

**North Carolina Department
of the Secretary of State**

NEWS

July 25, 2023

For Immediate Release

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**Elaine F. Marshall
Secretary of State**

**Tommy Bunn, Prominent Agricultural Policy Leader and Husband of
Secretary of State Elaine Marshall Dies**

Raleigh – Jessie Thomas “Tommy” Bunn, a distinguished leader in national and state level agricultural policy and marketing and the husband of North Carolina Secretary of State Elaine F. Marshall, passed away unexpectedly on Monday night after suffering a traumatic brain event.

Mr. Bunn, 79, was a native of Zebulon and formerly served as President of the U.S. Tobacco Cooperative following a 21-year career as Executive Vice-President of the Leaf Tobacco Exporters Association and Tobacco Association of the United States. In addition, he served as Deputy Director and Acting Director of the Agricultural Marketing Service Tobacco Division for the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. and served under Commissioner Jim Graham with the N.C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services. He was currently serving as a consultant to the tobacco industry.

In addition, he was named by the North Carolina State Grange as Man of the Year in 1988 and was honored as a Distinguished Alumni with the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University in 2012, where he graduated with a degree in Agriculture Business/Crop Science in 1966.

He passed away Monday evening surrounded by his family. He is survived by his wife Secretary of State Marshall; his children, Brian Bunn (Elizabeth) and Juliana Bunn King (Jared); and his grandchildren, Connery Bunn, Alexis Bunn, Jordan King, Isabella King, and Jessie King.

Funeral arrangements are pending at L. Harold Poole Funeral Service & Crematory.

The family is asking for privacy during this difficult period.

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