



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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NATURALIZATION CEREMONY TO ATTRACT 80 NEW CITIZENS

SOUTHPORT, N.C. - The North Carolina 4th of July Festival will conduct its 23rd annual Naturalization Ceremony on July 3rd on the Ft. Johnston Garrison House Lawn beginning at 4:00 p.m. This annual feature of the Festival will be preceded by a band concert with music from the Brunswick Big Band starting at 3 p.m. The keynote speaker for this event will be Frank Williams, Brunswick County Commissioner for District 5.

The Naturalization Ceremony is sponsored by Novant Health Brunswick Medical Center, Downtown Southport, Inc., and Wilmington Big Talker FM.

The ceremony is a significant part of the NC 4th of July Festival held annually in Southport, N.C. It is anticipated that 80 new citizens from 35 countries will be administered the oath of citizenship by Honorable Robert T. Jones, Jr., United States Magistrate Judge for the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Frank Williams is a small business owner and Brunswick County native who was elected Brunswick County Commissioner for District 5 on November 6, 2012 in his first run for public office. He was elected to a second term on November 8, 2016 and was elected Chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners on December 5, 2016. He also currently serves as 2nd Vice President of the N.C. Association of County Commissioners. Professionally, Frank is president of Pioneer Strategies, a public relations and strategic communication agency he founded in August 2001. He graduated from North Brunswick High School in 1988 and earned his undergraduate degree from N.C. State University in 1993. Frank lives in Leland with his wife, Lori. He is an avid sports fan and enjoys fishing, reading, movies and relaxing on the beach. Frank and Lori attend Northside Baptist Church.

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For over 200 years the city of Southport, N.C. has celebrated the nation's independence. Annually more than 50,000 people visit during the festival. With events ranging from arts & crafts in the park, vendor booths, street dances, gallery walks and of course a parade, the area is known as the official celebration location for the state of North Carolina. For more details regarding the festival visit the Southport-Oak Island Area Chamber of Commerce's website www.southport-oakisland.com or official July 4th's website at www.nc4thofjuly.com.