

Julie Raque Adams

District 18 representative, Louisville Metro Council; co-owner, Adams & Call Inc.

LIFE TIMES

Age: 36

Family: Married to James Adams, two children

Currently donates time to: St. Margaret Mary Catholic Church; board member, Project Women

Hobbies: "I captain a tennis team, and I love to snuggle in and read with my boys."

First job as a teen: Working for the family business, O'Connor & Raque Office Products Co.

Role models: "Congresswoman Anne Northup has been an important professional role model for me. During the four years I worked for her ... I found her to be a very caring and compassionate friend. She has taught me a lot about being a working mother, prioritizing your family life and your professional life, and to really enjoy what you do because it is important work."

Greatest strength: "I am my own genuine self with everyone I meet, and I am a very good listener. In the political arena, I believe these two qualities assist me in my ability to forge consensus."

Fantasy job: To be in charge of distributing tickets for all University of Notre Dame home football games

On her nightstand: "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," by J.K. Rowling

In her CD player: George Strait and Allison Krauss

One word that describes her: Optimistic

BY RICHELLE HICKMAN | CORRESPONDENT

Fear of failure is not in Julie Raque Adams' vocabulary. Optimism is her catchword, and for Adams, failing is just a reason to try a different approach.

"I just get up, dust myself off and try again. I have always felt that in order to succeed, you must believe in yourself and in your ability to make a difference, and I honestly go to work every day believing I can make a difference," said Adams, who serves as the District 18 representative on the Louisville Metro Council.

Adams said the risk of being in charge is worth the reward when she can make a difference. "I have always felt an innate desire to be out in front and to take the risks of leadership. Failure, and the possibility of failure, is not debilitating to my personality," she said, and she counts winning her first election in 2002 as the most significant accomplishment of her career.

Prior to her election, Adams had worked as a lobbyist and on the staff of U.S. Rep. Anne Northup. Last year, she established Adams & Call Inc., a political consulting firm, with fellow Metro Councilmember Ellen Call and her father, Russell Raque.

This isn't the first time Adams has worked with family. Her first job was in the family business, O'Connor & Raque Office Products Co., which was founded in 1945. That business has since been sold, but working there taught Adams a lot about leadership, she said.

"I watched and learned that every day in business you must make tough decisions," she said. "You cannot run and hide from your responsibilities. You must

be bold and face your challenges head on."

Adams said her favorite thing about living in Louisville is her family's roots here. "I love living in a town where I have some history. It's energizing to hear stories about my parents, grandparents and people asking, 'are you related to ...' In addition, every year, Louisville becomes a more interesting and dynamic place to live. We are attracting more young professionals, growing our opportunities and encouraging more promise for my children as they grow up in this wonderful city," she said.

The main improvement she would like to see is to bring together east and west, downtown and the South End, to "embrace our common interests." That would make Louisville an even better place to live and work, Adams said. |



Adams says her Louisville Metro flag represents the importance a role in government has for her.