

## Dr. Mike Ritze

By **BOB LEWIS**  
*Managing Editor*

The race for the District 80 seat being vacated by Rep. Ron Peterson may be Dr. Mike Ritze's first shot at seeking an elective office. But he is far from being a newcomer to the state's political scene.



Ritze

Ritze, who has practiced medicine here for more than 30 years, is a life-long Republican who has served in a variety of positions, including being that party's Tulsa County chairman and BA precinct chair. His three-plus decades of service at

both the local and state level earned him a coveted state GOP Key Club Award.

He believes that was one of the reasons behind the calls he received urging him to become a candidate and the raft of endorsements he said he has gained from such notables as former Superintendent of Schools Dr. Clarence Oliver, U.S. Sen. Dr. Tom Coburn, Rep. John Wright and state Senators Randy Brogs-

don and Brian Crain.

Ritze said with the help of his wife, a registered nurse, and a doctor helping cover for him, he intends to maintain his medical practice should he be elected.

In Oklahoma City, Ritze said he will do everything possible to lower taxes and reduce the size of government, support House Bill 1804 and stem the flow of illegal immigrants and enhance state support for education.

As one would expect, another priority would be healthcare, which he believes is best delivered through the free enterprise system without government intervention.

On a lengthy list of community involvement activities, Ritze notes he is an ordained Southern Baptist deacon and Sunday school teacher, a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, former president of the Gateway Foundation board of directors, adjunct professor at Northeastern State University-BA and Oklahoma State University, BA police physician, state medical examiner and child abuse examiner, adjunct CLEET instructor and lecturer to the Oklahoma Bar Association Criminal Law Section Forensic Academy.

