



**Judge/Executive:**

David K. West

**Magistrates:**

**District 1**

Justin Ray

**District 2**

Tim Vaughan

**District 3**

Terry Meckstroth

**District 4**

April Rose Prather

**District 5**

Paul Floyd

**District 6**

Gary Morgan



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**Fall/Winter Issue 2017**

# Jessamine Matters



**"A fair, caring, and helping person, and a person with a great deal of common sense that he applied to his work for the people of Jessamine County." Burch Hager, the Jessamine County magistrate who passed away in March, was all of the above—and much more, according to Judge/Executive David West, and many others who knew him well.**

Debbie Hager, his wife of 41 years, said: "Burch really liked helping people. If anyone called, he tried to help them, even if it was just to find an answer to a question they had. At the same time, he made sure that he didn't promise anything that he couldn't deliver." That dedication was applied even to his attendance at Fiscal Court meetings: "He always said that the people of Jessamine County were counting on him, and he couldn't let them down. He was the type of person who always gave 100 percent—no matter what," his wife added.

"Burch also loved his work as a magistrate, and he especially loved serving on the Nicholasville/Jessamine County Parks & Recreation Board," Hager said. "He loved sports, and he loved children, and Parks & Rec involved both."

Although he cared deeply about his neighbors in Jessamine County's

District 5, Magistrate Hager's concerns didn't run along county lines—or even party lines, Judge West said. "Members of Fiscal Court are forced to run on party lines, but Burch always said that once the elections were over, we forgot about all of that—and all went to work for the same cause," West said. "Magistrate Hager was also known as a strong advocate for Fiscal Court employees: he wanted to make sure employees were treated fairly in all cases," he said.

"Burch was a friend of mine inside and outside of Fiscal Court, and he will be sorely missed," West said. "As a member of a large family that has been here for generations, Burch brought to court a unique perspective and knowledge of the area's history—especially in his district. And as a coon hunter, he had followed the trails and tracks of farms in that area. He not only knew the history of the land and of the people—he knew and cared about their needs."

"After Burch's passing, we followed procedures and notified Governor Matt Bevin, who received applications and then appointed Paul Floyd, also a lifetime resident of the County, to fill Burch's spot as magistrate of Jessamine County's fifth district," West said.

In order to commemorate Hager's service on the Jessamine County Fiscal Court, Judge West and the other members of the court agreed to "retire" the motion to adjourn—so the last announcement of a motion to adjourn court procedures would have been made by Magistrate Hager. "I'm glad we were able to honor Burch in this way," Judge West said.

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Contact Mollie McClure at [mclure.rhc@gmail.com](mailto:mclure.rhc@gmail.com) or visit [RedHatCreativeServices.com](http://RedHatCreativeServices.com)