



# Walk off the War

Program designed to support combat veterans



PHOTOS SPECIAL TO THE NEWS-RECORD & SENTINEL



Mars Hill VFW Post 5483 helped to host the Warrior Hike 2014. Partnering with Tom and Rebecca at Dancing Sun Cabins, members of Post 5483 welcomed the veterans on their stop along their hike of the Appalachian Trail. The nine men are part of the "Walk off the War" program. The "Walk off the War" Program is designed to support combat veterans transitioning from their military service by thru-hiking America's National Scenic Trails. Commander Chris Ledford presented the veterans with tokens of appreciation for their service to our country, Madison County Manager Allen Lamberson read the "Walk off the War" Day proclamation, members joined the hikers for a delicious meal provided by Chef Mo, and everyone enjoyed the hospitality and beautiful comfort of the Dancing Sun Cabins. The VFW would like to thank Tom and Rebecca Gahagan, Lauren Hobein, Glenda Dolbeare, Chef Mo, Penny Reid, County Manager Allen Lamberson, and everyone who helped make this a memorable and worthy event.

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**SETH BANKS**  
FOR DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**EXPERIENCED PROSECUTOR**

- Extensive experience in all aspects of prosecution, including serious assaults, first-degree murder, breaking and entering, trafficking of drugs, and crimes against children.
- Certified as a specialist in State Criminal Law by the N.C. State Bar.

**MOUNTAIN VALUES**

- Seth grew up on a farm in Yancey County, where he learned the values of hard work and integrity.
- Seth has strong Christian values and believes in treating everyone with fairness and respect.

**AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

- If elected, Seth is committed to bringing professionalism, expertise, accessibility, and efficiency to the District Attorney's office.

**Learn more at [www.BanksForDA.com](http://www.BanksForDA.com)**

**VOTE FOR SETH BANKS**  
**IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY ON MAY 6<sup>th</sup>**

**Paid for by the Banks for District Attorney Committee**

**PROUD TO BE A DEMOCRAT**

Law Enforcement should be provided without consideration of anyone's politics. In my almost 11 years as Sheriff of Madison County, the Madison County Sheriff's Department employed Democrats, Republicans and Independents. It conducted investigations and made arrests without consideration of an individual's politics, race, or who their friends were. We simply strived to protect the public and the property of citizens in Madison County.

I tried diligently to accomplish what should be the first goal of a Sheriff, that is to be a peace officer. To educate young people as to how to, and as to why, they should stay out of trouble. We counseled young folks in the hopes that we would never have to arrest them. I intervened in potentially explosive situations in the hopes that I could "defuse them before someone got hurt or had to be arrested. Arresting someone should be the last and final response of a Sheriff.

Yet, let me make one thing clear, I am a Democrat. I am proud to be a Democrat, and I am proud of what the Democratic leadership in this County has accomplished for its citizens. I am proud to be the son of James Ledford, who to my knowledge served longer than any other person as Chairman of the Madison County Board of Commissioners.

I am proud of what my Dad, and the other great Democratic Commissioners who have served this County during my life: Virginia Anderson, Ervin Adams, Emery Wallin, Bill Roberts, Bobby Capps, John Hensley, Reese Steen, Cloice Plemmons, Harold Wallin, Jerry Wallin, Sandra Tolley, Wayne Brigman, Sue Vilcinkas, Hall Moore, Debbie Ponder, Billy Roberts, Vernon Ponder, Roger Haynie and Elsberry Wyatt have accomplished.

I am proud to be a Democrat, but I am most honored and most proud of having been your Sheriff. I have been asked "why do you want to be Sheriff?" The answer is simple, I love law enforcement, I love Madison County, but **MOST IMPORTANTLY**, I, of the candidates running, can be the best Sheriff for the citizens of this County.

Thanks for the opportunity of having served you in the past, and I hope that you allow me to do so again.

Sincerely,  
C. John Ledford

Paid for by the Committee to elect John Ledford