

Comments by  
**Chairman Warren Judge**  
Dare County Board of Commissioners  
Meeting July 20, 2009  
Manteo, NC

Today is an important day in American History.

**"One small step for a man and one giant leap for mankind",**

Forty years ago today, I along with millions of Americans, was glued to a television set not only waiting for the picture of Neil Armstrong stepping on to the moon, but wondering what he was going to say.

How proud I was that day to be an American. So proud of my Country that we responded to President Kennedy's speech on May 21, 1961, in which he said:

**"This nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth."**

I have not been very proud of my Government lately. This past week in Raleigh the insurance industry, employing hired guns, was able to achieve a victory in the House with the passage of H.B. 1305.

These hired guns using incorrect information, misleading information, and scare tactics have been able to convince the needed majority of legislators that the coastal counties are not paying their fair share for insurance. These hired guns have convinced elected leaders, newspaper editors and activists that the coastal counties will break the bank if there is a hurricane.

Listen to their doomsday scenario. A hurricane landfalls at Wilmington, travels the entire length of the North Carolina coast, exiting back to the Atlantic Ocean over Virginia Beach and causing 100 billion dollars in damage and bankrupting the Beach Plan, and then the rest of the State of North Carolina will have to pay for those of us who live in the coastal counties.

I have one word for that folks – Bull. What they do not tell you is that 70% of all hurricane damage in this State has occurred in the 82 non-coastal counties. They do not talk about Hugo, Dennis, Floyd and Fran; they do not talk about the 100's of millions of dollars of damage to Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, Raleigh, Wake County, Greenville, Pitt County, Rocky Mount and so on.

I want to thank Tim Spear and Marc Basnight for their efforts and leadership to try to beat back this discrimination against the coastal counties, a part of North Carolina and a part of America.

I want to thank Bobby Outten for his efforts all this past spring and winter in carrying the message up and down the coast of North Carolina.

I want to thank Willo Kelly. She has been diligent on our behalf in Raleigh and criss-crossing eastern North Carolina to rally the troops to try to get legislation that was fair to all North Carolinians.

Closer to home, last week an official with the National Park Service told inquiring people the reason a pedestrian path only to Cape Point was open was because the chicks that were flying, "Looked weak."

Now, neither I, nor this Board of Commissioners opposes pedestrian only accesses or areas. During the negotiations in the rulemaking meetings, Dare County put forth a plan, and let me tell you, we're the only ones that put forth a plan, that addressed in a very good way, pedestrian only access.

The very scientists supplied by the environmental special interests groups and the Department of Interior testified at our meetings told us, time and time again, that pedestrians are more of a danger and distraction to the birds than vehicles.

The consent decree has broken our backs. Special interest groups are running the Cape Hatteras National Seashore and Recreational area.

Listen to the reason "Look weak." These words are not in the Consent Decree. In the very few conversations that the Department of Interior, the U.S. Attorney and the special interest groups even allowed Bobby Outten representing Dare County to participate in, I never heard the words, "If the chicks looked weak." They either fledged or they didn't fledge.

It is obvious that the Department of Interior is discriminating against many Americans. Think for a minute, you all reflect and think for a minute how the Department of Interior developed this park.

Look at the accesses. Are they built with stairs and steps over the dunes, with parking lots, and rest room facilities? No, the accesses are built as ramps to drive over, so that you have drive to the beach to access the beach.

The Department of Interior is discriminating against anyone who is not physically capable of hiking into the beach area. They are discriminating against moms. Moms with young children who must carry the children, and all the paraphernalia that goes with a family outing to the beach. They are discriminating against Americans with disabilities. How will these people access the beach?

Picture for the moment, 40 years later, if Neal Armstrong wanted to go to Cape Point today, but was not able to walk the distance. What do you think his words might be, I'll tell you what they'd be:

**"I have been to the moon, I have walked on the Moon, I have served my Country but I can't go to the beach at Cape Point"**

We are going to continue all our efforts. We will be working with our Congressmen and Senators.

Gary, as Allen and Jack talked, is working hard every day on the Preserve Beach Access Campaign. And, might I tell you, look at the times he sends some of those emails in the middle of the night.

We give thanks. We want to thank the Dare County Tourism Board for their support. And Mike and Allen, we'll probably need more help from them in the coming months.

We want to thank CHAPA and Rob Alderman who will be hosting a rally on September 6<sup>th</sup> in Buxton to raise awareness and funds. Please mark this date on your calendars and please try to attend.

And with you alls permission, on behalf of the Dare County Board of Commissioners, we'll invite the North

Carolina delegation, the Governor, Senator Basnight, Representative Spear and other north Carolina dignitaries to attend that celebration.

And finally, thank you to all the hundreds and thousands of residents and visitors who are giving us their support with words and ideas. You all will be the ones that make a difference.

And finally, we need to find that special someone who will take the American flag walk out onto our beach and take

**“One small step for a man and one giant leap for mankind”,**

Thank you all,