

Councilmember Tom Moncure is a Virginian first and always.

Town of Colonial Beach Councilmember Tom Moncure spent his youth traveling up and down Virginia's Route 3. Born in Fredericksburg, Tom's maternal family hails from the Great Valley, while his father's relatives originate in the Northern Neck.

When asked why he decided to run for Town Council, Councilmember Moncure modestly replies that he has "some experience in state and local government." Largely raised on the rivah, Mr. Moncure's entire career--and, in fact, his life--has been dedicated to serving Virginia. His service to the Commonwealth includes:

- Elected member of the House of Delegates for the General Assembly of Virginia, where he served on the Courts of Justice Committee and the Committee on the Chesapeake and its Tributaries;
- George Mason University Counsel and Senior Assistant Attorney General;
- Bar Appointments including Supreme Court of Virginia, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, U.S. District for the Eastern District of Virginia, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, U.S. Supreme Court. Associate Member, Virginia State Bar;
- Senior Counsel to two Attorneys General;
- Member of the Virginia Code Commission, Medical Malpractice Review Panels, and Alternative Dispute Resolution Advisory Council for the Executive Secretary of the Supreme Court of Virginia;
- Liaison to the Senate of Virginia and local government officials and constitutional officers;
- Attorney General's Representative to the General Assembly of Virginia, Virginia Military Advisory Council and the Freedom of Information Advisory Council;
- Elected Circuit Court Clerk for Stafford County;
- Assistant Commissioner of Accounts;
- Chairman of the Electoral Board for Stafford County and Republican Party of Stafford;
- Lawyer and corporate counsel in private practice;
- Published author on Virginia history, law and government;
- Decorated Military Police Officer in the Virginia Army National Guard and U.S. Army Reserves (Retired). Colonel, Aide-de-Camp to two governors.
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"We are citizens today of a state and a nation; but my primal loyalty lies with the Commonwealth. Loyalty to state has diminished with some people, but not me. When you take an oath for office in Virginia, you are pledging to support the Constitutions of the United States and Virginia," declares Moncure. "There is an emphasis on dual citizenship--loyalty to both. My heart is in Virginia."

In addition to serving on Town Council, Tom spends his retirement enjoying Colonial Beach and volunteering at places like James Monroe Birthplace and the Northern Neck Historical Society. History, especially Virginia history, is an abiding interest; and he is fortunate to live in a place where he is surrounded by it.

"History was part of the landscape where I grew up, a daily backdrop. I was raised, in part, at Stafford's Marlborough Point, where George Mason studied, and, in part, at Ferry Farm, where George Washington walked. My formative years were during the centennial of the Civil War. The landscape was still marked by it, including a Yankee gun pit on our property," explains Moncure.

In serving on Town Council, Mr. Moncure hopes to do everything he can to help the Town of Colonial Beach function as well as it can. A constant problem, he says, is that the General Assembly mandates local government expenditures, but does not fund them. It's then left up to the locals to come up with the money, primarily through real estate taxes.

"Virginia has no tradition of local government, which didn't exist until 1870 and came into existence primarily to fund public schools," explained Councilmember Moncure explained. "We attempt to accomplish much in Colonial Beach. We are only one of two towns that has its own school system. We have our own water sewer treatment, police department, community pier and really nice beaches. Making it work together without breaking the bank is a challenge."

Three questions:

What's something people might not know about you?

I was first elected to public office in 1981. I gave up any expectation of privacy then. There's a Wikipedia page on me and Google will fill in the rest.

What are your hobbies?

History, reading and writing, particularly regarding Virginia history, and the intellectual origins of our governments. I also enjoy volunteer work and moderate exercise.

You've been published multiple times. Tell us about it.

I enjoy the research and the writing. As a lawyer it was pragmatic. Now it's a passion.