

April 1, 2019

Dear Republican Teammate:

1 Peter 3:15 is one of my favorite Bible verses. It is about hope and its true source. Look at this verse because it is a large part of the context of my letter and the reason, I am hopeful for the future of our party.

Being your NCGOP Chairman has been a great and cherished honor in my political life. We have shared many laughs, shed a few tears and won a lot of races. In North Carolina more people are working, they are paying less in taxes, the unborn are being protected and parents have far more school choice for their kids. This is the reason for our journey together, to deliver better public policy outcomes for our citizens. To achieve this, we had to elect the right people. More times than not, we did.

At your encouragement, I planned to offer my service as Chairman one last time, so the NCGOP could have steady, reliable leadership going into the critical 2020 election.

Unfortunately, complications from my recent hip replacement surgery have limited my mobility and capability to do the job like I want to do it and like it needs to be done. Just within the last two weeks, I had another fall and a significant setback. With your prayers, I will make a full recovery. Recently my wife Barbara, my doctor, and my physical therapist have implored me to concentrate fully on my recovery and the healing process. Reluctantly, I agree. This hinders my ability to run for re-election. I need to concentrate on my recovery, leading the party towards success at the State Convention, and making sure we are in the strongest possible position to assure the desired wins in 2019 and especially 2020.

Having said that, I want to do all that I can to help the process of electing a new Chair and Vice Chair who will lead our party to continued success and electoral victories. Our delegates will decide who will be the next chair. That's the way it works and should work.

It is their decision and theirs alone.

There are 68 days until the election at State Convention. People are running and others have stated their intention or interest in running. After many years of experience, I have a pretty good idea of what it takes to be a successful Chair.

Commitment to being a servant leader who believes in intensive listening, transparency, and hearing all sides is the primary requirement.

As the process unfolds, I will do my utmost to appropriately share my thoughts, ideas, and experiences with you. Being Chairman is a tough but rewarding job. I could not be Chair forever, nor would I want to. Circumstances beyond my control have sped up the process and now we must do all we can to ensure a smooth orderly transition and future success.

I will have opinions as the process unfolds and will do all that I can to appropriately share those thoughts.

Jack Hunt, former longtime Democrat Rules Chairman in the General Assembly, said on the floor one day, "I love all Republicans, but I love some more than others". His words accurately outline my thoughts and opinions as these races unfold. We all should and can be good Republicans. It is so

critically important that we do that and honorably support the persons whom we believe will do the best job. I am confident that you will do that and so will I.

In closing, I served a decade in Congress, two terms in the General Assembly, was the first Republican State House Majority Whip in history, was Republican nominee for Governor, am Chair of Chairs for the RNC, and even served in local government as a Democrat some 50 years ago (I have repented). None of this service would have been possible without the support of you and countless others. Serving you as the Party Chair for some six-plus years was one of, if not my favorite job. I have said many times, serving as your Chairman is my way of thanking you for electing me to all these offices.

I am eternally grateful that you have allowed me to serve and thank you from the bottom of my heart. All my best and most sincere wishes for a successful future and I look forward to seeing you in Concord in June.

Chairman Robin Hayes

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