



Russell Harris

Vice President

Class of 1965

Russell Harris graduated from Conetoe High School in 1965. After graduating, he attended North Carolina A&T State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1970. His undergraduate degree work included participating in a cooperative student trainee program with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) National Fertilizer Development Center in Muscle Shoals, Alabama. In September 1970, he entered the Graduate School of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville and earned the Master of Science degree in Agricultural Economics in 1972.

Upon completion of his Master's degree, Russell began working full-time with TVA as a Land Use Specialist. He was promoted from this position to District Supervisor managing the team responsible for all TVA land and landrights on 14 reservoirs in Georgia, Tennessee, and North Carolina. He remained in management for 25 years holding staff, division, and regional manager positions. He managed the staff that provided policy guidance on land use issues affecting 300,000 acres of land along 11,000 miles of reservoir shoreline in the seven state TVA region. He was selected as the Regional Manager to lead all activities associated with managing watershed teams covering Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, and Western North Carolina. Prior to his Regional Manager position Russell was the division Business Operations and Support manager responsible for ensuring development and coordination of a \$30 million budget for over 300 employees. During his TVA career he attended numerous management training courses including the Disney Institute for Creativity in Orlando, Florida, Eckerd College Management Development Institute in St. Petersburg, Florida, and the General Electric Management program in Crotonville, New York. Russell retired from TVA with 32 years of total service.

Since retirement he has worked three to four months a year as a contractor for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He works with the Public Assistance group that provides funds to assist communities responding to and recovering from major disasters or emergencies that are declared by the President. His FEMA assignments have included working in 10 states and

3 months in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Russell has served on the Board of Directors of United Way of Greater Knoxville and the Tanasi Girl Scouts Council. He volunteers with the United Way investment committee reviewing proposals and recommending grant funding allocations. He is a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and serves on the Board of Directors of the Knoxville Beta Theta Member Boule Foundation. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc., and a charter member of the 100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville, chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc.

Russell is a Deacon at Mount Calvary Baptist Church in Knoxville. He has chaired the Deacon Board, Trustee Board, and served as Superintendent of Sunday School. He is a member of the CHSAA Membership Enhancement committee and thru the years has actively participated in his class reunion activities.

Russell and his wife Margaret have twin daughters.