



## CATAWBA COUNTY

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### CATAWBA COUNTY EMS EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTED IN GOVERNOR'S STATE OF THE STATE SPEECH

Newton--Governor Beverly Perdue told stories of four North Carolinians during her State of the State speech on Monday, February 14, 2011. One of those North Carolinians was Brian Crump, a Caldwell County resident and Catawba County EMS employee.

Crump's story mimics that of many area residents. He went to work in a furniture factory after graduating from high school, married and started a family. He was a hard worker, and did well at his job. After more than a decade with a furniture company, he was laid off in 2005. Since so many other furniture companies were facing layoffs, Crump knew he had to look elsewhere for a stable means of supporting his family.

Crump said he was "always fascinated by medicine and EMS, but never really thought it was something I could do." Deciding that hard times may call for big decisions, Crump enrolled at Catawba Valley Community College that same year.

"It was hard going back to school in my early 30s," said Crump.

It was hard on his family financially as well. In fact, he says there were times that he thought maybe he should look for another furniture job. But, with the support of his family, Crump pushed on.

In August of 2007, he graduated from the EMS program at CVCC, and now works full-time as a Paramedic for Catawba County EMS. The layoff, hard times, and challenges that followed have now resulted in positive change for Crump and his family.

"The layoff has worked out in a lot of different ways," said Crump. "It was hard, but I wouldn't take it back for anything. I love what I do, and I feel this is what I'm supposed to be doing. It was a blessing."

Crump and his wife were special guests of the Governor when she gave her speech on Monday night. They were greeted with a standing ovation. When asked how he feels about being recognized by Gov. Perdue, Brian said, "I'm honored, but honestly, I'm just standing in for so many others who've done the same thing."

To read the Governor's comments about Brian, the State of the State speech may be found at <http://www.governor.state.nc.us/eTownhall/Blog/post/2011/post/2011/02/14/Read-Gov-Perdues-speech.aspx>.

