Forsyth County colon cancer survivor shares her story and shows off her 'weird looking stool'



Kim Jette with her "weird looking stool" at Black Diamond Grill in south Forsyth County in October 2025. - photo by Travis Jaudon

## Travis Jaudon

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A Forsyth County woman is sparking conversations about a topic many avoid – colon cancer.

Kim Jette has been cancer-free since May 2020. Since then, she's devoted her energy to raising awareness about colon cancer, the second-leading cause of cancer deaths in both Georgia and the United States.

Her mission to boost awareness and funding has taken her to Washington, D.C. several times for the Call on Congress advocacy event. It's also led her to partner with the Georgia Center for Oncology Research and Education, or Georgia CORE, in its creative public art campaign, "Weird Looking Stools."

The initiative features stool sculptures placed in coffee shops, bars and other local gathering spots across metro Atlanta. Each stool highlights a personal story of survival and advocacy – including Jette's.

Her stool is currently on display at <u>Black Diamond Grill in south Forsyth County</u>, where she recently met with Forsyth County News to talk about her advocacy and the campaign's mission.



From left to right: Kim Jette, Audrey Jette, and John Jette at the March 2025 Fight CRC flag installation on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Photo submitted by Kim Jette

"Telling my story to Congress was intimidating at first," Jette said. "You only have two or three minutes, but it makes an impact. Policymakers remember faces and stories. Over time, those relationships can lead to funding – and colon cancer research is still underfunded."

Jette said she was invited to speak to the Georgia State Senate earlier this year to advocate for a statewide awareness program. That proposal became the "Weird Looking Stools" campaign.

"The target audience was people aged 20 to 40 – those least likely to think about colorectal cancer but who are increasingly affected by it," she said.



Kim Jette (right) at the September 2025 kickoff event for Georgia CORE's "Weird Looking Stools" campaign. Photo submitted by Kim Jette

Each stool in the campaign includes signage and QR codes that lead visitors to Georgia CORE's website. There are 20 stools total, placed in popular meeting spots throughout the Atlanta area. The campaign runs through Nov. 30.



From left to right: Audrey Jette, Kim Jette and John Jette at the March 2025 Fight CRC flag installation on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Photo submitted by Kim Jette

Jette's connection to the cause is deeply personal. In September 2019, at age 47, she was diagnosed with Stage IV colon cancer. Her condition was further complicated by Lynch syndrome, a hereditary genetic disorder that increases the risk of several types of cancer.

"Lynch syndrome makes my case unique, but not rare," she said. "One in 279 people have it, and most of them don't know. It's a genetic condition that can be detected with a simple spit test – expensive, but possible. Once I tested positive, my family was able to get tested, too."

Jette credits her husband, John, and daughter, Audrey, for supporting her advocacy efforts and keeping her focused on her mission.

"I share my story not for sympathy, but for impact," she said. "If one person sees it and gets tested, it's worth it because cancer doesn't look like one thing. People told me, 'You don't look like you have cancer,' but every journey is different. I know people with ostomies living full lives. I know people running marathons while undergoing treatment.

"Some choose not to share their story, and that's okay. But I do, because I want people to understand this disease, to talk about it, and to take action. Everyone poops. Let's stop being ashamed of talking about it – and start doing something that could save lives."



Kim Jette's "weird looking stool" at Black Diamond Grill in south Forsyth County. - photo by Travis Jaudon

Jette's stool can be viewed throughout November at Black Diamond Grill, located at 1485 Peachtree Parkway.

For more information about the "Weird Looking Stools" campaign, visit <a href="https://www.weirdlookingstools.com">www.weirdlookingstools.com</a>.