



**Representative W. David Guice**  
North Carolina House of Representatives  
District 113



Legislative Update Two  
March 13, 2009

**Brevard, North Carolina** – Greetings from Raleigh! Things continue to be extremely hectic in the North Carolina General Assembly. Regular committee meetings have started and we continue to work each day on the budget. This week I would like to update you on several legislative issues that are currently working their way through the process that will impact District 113.

I have the distinct honor and privilege to be the primary sponsor of House Joint Resolution 383, which honors George Scofield and the House of Flags Museum located in Polk County. The House of Flags Museum opened in September of 2001 by Scofield and VFW Post 9116. It houses over 300 national, international, state, military and religious flags. This organization and its' volunteers have tirelessly worked over the last nearly 8 years to instill patriotism and sense of pride in young people throughout the area.

Representative Carolyn Justus and I are co-sponsors on two bills that impact the potential firing range at the Western North Carolina Justice Academy located in Edneyville. The first, House Bill 406, directs the North Carolina Department of Justice and the North Carolina Wildlife Commission to jointly develop a plan for the firing range. The second, House Bill 405, mandates that any type of firing range located at the Western North Carolina Justice Academy be enclosed. As a 32-year veteran of the North Carolina Department of Correction, Division of Community Corrections, I understand how important it is for law enforcement officers to have the ability to train. I am firmly committed to reaching an arrangement that works for everyone, the Edneyville community and the law enforcement community. Both have extremely important needs and both viewpoints should be respected.

On March 5, I joined with members of the North Carolina House from all across the state to co-sponsor House Bill 497 which calls for a moratorium on involuntary annexation. This legislation has been endorsed by the Joint Legislative Study Commission on Municipal Annexation. It simply states that no annexation ordinance may take effect until the people impacted by the proposed annexation have had the opportunity to vote in a fair and open election on the matter. A simple majority must approve of the annexation ordinance for it to pass. I believe that it is important to protect property rights and give people the opportunity to vote on issues that impact them on a daily basis – especially issues like annexation.

Prior to the start of this session of the North Carolina General Assembly I met with education leaders from each school system in District 113; Transylvania County, Henderson County and Polk County. At each meeting one issue that was clear to me is the need for flexibility over the creation of the annual school calendar. Several years ago the North Carolina General Assembly took this tool away from local school districts and mandated, through state law, the start and end dates for school systems. I entered House Bill 547 which will allow for local flexibility for these three school systems to create their own calendar, with a start date after the second Monday in August and the end date 42 weeks later. This is a complex issue and one that I am willing to work with educational and business leaders to resolve. We must think of our students, indeed our future, on this issue.

As always, communication is extremely important to me. I look forward to your feedback, your thoughts and opinions. My door is always open and I look forward to working with you. Only by working together can we tackle the tremendous issues facing our district and our state.

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