

Dear Neighbors and Friends,

It isn't often that I have the opportunity to express my deepest thanks to my neighbors and community, and to reach out to you all and urge you to help support those who work in our justice system at the same time, but that is what I'm going to do today! First and foremost, my wife, Christie, and I want to acknowledge that the terrible crime our family has endured over the past couple of weeks has affected not only us, but our entire community. We realize how upsetting and disturbing this act was for all our neighbors who, for obvious reasons, were left in the dark as the authorities did their jobs. To the many of you – some of whom we do not even know personally – that sent us your good thoughts and prayers, we have been overwhelmed by your kindness and compassion. Your prayers and well-wishes were out-of-this-world! Please bear with us in the coming weeks, as we continue to ask for your patience and understanding as we try to maintain some semblance of normalcy and privacy during our recovery period.

The past few weeks have been surreal--never in a million years would I have imagined being a kidnapping victim. After all, who could even think that I was worth a hoot! However, despite the nightmare that I experienced, the fact that I am writing this letter from the comfort of my home is a testament to the many wonderful things that were done by many wonderful people. My successful rescue was nothing short of a miracle that slowly emerged from the grass-root hard work by our own Wake Forest Police Department and rapidly expanded, by bits and pieces, to a fully coordinated, massive law enforcement effort to find me before anything tragic happened.

Over the years, I have been fortunate enough to celebrate numerous happy occasions, as I am sure you all have as well. However, I have never felt a greater feeling of joy, relief, and freedom than that miraculous moment when I heard a firm, American soldier's voice say "Mr. Janssen, we are here to take you home." (I take liberty with the use of 'American soldier'--in my world, this means a service member from any branch of government. In my specific case, it means the members of the FBI Hostage Rescue Team).

Every bone and fiber in my body was instantaneously overcome by a feeling of gratitude that was simply unequalled to any emotion I have ever experienced. While I certainly consider myself very lucky, I know that my rescue was so much more than luck – it was the culmination of top-notch law enforcement officers from agencies big and small working closely with their counterparts throughout the southeast, sharing thoughts, ideas, tips, you name it--nothing unturned, nothing too small, nothing too trivial! The cooperation and collaboration that occurred was the very definition of teamwork, and it was phenomenal teamwork at that.

Since my rescue, my family has been repeatedly asked, "What can we do for you?" as if somehow enough has not already been done, and I have finally arrived at an answer. For us, some of the best medicine has been knowing that this type of criminal behavior will not deter our District Attorney's office from prosecuting dangerous criminals. For almost three decades, the tireless work of Wake County's recently retired District Attorney, Colon Willoughby, provided our county with unwavering professionalism, leadership, and strength in the face of crime and violence in our community. In the wake of Mr. Willoughby's departure, one of his former prosecutors, Ned Mangum, stepped in as the acting District Attorney, and in his first week on the job, found himself calling on his prosecutorial roots in the most unexpected of ways. Although Ned had been away from the DA's office for several years, the decade he spent working for Colon served him well, and from the time that he was notified about my abduction, he and First Assistant District Attorney Howard Cummings stepped in to work with and guide the Wake Forest Police Department, and worked tirelessly alongside the many law enforcement agencies that ended up being involved until I was safely in the hands of the FBI.

Ned and Howard did a superb job of continuing the type of leadership and integrity on which Colon Willoughby based his career, and the two of them played instrumental roles in the early days of the investigation into my abduction, something that would not have happened without the right person being in the District Attorney's office. Mr. Willoughby's recent departure has left a serious void that must be filled, and it needs to be filled by someone with sufficient level of experience to ensure that future victims of crime will receive the same quality and strength of protection that my family has received. As most of you know, neither Ned nor Howard are running for office in November, but there are people running who are capable and have the necessary experience to lead the District Attorney's office in the future. The primary elections for both political parties are right around the corner, and here is our opportunity as a community to get the right folks in office. This is our chance to do the RIGHT thing!

If you are eligible to vote in the Republican primary, JEFF CRUDEN has fought for victims and for justice for many years and will continue to fight for years to come.

If you are a registered Democrat, BOZ ZELLINGER has shown that he can, and will, carry the fight for victims and for justice as well.

In election times, there are often too many hats in the ring--in this case there are only two (JEFF CRUDEN and BOZ ZELLINGER) who should even be considered

because they are the only two candidates who have any meaningful experience prosecuting serious crime (Jeff for 21 years and Boz for 6 ½). I implore you to act--vote and vote now. There is nothing greater than the freedom to vote and with these two deserving candidates, it will be a win-win choice. Please get out and vote in the primary elections and ensure that these two candidates are on the ballots come November - these two are our advocates!

Frank A. Janssen

Christie J. Janssen

April 29, 2014