by the Basic School Staff to include the commandant of the School. Lance completed the 16 week boot-camp in Raleigh, NC at the Highway Patrol Training Center. This was a challenge for Lance. The biggest challenge for him was being away from his wife and two year old daughter. Lance is very grateful for God's grace and strength to make it through the rigorous training. Lance was asked to be the special speaker at the Basic School graduation. He spoke on the thought of GOD, Family, Patrol and he discussed the priorities of life. It was very touching and to this day Lance lives by these priorities. They were instilled many, many years ago as a boy.

Trooper Lance Wilson

Trooper Wilson with Troopers' Williams and Jones



After graduation Lance was assigned Troop F, District 9 in Caldwell County. He was fortunate to come back to Caldwell County. Depending on the final scores, these would depend on where your duty station would be. Lance was very blessed and fortunate to come back to his home county of Caldwell which is very uncommon. Most troopers have to go away for several years.

He served in Caldwell County until October 2012 when he was selected to serve as a Motor Carrier Federal Safety Inspector with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol assigned Troop F, District 9, MCSAP in Catawba County. There are currently only 56 MCSAP Troopers that serve statewide. This is a federally funded position with the State of North Carolina. Lance has served with the North Carolina State Highway Patrol now for six years earning the rank of Master Trooper. This is the highest rank to achieve without gaining rank of Sergeant. It has been an honor for Lance to serve as a trooper with the NCSHP and will continue to do be during this process.

FAMILY

For folks that know Lance Wilson they know he is a family man. He is a very humble man and one of priorities. As stated, his priorities are GOD, his family and then his career. He has been blessed with a wonderful family to include his wife and children. He is married to Julie Herald Wilson and they have three beautiful children the LORD has blessed them with, Madeline (8), Landon (6) and Landry (4). The Wilson's enjoy spending time together, going to church and ministry events and going to various parks. They also enjoy playing sports. Lance is a very personable, whole-hearted, devoted faith and family man. He would have a whole house full of children if he could. He loves children and strives to raise his children the way he was raised by his mother teaching them right from wrong, values of a strong Christian home along with moral and ethical standard. Lance is very thankful to God for his family and loves them very much. He strives to be the father he never had growing up. He is very thankful for the rest of his family. His mother, Karen, married Danny Hendrix of Sawmills. Danny (Pop) and Lance are very close. Pop is very influential in Lance's life. Not only do they have the father-son relationship but they are best friends. Pop is also a very integral part of this campaign process. Lance's brother, Johnnie Rhett and his wife, Crystal, and niece, Alyssa, reside in Seattle, WA. Lance's sister, Angel and her husband Steve reside in Lenoir.

Lance with his wife and children





FAITH & MINISTRY

Lance Wilson is a man of strong and deep faith. As stated, his mother raised the children in a Christian home. He is Christian and unashamed of being a Christian. Many candidates shy away from their faith but he will not. With that being said, he will say he is running for public office and that office being Sheriff of Caldwell County. He is running to lead Caldwell County as the next Sheriff. It has been mentioned by others in the law enforcement field Lance cannot become Sheriff and be a preacher. Lance will take a stand, go into the direction he is being led and prove he can. Lance says we need servants with values and he is willing to accept the challenge. Lance Wilson will not dare force any faith or religious beliefs on anyone and never has, however, just as a leader in the Sheriff's Office should do by giving credit where credit is due, Lance will do the same with his faith. A smart leader will give credit where credit is due.

Lance is the founder of a ministry called Cops 4 Christ Ministries. This group was established in 2004 with some deputies and the chaplain getting together for prayer meetings at the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office. The prayer groups began to increase in size and eventually the meetings involved other agencies. A first annual Cops4Christ Revival was laid on hearts and took place in August 2008 and the ministry continues to thrive. Lance said it would be worth it all if one soul came to know the LORD.



Cops 4 Christ Ministries Display

Lance Wilson at Refuge Missionary Baptist Church





Cops 4 Christ Ministries is an active evangelistic ministry and involves numerous officers and local church partners and members. This ministry travels to many areas making an impact in various communities.

Lance and his family are members of Green Mountain Baptist Church in the Yadkin Valley Community. The Rev. Charles Keever has served as a mentor in his life. His faithfulness and duration to "Keep on Keeping On" has inspired Lance and his family in many ways.

Lance Wilson with Pastor of Green Mtn. Baptist Church Charles Keever



As his mother was responsible for the raising of Lance and his siblings, Lance and Julie are responsible for the upbringing of their three little children. They will do the best they can as parents to inspire, train and lead them. All of these things need to occur in our home. Lance Wilson will do the same thing in our Sheriff's Office. He will inspire, train and lead this department into a NEW ERA......

....A NEW BEGINNING



Lance is a Baptist evangelist. He was called to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ on June 16, 2005 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee at a Greg Lentz (CYF) Youth Rally. He has been preaching the gospel for 8 years and he also sings in a southern gospel quartet. The name of their group is All 4 Him. The group ministers regularly in different churches, venues, parks, etc.

ALL 4 HIM Quartet



As you can read, many things are important in Lance's life just as they are yours. There is no doubt in his mind that many of you reading this biography information can relate. Do you know what this means? It means you are equal. Lance is a common person just as you are. He is on the same level as you are. Lance is not a self-righteous politician out for himself. He is here to serve others. He is here to lead the Caldwell County Sheriff's Office into a New Beginning. Lance wants to establish much needed moral and ethical standard at the office, create morale, and motivate by leading by example. Lance Wilson is the servant to do just that.

LANCE WILSON FOR...



Instead of scandals, we need service! Instead of misconduct, we need morals! Instead of lawsuits, we need trusted leadership! Instead of a politician looking to win the next election, we need a statesman for this generation! Lance Wilson is the leader to lead US. With that being said Lance Wilson asks for your support and your vote. It is time for a NEW BEGINNING AND IT BEGINS WITH...WE THE PEOPLE in CALDWELL COUNTY.



