

# PRESS RELEASE

## Franklin County Commissioner Awarded Order of the Long Leaf Pine *Commissioner Robert Lee Swanson to be honored February 6, 2012*

**Franklin County, January 13, 2012:** Franklin County Commissioner Robert Lee Swanson will receive the highest honor the North Carolina Governor can bestow on a citizen: The Order of the Long Leaf Pine on February 6, 2012. The award will be presented by Senator Doug Berger.

The Order of the Long Leaf Pine is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the State, contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and many years of service to their organizations, are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award.

Commissioner Swanson is being recognized for his more than 30 years of service to Franklin County, as a member of the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. During his time on the Board, he has served as Chairman eight (8) terms and also served on the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Board of Directors.

Commissioner Swanson has been on numerous boards and committees, including the Social Services Board, Board of Health, Regional Mental Health, Library Board, Aging Advisory Board, Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce Board, Franklin County Airport Commission and Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunities Board.

Extremely supportive of local businesses and industry, Commissioner Swanson participated in the development of the Triangle North Franklin Business Park and the Triangle North Executive Airport.

As a long-time advocate for Education, Parks and Recreation, Senior Citizens, the advancement of child welfare and public health initiatives, many important County initiatives have been accomplished during his years of service. His commitment to provide major funding for expanding school construction has led to the building of six (6) elementary schools, three (3) middle schools, one (1) high school, the Franklin County Campus of Vance-Granville Community College and an Early College High School facility.

Above and beyond his avid support of local fire and rescue, EMS and the Sheriff's Department, as a Commissioner, Mr. Swanson is widely recognized for his long-standing generosity and support for local fundraising efforts of many community causes throughout the County, especially those related to fire, rescue and recreation. He is also one of the founding members of the Grace Baptist Church in Louisburg and remains an active member of the church family.

Upon receiving the Order of the Long Leaf Pine certificate, Commissioner Swanson will join a list of distinguished recipients that include the Reverend Billy Graham, Maya Angelou, Woody Durham and Michael Jordan.

For additional information, please contact Kristen G. King, Clerk to the Board, at (919) 496-5994.

*Franklin County Government is committed to effective and innovative public services for all Franklin County citizens and businesses.*