

## **Press Release:**

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We are deeply saddened by the loss of Mayor Bubba Copeland, who has been a pillar of the community for years in various roles. We ask a lot out of our public officials and elected leaders, and often, they fall short as they are, like all of us, human beings. However, Mayor Copeland was the backbone of Smiths Station. His heart for service shined through in all he did. This was exemplified during the dual crises of the COVID-19 pandemic and the deadly 2019 tornado when he provided countless people with hope and support.

Additionally, we condemn, in the strongest terms, the use of discriminatory and hateful rhetoric to target the personal lives of individuals- be they public or private citizens. The practice of demonizing each because of personal life choices must end because it has very real and life-altering consequences. This is especially true in our community, as we have seen an alarming rise in suicides. We must endeavor to, in all things, be decent human beings who treat one another with dignity and respect regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or gender identity. We, as Democrats, will continue to fight for a world in which everyone feels comfortable living their authentic selves.

Mayor Bubba Copeland, above everything else, was a decent human being. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family.

Jamie Lowe,

Chair

Lee County Democratic Party

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