Pat McCrory took the oath of office on Jan. 5, 2013, becoming North Carolina’s 74th governor. In his first State of the State address, the governor laid out his vision for returning North Carolina to prosperity with a commitment to focus on three key areas: the economy, education and efficiency.

McCrory began his public service career in 1989 by winning an at-large seat on the Charlotte City Council. He was re-elected twice to the council before winning the mayor’s seat in 1995. The people of Charlotte entrusted him with the mayor’s responsibilities for a record seven terms.

During his tenure, McCrory forged coalitions that propelled Charlotte to the national scene and earned it a reputation as one of America’s premier metropolitan areas. As Charlotte’s economic transformation took place, McCrory set out to ensure the quality of life improved for its citizens as well. His policies helped reduce the crime rate, lower property taxes and encourage neighborhoods to foster pride and involvement in their communities.

McCrory came to North Carolina with his family in 1966. He graduated from Jamestown’s Ragsdale High School in 1974 and earned degrees in education and political science from Catawba College in 1978. Upon graduation, McCrory settled in Charlotte after being hired by Duke Energy to be part of a rigorous management training program. During his 29-year career at Duke energy, McCrory held management positions ranging from human resources to economic development.

Community service has always been an important part of McCrory’s personal and professional life. McCrory has volunteered for many nonprofit community organizations and has served as honorary chair for the Charlotte chapter of the Alzheimer’s Foundation and the Arthritis Foundation.

Governor and First Lady Ann McCrory reside in the Governor’s Mansion in Raleigh. They are the proud and loving caretakers of Moe, the first couple’s chocolate Labrador Retriever mix.