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Matt Brooks seeks Levy County Commission District 5 seat

'Legacy for Levy' campaign starts

By Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 11, 2016 @ 9:27 p.m.

WILLISTON – Matt Brooks, 37, announced his candidacy for the Levy County Commission District 5 seat on Monday (Jan. 11).



The other Republican, so far, who is currently seeking the seat is incumbent Danny Stevens.

Matt Brooks becomes the second candidate so far who has announced an intention to be elected to the District 5 seat of the Levy County Board of County Commissioners.

As he announced his candidacy, Brooks mentioned that he is naming this campaign “Legacy for Levy.”

During an interview Monday morning, he shared why that theme fits. Brooks said that “perhaps the apple does not fall far from the tree.” He shared a pamphlet that his father, the late Burke E. Brooks created when he ran for

Levy County Commission District 3 on Sept. 4, 1984.

Like his father, Matt Brooks is a United States Army veteran. The younger Brooks served overseas in Hungary in 1997 as part of his tour of duty.

Matt Brooks, like his father, is a small business owner. The younger Brooks is partners with Patrick Williams in the business named B4 Signs and Advertising. Williams said he is willing to help his business partner in every way.

Beyond being a veteran and a business owner, Brooks is a graduate of the University of North Florida, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Relations.

Brooks, who is currently a member of the Williston City Council, said he must resign from that duty by June so that he can run for County Commission.

As for being able to work at his business as well as serve the people as a Levy County commissioner, Brooks said he is currently serving the people of Williston as a City Council member and he is ready to accept the responsibilities of being a county commissioner.

Brooks noted that he plans to engage in the continuing education elements required to become a certified county commissioner. His other intentions are to remain in communication with his constituents, and with the members of the State Legislature.

Brooks intends to have a good working relationship with every municipality in the county, because as he says, “Local government is where the rubber meets the road.”

The young man said he has a driving desire to engage citizens and listen to them, and to take action.

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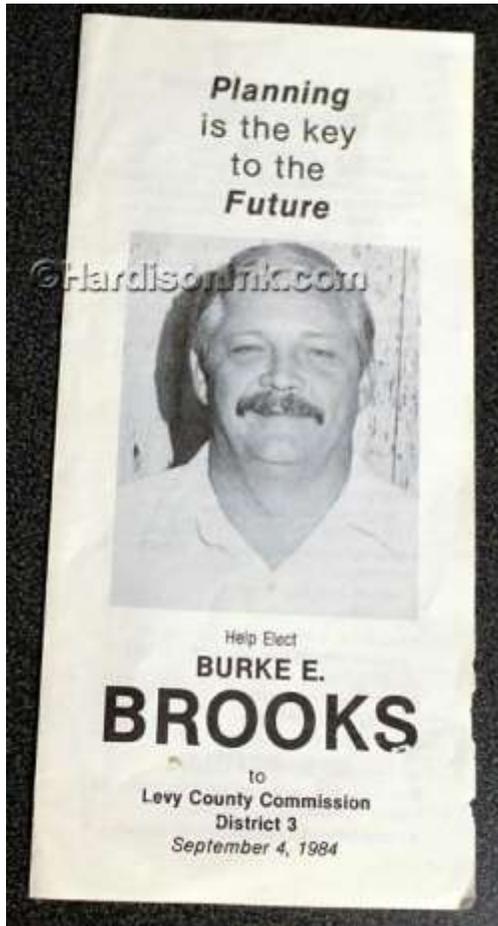
"I'm not simply running to be a Levy County Commissioner," Brooks said in a prepared release. "I'm running to work for you, as your Levy County commissioner. I want to do my part to ensure our children, our grandchildren, and their children have the opportunity to live, work and enjoy this great place we call Levy County."

He explained the theme of his campaign even more.

"Legacy for Levy' means we are thinking about the past and present but also planning for our future," he said. "Everyone who came before us paved the way and we must not rest or become complacent on their successes. My military and business background have prepared me to always include planning, proper execution and evaluation in my strategy for success. District 5 needs a commissioner with experiences and skills not just to react, but to be proactive and open-minded to the ever-changing needs of our citizens."

During his interview Monday morning, Brooks said he wants other members of his generation to become involved in their communities.

The front cover a pamphlet used by the late Burke E. Brooks shows that he ran for Levy County Commission, just as his son Matt Brooks is now announcing his intention to seek election. Actual qualifying to run is in June.



"We can't just ride on the coattails of our elders," he said. "We have to step up to the plate."

The candidate said he sees the influence of his parents on him.

"My father (Burke) and my mom (Jettie) instilled the passion for service to the community in me," he said.

He noted other aspects in his prepared release "As your commissioner," Brooks wrote, "here are the things I believe we need:

"1. We need a commissioner that puts public safety first and champions providing the necessary services at the current budget levels without

creating more of a burden on taxpayers.

"2. We need a clear, businesslike approach to government NOW.

"3. We need a commissioner that takes the time and gives the energy to focus on future planning and attracting industry to create jobs close to home.

"4. We need to provide a business friendly atmosphere that encourages growth and development of our existing businesses.

"I am asking for your vote to work together as a community so we can create the best possible LEGACY FOR LEVY."