

George C. Rader

If a person's name could indicate that they should be involved in politics, George Calvin Rader is a perfect example. As the thirteenth of sixteen children born to Caldwell County Sheriff C.M. and Alice Rader of Collettsville, North Carolina, George's mother was running out of names by the time he was born on April 14th, 1925. Thus, she decided on the first name George, after President George Washington, and the middle name Calvin, after the current President of the United States in 1925, Calvin Coolidge.

George Rader was a 1942 graduate of Collettsville High School and served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II in the Pacific Theatre. After returning home, he went to work for Blue Bell, Inc. where he met his future wife, Viven Goodnight. In 1966, George and Viven moved to Taylorsville where he served as plant manager of Blue Bell, Inc. After moving to Taylorsville, George became involved in local activities and served as President of the Taylorsville Rotary Club and President of the Alexander Central High School Band Boosters.

George became involved in politics by volunteering on Jim Broyhill's first congressional campaign in 1962. From there, George expanded his role and served as Treasurer of the Alexander County Republican Party in the mid 1970's until he was elected Alexander County Republican Party Chairman. As Chairman, George worked toward the election and re-elections of numerous Republican Candidates such as President Ronald Reagan, Senators Jesse Helms and John East, U.S. Representative Jim Broyhill, various NC House and Senate Candidates and many local Republican candidates. He was especially proud to have helped elect Republican Governors Jim Holshouser and Jim Martin and to have elected a Republican Majority in the Alexander County Commissioners in the early 1980's. George was also involved in the establishment of a permanent Alexander County Republican headquarters building.

In 1988, after stepping down as Republican Chairman, George ran for a seat on the Alexander County Commissioners where he unfortunately lost a very close race. Although George did not hold another official office in the Alexander County Republican Party after this, he remained actively involved in the party until his health declined. He passed away on August 4th, 2009.

It is with the utmost pride and honor that I place the name of George Calvin Rader for the Alexander County Republican Hall of Fame.