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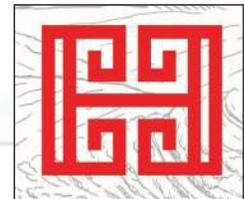
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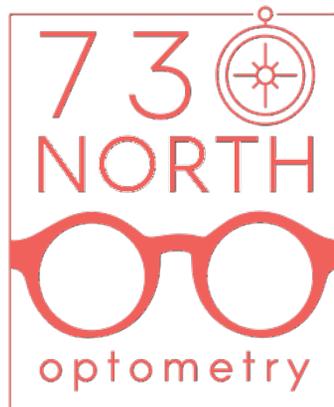


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THE BURTON FAMILY

BY SCOTT AND HOLLAND BURTON

PHOTOS BY JEFF MATEER AND PROVIDED BY THE BURTON FAMILY

If there is one motto our family lives by, it's "whatever it takes." It's a motto that has seen us through many adventures including countless sports teams, several cross-country moves, a combat military deployment, and even working for the President of the United States.

"Whatever it takes" means that as a family, we are committed to achieving goals and overcoming challenges no matter what obstacles or difficulties stand in our way. It also means that we try to stay flexible and adapt to our surroundings. We try to take new approaches, some risks, and go above and beyond the norm in order to accomplish something meaningful. It's that commitment to making a difference that fuels our engagement in the community.

Scott grew up in Libertyville. He graduated from Libertyville High School and immediately joined the United States Marine Corps as an infantryman. He spent most of his time in the Marines in Southern California, but he deployed to Asia in 2002 and then again in participation of the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003. Scott says that growing up in Libertyville contributed to his patriotism. He had quite a few friends in town whose fathers served in Vietnam, and the Libertyville events surrounding Independence Day, Memorial Day, and Veterans Day were always large celebrations.

He sounds like an old-timer when he talks about how many of the houses we now see on the west part of town that used to be cornfields. He shares stories from his Freshman year of Libertyville High School in the Brainerd building that once stood at the site of Brainerd Field, and we can't pass the McDonald's on Milwaukee Avenue without him talking about his first job there at 14 years old – although he'll also make sure to tell us that the restaurant has been completely rebuilt since then.

What hasn't changed? The Libertyville Barber Shop has largely remained the place of his childhood. When he was home on leave from the Marines, he would go there for a very close high and tight and a few high fives and well wishes from the barbers – some of the most patriotic people in town. Now he takes our son there for haircuts, although Whittaker's hair is very far from high and tight.

While Scott grew up in Libertyville, I was born and raised in East Texas, in a small town called Texarkana which sits on the corner of where Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana converge. I loved my upbringing and credit so many of my life's accomplishments to that small town value system and slow-paced way of life. My entire family lived in town, and I went to the same school as my siblings and cousins. One of my favorite things about growing up in Texarkana was spending time on our pecan and cattle farm. In the fall, my family would harvest pecans from our pecan orchards and prepare them to sell. In the spring, when the calves were born, we would "work" them by giving them their shots, weaning them from their mothers, and prepping them for sale at auction. I learned the value of hard work and gained an appreciation for what it takes to earn a dollar.

I never expected that my background would lead me to work in politics and government, but then again, life doesn't always turn out the way we expect. I'm often asked about my background and how I ended up living and working in Washington, D.C. The truth is that I was in the right place at the right time, and fate intervened. I attended the University of Arkansas, and after college, I moved to Little Rock with friends. Two of them were involved in state politics, and I would often help them with various political rallies and events. Then, as President Bush was kicking off his re-election campaign in 2002, his campaign asked

us to move to Washington, D.C. and work out of his headquarters. Three idealistic 24-year-old southern women arrived in the middle of a blizzard and we never looked back! If you ever get the chance to work on a Presidential Campaign - DO IT! You will learn and grow so much. The opportunities are indescribable, and the skills you will develop are second to none.

Once the campaign ended, President Bush appointed me to the Department of Defense. I spent the next 5 years working as the Deputy White House Liaison at the Pentagon where I would facilitate the hiring and confirmation process for the Pentagon's political appointees. I also had the opportunity to do some fun stuff too, like landing on an aircraft carrier, and sky-diving with the Army's elite skydiving team, the Golden Knights.

During that time, 9/11 was still very fresh in everyone's mind. Driving into work at the Pentagon you could still see the damage on its western portion and feel the heaviness in the air. While I'm not allowed to talk about many of the things that I did during that time, I can tell you that having a front row seat to watch the President serve as Commander in Chief and being around the fighting men and women of the military was life-changing.

When Scott completed his Marine Corps service, he studied political science and history at Northwestern University. Scott's love for politics led him to the McCain Presidential Campaign which brought him out to Washington, D.C. Introduced by our dear friend, John Eddy, Scott and I met at the 2008 Republican National Convention. Fourteen months later, he proposed to me at the Lincoln Memorial and we had our wedding in Texarkana in 2010. About a year later, we moved to Charlottesville, Virginia for Scott to attend law school at the University of Virginia.

Scott initially became a lawyer because he wanted to prosecute



crimes. We spent our first law school summer in New York City while Scott worked at the Manhattan District Attorney's Office. He loved his real world "Law & Order" experience, but when it came time to take a job after graduation, this southern girl wanted to head back home.

We lived in Little Rock, Arkansas for four years before moving to Libertyville. Never straying too far from government and politics, I worked as a state lobbyist, and Scott served as Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel to Arkansas Lt. Governor Tim Griffin. Scott spent countless hours touring the state with the Lt.

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Governor, connecting with state and local community leaders and learning of their concerns and aspirations. He enjoyed working with legislators to make and change laws that had real, lasting effects on Arkansans. Among his favorite tasks were celebrating people's victories throughout the state. When Miss Arkansas was crowned Miss America, he arranged a meeting for our daughter Sutherland to meet her. We have the most beautiful picture of the two of them with crowns on their heads! But just as important, he honored the responsibility of responding to the many tragedies that also took place throughout the state. He and the Lt. Governor responded to natural disasters, and Scott always sought to comfort the families of Arkansas's fallen service members and first responders, of whom there were always too many.

Scott has always been interested in law enforcement, and is always happy to share stories from the "Wild West" when he worked as a Sheriff's Deputy in Arkansas – just ask him! Our commitment to public service is something that we intend to pass down to our children: Whittaker Charles [13], Sutherland Caroline [10], and Barrett Elizabeth [9].

Whittaker attends Highland Middle School and is in 8th grade. Since he was 2, he has been all about sports. When he was about four years old, my dad said "that boy can sure throw a ball, Holland!" And that hasn't changed in nine years! You will find him on the football field, baseball field, or basketball court depending on the season. And no matter what the circumstances are, or what the weather is, he is out there giving it his all. Whittaker is just a great kid – he is kind, easy going, and oh so funny! He's also growing like crazy. It's a weird thing to see your child get taller than you when you still see him as a little boy. I'm working on that!

Sutherland is in 5th grade at Copeland Elementary. She plays softball and basketball

and loves to read. We always say that you can tell what a child is going to be like from a very young age, and that was certainly the case with our oldest daughter. Sutherland has always been sassy, outgoing, and fiercely loyal. She is truly a younger version of me and looks a lot like I did at that age. The one exception is that she has beautiful, thick red hair and gorgeous freckles like my cousin Jordan. She is great with kids and loves being a mother's helper for families in the neighborhood. She thrives when given responsibility, and exudes leadership. I'm just so proud of the young woman she is becoming.

Barrett is in third grade at Copeland Elementary. She is developing a passion for soccer and loves to dance and make videos. She also has pretty red hair and adorable freckles. As the baby of the house and the self-proclaimed "best snuggler", she gets lots of attention from all of us. She has such a kind heart and gentle, but strong, spirit. She is a great friend and is genuinely kind. I love watching her little personality grow every day. I truly thank God for letting me be their mom.

An interesting fact about our family is that all five of us were born in different states! Scott was born here in Illinois, and I was born in Texas. Whittaker was born in Washington D.C., Sutherland was born in Charlottesville, Virginia, and Barrett was born in Little Rock, Arkansas.

When it comes to family traditions, one of my favorites is when my kids get to experience part of my childhood down in Texas. Every summer, they attend Camp Longhorn in Burnet, Texas. I went to Camp Longhorn as both a camper and counselor when I was growing up, and I absolutely loved it! It's a good old fashioned summer camp with water skiing, campfires, riflery and – believe it or not - no air conditioning in the Texas heat! In some ways, I look back on going to that camp every summer as some of my most formidable memories...I want the same for our children. It is an amazing place!

We also love to go out west and visit my dad and stepmom in Missoula, Montana. They have lived there for about 25 years now and every time we're there, I fall more in love with it! It is truly God's country. If we visit in the summer, we hike, float the rivers, fish, and camp, and when we go in the winter, we take the kids snow skiing. We never



Photo By Caleb Westlund

turn down a chance to explore that beautiful state!

We have called Libertyville home as a family for six years now, and we have grown to love the community more and more each year. Our days are constantly buzzing with school activities, sports practices and games, and time spent with true and genuine friends. I'm amazed that six years later, we are still meeting new people and developing close personal friendships with them. Among our favorite activities in Libertyville is attending the tree lighting ceremony every year. I'll admit that the cold weather can still be a challenge for me, but it's worth it to see our friends and neighbors throughout town ready to celebrate the holiday season.

Our family's community involvement continues in Libertyville. Scott has a local law practice in town focusing on estate planning and small business representation. He enjoys sitting around the kitchen table with clients, talking about their families, and planning for their futures. We both come from small business families and appreciate the hard work, dedication, and risk required to build and sustain a successful business. Scott now enjoys using that understanding to help others achieve their businesses goals.

I have always been very involved in our kids' schools wherever we've lived, and Copeland has been one of the best places to get involved as a parent. After volunteering for the Copeland Family Association, I spent three years as the Association President. In mid-2022, District 70 Superintendent, Rebecca Jenkins, approached me about the potential of forming a non-profit organization to benefit the schools within the District. With the help of my Foundation partner, Allegra Heinz, we started the D70 Foundation for Excellence.

The D70 Foundation is a parent-run non-profit organization dedicated to providing additional resources to the teachers and staff in all five schools within the district. We raise money to enrich the curriculum, enhance educational opportunities for students, and provide innovative programs created by teachers to improve our children's education. Last year for example, the Foundation provided resources for a program called "Economy and Me" where children learned about the different elements to our economy and how to establish good money habits. "Math in Motion" was an engineering and information technology initiative where children learned how to code Texas Instrument Rovers on wheels and control them from graphic calculators.

I'm proud of the work we have done so far with the Foundation and I'm looking forward to another amazing school year! Next April, we will host our first ever major fundraising event - a Casino Night! I have an awesome team of women working on it,



and I can't wait to see what the Foundation accomplishes.

Libertyville has become more than just the place we live—it's truly home. The warmth of the community, the familiar faces, and the shared moments have made Libertyville a place we cherish. It's where our children are growing up, where friendships have deepened, and where we've found a sense of belonging that goes beyond the ordinary. My grandmother had a plaque by her back door that said: Wherever you wander, wherever you roam, be happy and healthy and glad to come home.

Those words resonate with me now more than ever. Here, we've discovered the joy of putting down roots, knowing that this town will always be part of our family's story. As we look ahead, Libertyville feels like the perfect backdrop for all the moments yet to come. And although we know some challenges await us, we also know that with the support of this community, we're prepared to do "whatever it takes!"



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