

Sussex teacher, a Surry High School graduate, running for 4th Congressional seat in democratic primary

By Adrienne Wallace
Editor

Voters in Surry and Sussex counties will have a chance to choose their republican candidate for the upcoming U.S. Senate race.

Four candidates are vying for the Republican nod in that race to fill the seat which will be left vacant at the end of the year since Democratic Senator Jim Webb opted not to run again.

Surry County will not hold a democratic or republican primary election for the 3rd Congressional District since Congressman Bobby Scott is running unopposed.

However, Sussex voters will have a chance to check the box for either Joe T. Elliott, Jr. or Ella P. Ward for the democratic representative in the fourth district seat currently held by Republican Randy Forbes.

Republican voters can choose between Forbes or R. M. "Bonnie" Girard.

Joseph Elliott, who calls himself an average Joe, is a 1978 Graduate of Surry County High School, Graduate of Virginia State University and teacher in Sussex County Public Schools.

"I am running because I feel that the average citizen's perspective is not represented in the Congress. Policy made from detached perspective most of the time fails to understand the impact it has on real people," Elliott explained. "I am not a politician but I am a public servant.

He is a teacher and serves as an associate minister at the Taberna-

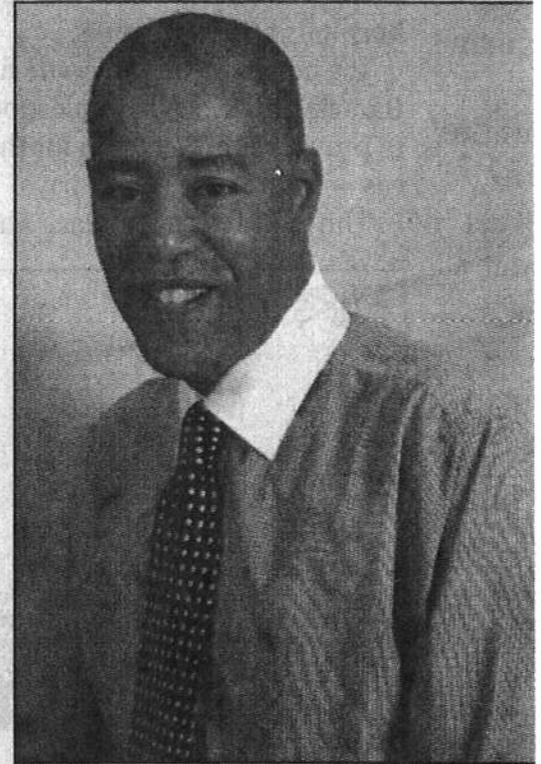
cle Baptist Church in Petersburg and worked for the Federal, State and Local government as Graphic Arts Supervisor at Fort Lee under contract, Surry and Sussex Public Schools as well as the Department of Correctional Education...Bon Air and Hanover Juvenile Correction Centers.

When asked what does he bring to the voters, Elliott responded, "A heart of service and a commitment to looking out for taxpayers. Of all the issues we face ... Energy, economy, education, employment ... I prioritize efficiency. "This will help take care of all the above as all are interrelated."

He said the nation must end the "use it or lose it policy."

"For at least the last twenty years, our government has had this fiscal budget policy in place regardless of who has been in power. At the end of each fiscal year, every agency, military and civilian, has had to USE ALL their budget or have those budgets cut the following year," Elliott explained. "This has FORCED spending even when all goals and services had been met and accomplished. IF this policy were changed...efficient management would be rewarded and tax payers' money not wasted."

"We must see past this election and think about what we really want for the future. We need vision, creativity and real concern for people," Elliott added. "I have worked with all kinds of people



Joe T. Elliott, Jr.



Ella P. Ward

Continued on page 8

Sussex Surry Dispatch 6-6-12 Front

Primary

Continued from Page 1

in my career and have learned that most of us want the same thing ... A fair chance."

He faces opposition with Ella P. Ward running on the democrat ticket.

Ward was first elected to Chesapeake City Council in May 2006, and she was re-elected for a second 4-year term on May 4, 2010. She was elected to the Chesapeake School Board in 2000 and re-elected to a second 4-year term in 2004. Dr. Ward was appointed to a 4-year term on the Virginia Board of Education by Gov. Mark Warner in January 2003 and re-appointed to another 4-year term by Governor Tim Kaine in January 2007. She was first elected as Vice-president of the Virginia Board of Education on February 15, 2006 and was re-elected to that position for four consecutive terms.

"I have decided to run for U. S. Congress in the 4th District in 2012 because we need changes in Washington in order to help bring jobs, educational reform, and clean energy to our economy," she said. "I want to work in Congress to bring jobs back to America by investing in infrastructure, to enhance our educational system and training programs, to protect Social Security and Medicare, and to bring our troops home from Afghanistan. I want to help stop the gridlock in Congress which continues to protect the "super rich" while allowing the middle class to sink into poverty."

She said much has accomplished in the city of Chesapeake during her six years on the School Board and six years on Council.

"During my tenure on Chesapeake City Council, we reduced the Real Estate tax rates from \$1.21 to \$1.04 per \$100 of assessed value; decreased the tax burden on Seniors; supported our school system with more \$400 million annually; opened new fire stations, recreation centers, and public safety buildings; upgraded and expanded libraries," ward explained noting that the city has cut spending.

Forbes served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1989 to 1997 and the Virginia State Senate from 1997 to 2001. Forbes was first elected to the House in 2001 to fill a vacancy caused by the death of ten-term Democratic Congressman Norman Sisisky

He said Honesty, Commitment, and Hard-work are the principles that he grew up with and sets him apart today.

Forbes has pushed for 11,000 new jobs in the Fort Lee area, championed the modeling and simulation industry that has brought high-paying jobs to Hampton

cused on solutions-based leadership to tackle some our nation's biggest issues like government spending energy challenges, the economy, tax reform, transportation and immigration.