

**John C. Ackerman**  
for Tazewell County Clerk

*Continuing a Family Tradition of Community Service*

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**JOHN C. ACKERMAN REFLECTS ON TURNING 40 YEARS OLD,  
10 YEARS OF MARRIAGE, AND OTHER SPECIAL DATES THIS YEAR  
FOR THE ACKERMAN FAMILY**

***REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE FOR TAZEVELL COUNTY CLERK PRESSES  
VALUE FOR FAMILY, FAITH, AND SERVICE TO COMMUNITY***

WASHINGTON, IL: Over the next year my family and I will observe several special dates; our 10 year Wedding Anniversary (September 27), 10 years for me within the Greek Orthodox Faith, 20 years since I was first elected to public office (March of 2019), and later this week my official "old man" 40th Birthday (April 28).

Looking back at these events, I want to take a moment to share some thoughts. To me, the most important of these special dates is 10 years of marriage to my wonderful wife Maria Ackerman and 10 years within the Greek Orthodox Faith. We have been blessed with three wonderful children and I thank God for these gifts from him each and every day.

I can not believe it has been 20 years since I took my seat on the Washington City Council, my first experience as an Elected Public Official. As far as my official "old man" status, with three kids under 8 I do not feel like an old man. Sure, I am not as thin as I once was. And yes I have slowed down a bit.

But looking back at that 20 year old on the Washington City Council, I am glad my tongue is not as quick to respond as it once was. I now see the value in selecting the right words rather than being the first to respond. More importantly, I try not to be as quick to judge and hope my tongue is not as sharp in criticism as it once was.

And that leads into 10 years within the Greek Orthodox Faith. My wife introduced me to this wonderful ancient Christian religion and it has been a wonderful experience. I find comfort each Sunday in our Communion Prayer: "have mercy upon me, and forgive my Sins and transgressions, voluntary and involuntary, in word and deed, known and unknown."

This Prayer is not to me just words we recite each Sunday. It is amazing the power you receive when you simply truly, faithfully acknowledge your faults and ask for forgiveness, recognizing that we do not control everything around us.

I have made mistakes in my past. I have all too often been too quick and determined to have my voice heard rather than listening to what is being said. I have been rushed at times and too reluctant to simply experience the journey today brings.

When I was younger, 40 years old looked so far in the distance. That young man looked at 40 as the end of growth. Now that it is here, I clearly see much growth to be a better man is required.

You have heard me over the last year campaign for Public Office with the message to "GROW, STRENGTHEN, and IMPROVE". Well, that message applies to me as an individual as well. I do want to strive to spiritually and socially Grow, Strengthen, and Improve each and every day, hopefully becoming a better Husband, better Father, better Public Servant than I have been in the past.

40 years may have passed, but I still have work to do...