

CADA family mourns loss of board member

Mr. Marcelle O. Smtih, 43, passed away on Sunday, August 15, 2021. Marcelle was a long-time member of the Board of Directors of Choanoke Area Development Association of N.C. (CADA). He was also a Halifax County Commissioner, representing District 2.

He was employed as a juvenile court counselor and recently promoted to train others in that service. He was also co-owner of New Beginnings Funeral Service, Inc. in Scotland Neck, N.C., and dedicated his life to helping others.

At 43, Marcelle, was the youngest commissioner on the board of commissioners, and possibly the youngest to have served in Halifax County, said board Chairman Vernon Bryant. His term was set to expire in 2024.

He was an active member and chief of the Tillery Volunteer Fire Department, and chair of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Board, a Trustee at Mary's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc. and the Cardinal Innovations Board of Directors. Mr. Smith was previously employed with the Halifax County School System as a teacher and attendance counselor. From 2005 to 2005, he served on the Scotland Neck Town Council.

In 2017, Marcelle was inducted into the North Carolina Community Action Association's (NCCAA) Hall of Fame as an exemplary change champion who embodies the spirit of community action. NCCAA's Hall of Fame recognizes individuals whose leadership, dedication and exceptional contributions have made North Carolina a better place to live work and play.

A native of Scotland Neck, he graduated from Southeast Halifax High School. He earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Fayetteville State University, and a master's degree in criminal justice from Nova Southeastern University.

A visitation was held on Friday, August 20 at Mary's Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Scotland Neck, N.C., followed by a funeral service on Saturday, August 21 at The Centre at Halifax Community College in Weldon, N.C.