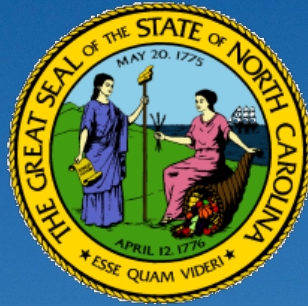


# NC House Select Committee on Disaster Relief





## **Chairman**

Rep. John Bell

## **Vice Chairman**

Rep. Brenden Jones

## **Members**

Rep. Boswell, Rep. Dixon, Rep. Faircloth, Rep. C. Graham, Rep. McElraft, Rep. McGrady, Rep. Pierce, Rep. White, Rep. Willingham



**Hurricane Matthew hit North Carolina  
on October 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.**

**FAMILIES** have been **FORCED**  
out of their homes for:



**1.5 YEARS**

**18 MONTHS**

**81 WEEKS**

**568 DAYS**

**568 DAYS**



**568**

**DAYS**

# Overstreet Family



To Whom It May Concern,

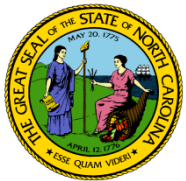
**As I type this eighteen months following the devastation of Hurricane Matthew my heart still breaks.** Not only am I heartbroken because of the turmoil that my family endured during that time but because of so many unanswered questions as far as assistance. Our situation is very complex and different from your average family hence the reason we received no assistance from FEMA, SBA, etc. I will be more than happy to elaborate at a further time if need be on our situation.

**October of 2016 was absolutely the most devastating time of our lives.** Upon seeing our neighbors packing up their belongings into U hauls our concern and worry grew rapidly. Our home was also flooded in 1999, however, we were not residing here at that time. Obviously, we really did not know the magnitude of devastation that was about to occur. We decided to call Emergency Management in Snow Hill to only be told: "Watch the creek," not only was that extremely unprofessional but it also reassured my family that it was time to go. When we left our home that way we would not return until two days later by boat to access our damage. We continued to stay in a hotel in Wilson for three nights until a friend from Wilson offered for our family to come stay with him. We did that until the schools were able to reopen. At that time we had a junior and Senior at GCHS and one in college. This phase of our journey proved to be one of my worst as a mother. I say this because our children would now be separated from us to reside with friends indefinitely. Fortunately, we had a friend offer a camper for us to pull on our property .It just was not suitable for a family of five. After many months of demolition, repairs and rebuilding, we were able to return to our home January 3rd, 2017 (just shy of Christmas) where our family was reunited.

At this point, this many months later we are now at the point of aggravation. As I stated earlier we did not receive any assistance and are now stuck with the burden of out of pocket expenses that we incurred as a result of Hurricane Matthew. The most unfortunate thing about being flooded is that we carried flood insurance on the home since the date of purchase until we received notification that we were no longer were in a flood zone. This information was provided by FEMA.

As previously stated many of my questions and concerns remain unanswered even a year and a half later. We are seeking reimbursement for the unexpected costs Matthew has left upon us and know that we deserve information and answers in a more timely manner than provided thus far.

Sincerely,  
Overstreet Family







## Editorial: In N.C., little action on flood recovery

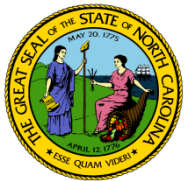
By The Virginian-Pilot Editorial Board  
Apr 23, 2018

### Key Takeaway:

*“Having your life turned upside down, your home or business devastated, by a hurricane is bad enough. Having the government officials who are supposed to help you make things worse by bungling and delaying recovery efforts is worse.*

*It doesn't help that North Carolina's leaders don't seem to think they owe the hurricane victims and the rest of the state's residents any explanation. WBTV, the Charlotte station, reported that both the office of Gov. Roy Cooper and the state's Office of Emergency Management **declined interviews and dodged questions about the delay in using the federal money.***

*Cooper should do better. The public has a right to expect him and his administration to be accountable, and he should, at the very least, explain the problem and how he intends to get things moving. In the absence of any other explanation, the inaction so far suggests a lack of competence.”*





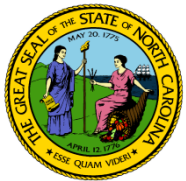
**Brent L. Collins**  
**Fire Captain / EMT**  
***Seymour Johnson Air Force Base***  
***Fire Emergency Services***

Rep. John Bell,

I will make this as brief as possible:

As you know our home and farm flooded due to the excessive rains we encountered during Hurricane Matthew. Unfortunately we lost everything we owned. As bad as the floods were, it dulled in comparison to the issues we faced and continue to face during the aftermath. Days after the flood we were told by FEMA representatives to make sure that we enrolled ourselves into the FEMA assistance program. During this enrollment phase we were told by FEMA employees that we had two options and that we needed to choose either the FEMA buyout or the FEMA elevation plan, which would enable us to raise our home. After much discussion, my wife and I decided that we would take the elevation option, agreeing that it would enable us to return to our beloved farm and keep our home and children protected from any further flooding.

The months passed as we waited patiently to hear the outcome from FEMA. We met with city planners and they encouraged us to go ahead with our rebuild, stating that they were “confident” that the elevation money would soon be made available. We were well into our rebuild when we learned that no elevation monies would be offered. Now, we are in our newly renovated home waiting for the next flood. Determining that it would be in our best interest, we have even decided to purchase as little furniture as possible so that we would not lose as much as last time. With mattresses on the floor, clothes folded but with no dressers we anxiously await the next flood. Each time we receive a downpour or days of hard rain, my wife and I both feel a little on edge.



As responsible adults and parents we would not have rebuilt our home if elevating was not an option. Employed as a firefighter working on Seymour Johnson AFB and volunteering as a firefighter and non-paid clergy in the community, we are a single income family and we do not have the resources to elevate the home ourselves. In the past, funds were made available for indigent families in the area and rightfully so but we never met the criteria for those resources. We, along with our neighbors, many of whom are still awaiting the same assistance, are struggling day by day to figure out what should be done. It grieves us to know that federal funds have been allocated but not dispersed. I love my home, I love my small community of Grantham but I would not have returned or rebuilt if I knew that it could all happen again. Who would?

FEMA gave us two options, we picked one and never heard more about it. We feel as if we have been pushed aside and forgotten, not only by our Nation but now by our State as well. As a taxpaying veteran and a volunteering member of our community, I wonder what else must I do to help my family, to rest easy at night knowing that we are safe, high and dry. Many of us lost a great deal in the flood, family photos, heirlooms, pets, vehicles, personal belongings and now a trust in our State and in our Nation.

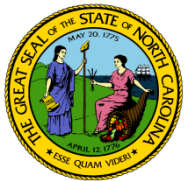
Make this right!

**Brent L. Collins**

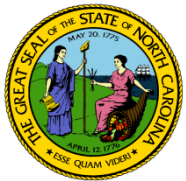
Fire Captain / EMT

***Seymour Johnson Air Force Base***

***Fire Emergency Services***





















THIS BUILDING IS  
**CONDEMNED**  
FRAGILE - DO NOT ENTER THE  
BUILDING INSIDE  
BUILDING INSPECTOR









Call  
Orlando  
Kestrey  
407-6300







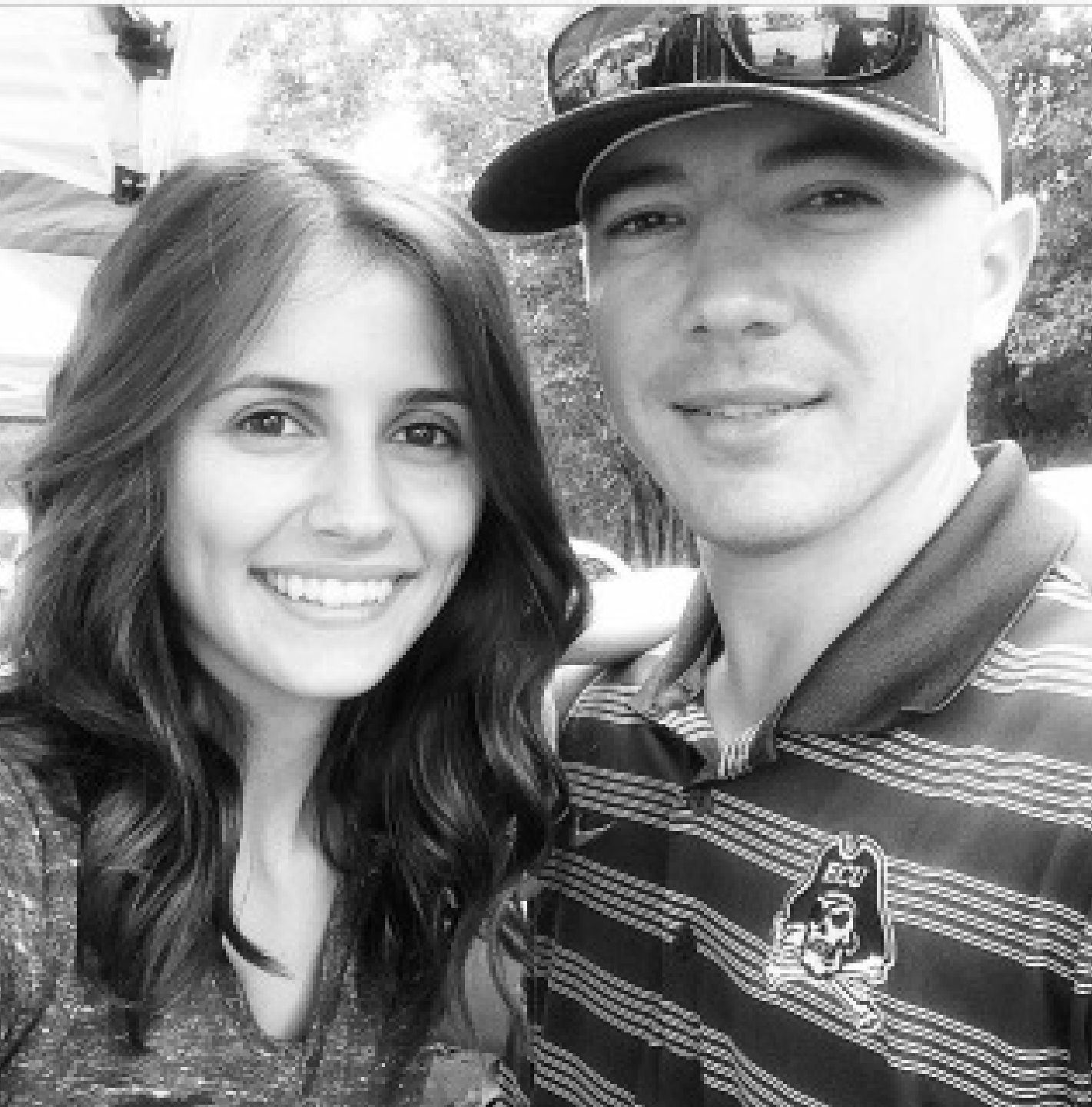












Tyler and  
Gabriella  
Ham





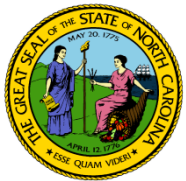




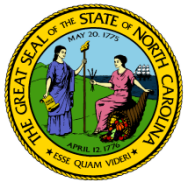
90YS SPECIAL REPORT

## AFTER MATTHEW: STILL WAITING FOR HELP

**This is Ms. Becerril-White lives with her elderly mother. Due to flooding and damage to their home, the roof was destroyed, the ceiling is caving in, and they haven't been able to run air conditioning or heat since October 2016 due to mold. "Whenever it gets cold, there's actually ice on the windows."**







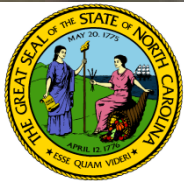




90YS SPECIAL REPORT

facebook  
WNCT9

**AFTER MATTHEW: STILL WAITING FOR HELP**





**This is Joseph Noble. He has been a NC school teacher for 22 years. He and his wife were forced to live in their car for a few days with their 5, 7 and 9 year old children.**





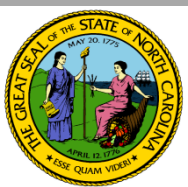
# The Noble Family

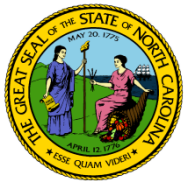




**Officials stated over 50% of our home was damaged.**













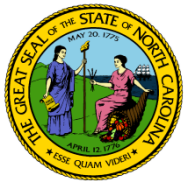
**“Trenton's reaction to mold in home when we were kicked out of hotel housing by FEMA without a place to stay. 3 rounds of antibiotics to clear it up.” How would you feel, as a parent, if this is what you could provide for your child?**

**- Joseph Noble**





# The Hinson Family







**“Our hearts were crushed  
seeing our home  
demolished.”**







This is a  
**FEMA**  
trailer.



**1.5 YEARS**

**18 MONTHS**

**81 WEEKS**



**568**

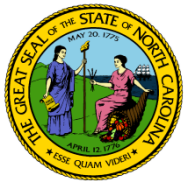
**DAYS**

568 Days,



and counting...

- Do not blame a process.
- **This is a lack of a sense of URGENCY.**
- **If we passed a State Law requiring everyone who works on funding to be removed from their homes and forced to live in hotels and FEMA trailers until the last NC Citizen was back in their home, do you think this would have taken over 568 days?**



**North Carolinians  
deserve results.**



**NOT EXCUSES!**