



Key to the City Recognition Joel "Chigger" Webb, 85

Mr. Webb was born to Joel and Margaret Thomas Webb in 1937 on the Cumming square in what is now the Bank of America parking lot. He was raised in Cumming and lived downtown until 1972 when he relocated two miles down Kelly Mill Road, where he has resided ever since. He graduated from Cumming High School in 1955 and married Frances "Midge" Holbrook in 1957. They have three children: Richard, Cindy (Hansard), and Ralph, as well as six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Webb is a lifelong member of Cumming First Baptist Church.

He was an original organizer and officer of the Forsyth County Jaycees, which was a vital community civic organization for many years. The Jaycees established the first Empty Stocking Fund in Cumming, named and numbered streets for mail delivery, built the first beach at Mary Alice Park, and completed many other community service projects.

Mr. Webb also served on many boards, including the Forsyth County Board of Tax Appeals, Forsyth County Board of Health, and the City of Cumming Housing Authority on which he served 65 years. He also served as volunteer fireman for the City of Cumming before the city's fire service was added under the Forsyth County Fire Department.

Over the years, Mr. Webb was active in many youth sports organizations. He served as an organizer, board member and coach for football, baseball and softball. At one point, he even bought his own school bus to go around and pick up kids to participate in youth sports programs.

Mr. Webb owns the original steam engine that started the July 4th Thomas-Mashburn Steam Engine Parade in downtown Cumming, and continues to be a participant in the annual Steam Engine Parade. He has ridden on a steam engine in every July 4th parade since the event began 66 years ago.

Focused mainly on construction and development, Mr. Webb has continually operated various businesses in downtown Cumming for the last 68 years. His construction company, Cumming Development, has built numerous buildings in the Cumming community, as well as handled historic restorations of the Historic Cumming Schoolhouse (School Street Playhouse and Tam's Backstage), the Brannon-Heard House (Sawnee Association of the Arts' Cumming Art Center), the Sinclair Station (Cumming Cigar Co.), and the Redd House. To this day, he continues to operate his business in the Redd House, located two blocks west of the downtown square.

Thank you, Chigger Webb, for your many years of dedicated service to the City of Cumming community!