

Memorial Service Monday for Judge McLean

Written by Steve Frank
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A memorial service for Chief District Court Judge Mitchell "Mitch" McLean of Wilkesboro and the 23rd Judicial District will be held tomorrow afternoon at 4 at the John A. Walker Center on the campus of Wilkes Community College. McLean died Wednesday while trying to save a woman being pulled under the waves at Sunset Beach. Both died on a day or three deaths in Brunswick County in the strong rip currents. McLean and Anne Galway, of Waxhaw, who he was trying to save, were rushed to Brunswick Novant Medical Center in Bolivia. McLean was pronounced there and Mrs. Galway died from cardiac arrest after she was flown from Brunswick to New Hanover Regional Medical Center in Wilmington.

McLean was chief district court judge for the 23rd Judicial District, which includes Ashe, Alleghany, Wilkes and Yadkin counties. Under state statutes, the governor will appoint someone to fill the unexpired, choosing from three nominees submitted by the district bar for the judicial district. Nominees must be residents of the judicial district with the vacancy and be authorized to practice law there. Then, the chief justice of the N.C. Supreme Court designates chief district court judge. Miller Funeral Home of North Wilkesboro says that the family will receive friends at Oakwoods Country Club after tomorrow's memorial service. McLean is survived by his wife, Beth McLean, their sons, Jackson McLean and Patrick Fincannon McLean; and his mother, Pauline McLean of Wilkesboro.