

# **Carson Smith NC House District 16**

Carson Smith was born in 1967 at New Hanover Hospital in Wilmington, North Carolina. He grew up and have lived in Pender County most of his life. His parents and grandparents lived in Hampstead and generations prior to them all lived in coastal North Carolina. Carson attended Topsail Schools where he played football and worked summers in the family seafood business. At that time he also began working in many different

aspects of public safety including Pender East EMS, Hampstead Volunteer Fire Department, and Scott's Hill Fire Department. While a member of the Fire Department, Carson was a part of the team who fought one of the biggest fires in state history that burned in Holly Shelter during the spring of 1986. During that experience, Carson spent most of his time at the command post working in the operations branch where resources were assigned and deployed. He also served as Chief of Pender East EMS until he relocated out of the county with the North Carolina Highway Patrol. While attending UNC-W, Carson worked as a dispatcher with the Pender County Sheriff's Office under Sheriff George Wright and Sheriff Mike Harvell. In 1987 Carson became a sworn deputy under Sheriff Harvell and completed my Basic Law Enforcement Training class at Cape Fear Community College with the highest academic average and highest firearm qualification scores. He worked in the patrol division until 1989 when he went to work as a police officer in Topsail Beach under

Chief Rickey Smith. In 1991 Carson was accepted into the North Carolina Highway Patrol and attended the 87th Basic School. He finished the six month school 3rd in academics, 2nd in firearm qualification and 1st in driving. He was assigned to Durham County and worked there until he returned home to Pender County to a job he had long wanted as Emergency Management Coordinator. Shortly after taking the job, Pender County began facing many challenges created from the unusually high hurricane activity we saw in the mid and late 90's. There were five Presidential Disaster Declarations due to hurricanes during his time as Coordinator including: Bertha '96, Fran '96, Bonnie '98, Dennis '99, and Floyd '99. In 1996 Carson won the General Edward Foster Griffin Award as the Emergency Management Coordinator of the year in North Carolina. He also worked at disaster scenes outside of Pender County including leading a North Carolina firefighter contingent in Florida during the 1998 wildfire breakout. As Sheriff Harvell approached retirement in 2002, Carson ran for Sheriff, was elected, and was sworn in on December 2, 2002 as the 19th

Sheriff of Pender County. He became active in the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association and was elected as a vice-president in 2014. In 2017 he became the first Pender County Sheriff to serve as President of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association. Carson has just finished that term and is currently the Chairman of the Executive Committee. In 2014, he was appointed, by Governor Pat McCrory, as a Trustee on the NC Local Government Employees' Retirement System Board and continue to serve in that capacity. It is with mixed emotions that Carson will retire as sheriff this December after serving sixteen years in that position and over thirty-four years in public safety, although he imagined he's got a little public service left in him.