



**Camden County Sheriff's Office  
Sheriff Perry, 2013-2014, President of  
NC Sheriff Association**

**NEWS RELEASE**

CAMDEN — Camden County's top lawman said when he joined the Sheriff's Department in 1986 — back when the department had one patrol car — he had no idea he would someday lead the N.C. Sheriffs' Association. The time came Tuesday evening, when Sheriff Tony Perry stepped up from president-elect to president at the association's summer conference at Sunset Beach in Brunswick County. Perry is succeeding Chatham County Sheriff Richard Webster as head of the association, which is based in Raleigh and works to strengthen the services provided by North Carolina's 100 sheriffs.

The Sheriffs' Association president serves for one year. Perry, in phone interview earlier in the day, said that, to his knowledge, he is the first Camden sheriff to serve as the association's president. He was quick to credit the association with providing him with much training in more than 11 years of wearing the Camden sheriff's star. "It's just all about professionalism and being a better sheriff," he said. Perry described his serving in the Sheriffs' Association as like going to church, in which a churchgoer begins to have a good feeling after meeting many fellow members and also begins to learn much. "And you just want to be able to give back," he said. "And this is what I want to do, is give back — to the sheriffs and the citizens of this state — what's been given to me. And I want to be able to provide my time and my knowledge." Perry, in addition to having held association first- and second-vice president positions, has served the association as chaplain and as sergeant-at-arms. He said that the association works on much in Raleigh, but he particularly emphasized that the association wants a ban on Internet-based sweepstakes in North Carolina.

The question of the legality of the issue is pending in the state Supreme Court. He said the association believes sweepstakes is gambling and, in the midst of the weak national economy, views the so-called Internet cafés as places taking advantage of people on fixed incomes. And then, he said, he and his fellow sheriffs end up having to serve patrons with

papers for failing to pay their bills. Perry, 49, joined the Camden Sheriff's Department as the county's only full-time deputy and eventually was promoted to chief deputy. Later, he worked for a time as a permit officer at the Camden Planning Department. Perry was first elected sheriff in November 2002. The County Commission had appointed him in March 2001 to replace the retiring longtime sheriff, Joe Jones. And Perry on Tuesday made clear his being Sheriffs' Association president is not going to take away from his duties in Camden. "Everything is going to stay the same, pretty much," he said. "I'm still going to be right there."

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