



Key to the City Recognition

Ricky Noles, 77

Raised in Canton, Ricky Noles moved to Cumming in 1972. His career began in the late 1960's as the payroll clerk, then office manager, for Georgia Marble Co. His interest in the insurance industry came when his father passed away and he saw the importance of helping people through their most difficult life moments. In 1972, an opportunity was presented to sell State Farm Insurance Company products in Cumming. Ricky said, "It was a decision that led me to this place that my family and I proudly call home. I have raised my family, built my career, made many friends and have a church family I love all because of that opportunity and the people in this community. I am so blessed."

Ricky married his high school sweetheart, Linda, in 1964. Married for 54 years, they had a wonderful life together until she passed away four years ago. They have two daughters, Cindy Cannon and Angie Smith; two sons-in-law, Lamar Cannon and Toby Smith; and two grandsons, Casey Cannon and Clay Cannon. All their children and grandchildren graduated from Forsyth County Central High School and still live in Forsyth County.

Ricky joined Coal Mountain Baptist Church in 1973, and has been blessed to have a wonderful church family that has been a foundation for his life. Ordained as a deacon in the Baptist Faith in 1967, he served as the chairman of the Board of Deacons for Coal Mountain Baptist Church from 1996 to 2008, and says that was one of the greatest blessings of his life.

At 77 years old, Ricky has witnessed the growth the community has experienced through the years. Ricky says, "For the first 15 years, I was the only State Farm Insurance Agent in the county. Today, I think there are about 25 agents." Ricky served the people of Cumming and Forsyth County for 44 ½ years before retiring on November 30, 2015, a day before his 70th birthday. He was a Lifetime Member of the State Farm President's Club, and his career allowed him to build many professional relationships and friendships along the way.

Ricky has been dedicated to the community through service. He has served on the Forsyth County Planning and Zoning Board, Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, Forsyth County Hospital Authority, President of the Forsyth Lion's Club, and currently on the City of Cumming Planning Board. He was one of 7 organizers of the People's Bank of Forsyth County and served on that Board of Directors, and continued to serve on the Advisory Board of Regions Bank after People's Bank was purchased by Regions Bank. He was also one of 10 organizers of Jefferson State Bank and a Board Member, until it was sold to a larger bank.

Ricky partnered with T.R. Reece in a real estate development and home-building business for about 18 years. The developed Newbury, the first age 55+ community here in Cumming, and several other subdivisions throughout the county. Ricky was also involved in various other small businesses through the years, including a local newspaper, The Forsyth Forum, which the 10 investors sold to Forsyth County News several years later.

Ricky says: "As I look back over my life, there have been many blessings of my family, my many friends and my church. I have enjoyed playing golf for many years, and I still do. I enjoy two classes of cars and trucks: old ones and new ones. I have a 1930 Ford Model A that my grandsons and I have entered into the 4th of July parade for 27 years. We love seeing the people and throwing candy to the kids. I have been so blessed."