



James A. Hackney, III

Jim Hackney, 75, was born in Washington, NC, in 1939, the oldest of five children. His father then drove an ice cream truck for a living, and his mother was a homemaker. After World War II, his father and grandfather started a truck-body manufacturing firm, which he joined after college and where he spent most of his working career.

His main passion in youth was scouting, which he joined as a Cub Scout in 1948. He achieved the Webelos Arrow of Light, Eagle Scout with Silver Palm, and Explorer Silver Award. He attended the 1955 World Scout Jamboree in Canada. Scouting led him to two other lifelong hobbies: ham radio and photography, which he still enjoys. He also took up golf in high school and played on the Washington High School golf team. He graduated in 1957.



After attending N.C. State University and earning two degrees in engineering in 1961 and 1962, he spent two years on active duty with the U.S. Army as an Ordnance officer, mostly at Ft. Bragg, N.C. He then joined the family business and became Executive V.P. and Chief Operating Officer in 1965,

and President and Chief Executive Officer in 1970.



He married Connie Garrenton of Bethel, NC in 1961, and they have two children. Son Ken, an Eagle Scout, lives in Havelock and daughter Jane lives in Tucson, AZ and they have two grandchildren in Arizona.

Jim and his wife took off on an extended seven-month sailboat cruise to the Florida Keys and Bahamas after he left the family company in 1995, followed by a season of skiing in the mountains of Colorado. This became a regular routine. The sailing cruises continued until they

sold the sailboat in 2005. They still spend the winters skiing in Colorado, and now spend the late summers there hiking and mountain climbing. He has reached the summit of eight mountains over 14,000' high.

Jim's greatest passion for service, other than his church, has been the Boy Scout Program. Upon return from service in the Army, he served as chairman of the BeauHyWaTy District for four years, leading its consolidation and renaming to the Blackbeard District. He then chaired a major capital campaign for the East Carolina Council, which raised funds for the expansion of the East Carolina Scout Reservation and the construction of a new Council office in Kinston, moving it from Wilson.

He served as Council President for two years, 1975-77, and also as Scoutmaster for five years. He was awarded the District Award of Merit in 1974 and the Silver Beaver Award in 1975, as well as being named Scoutmaster of the Year in the District in 1977.

He continued to move up in his service to Scouting. He became Scouting Chairman of the Southeast Region in 1979 and served on the National BSA Scouting Committee. He served as Region Camp Chief for the 1981 National Jamboree, the first at Fort A.P. Hill in Virginia. He also served as Region Contingent Leader for the World Jamboree in Canada in 1983.



He became president of the Southeast Region of BSA in 1987 and led the Region in building a new office near Atlanta. He served on the National Executive Board and National Executive Committee of BSA, and also served on the Executive Committee of the National Eagle Scout Association. He served as Logistics Chairman for the BSA

Contingent to the World Jamboree in Korea in 1991 and as Operations Chairman for the BSA Contingent to the World Jamboree in Holland in 1995. He continues to serve nationally as a member of the National Advisory Council, as well as a member of the Executive Board of the East Carolina Council.



Jim was awarded the Silver Antelope Award by the Southeast Region in 1982 and the Silver Buffalo Award by the National Council in 1992, the only East Carolina Council member to ever receive this award. He and his father were both named Distinguished Eagle Scouts in 1980, the first from our Council and the first father-son team to be so honored nationally. He is a Vigil OA member and has earned Woodbadge Beads. Jim is also a Baden-Powell Fellow of World

Scouting and a recipient of the Cliff Dochterman Award from the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians.

He is an active member of Zion Episcopal Church in Washington, where he serves as a Lay Minister, Vestry Member and Junior Warden. A musician, he is also the substitute organist. In 2007 he received the St. George Episcopal Award, jointly from the Episcopal Church and the BSA.

Question: Why Scouting?

Answer: "To give back. I was a small, non-athletic, non-popular kid. Scouting gave me an opportunity to lead others"

Question: Best Memory?

Answer: 1955 World Jamboree at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada. Because of the US proximity to Canada, the US contingent was limited to 1500 total scouts and scouters. While Jim was the only scout representing the ECC, he did belong to a patrol with a Scout from Lumberton by the name of Sam Douglas (now, a fellow ECC board member in Wilson) who he remains friends with now, 60 years later.