



## Key to the City Recognition

### Jim Otwell, 70

Jim Otwell was born to James and Dot Otwell on April 29, 1953, at Mary Alice Hospital in downtown Cumming. He joined his older sisters, Patricia Anne (Pat) and Sara Dean (Deanie) to complete the family. Since their parents had established Andean Motor Company in 1948, the dealership was named from a combination of the daughters' names prior to Jim's birth.

Jim was in the first kindergarten class at First Baptist Church and graduated from Forsyth County High School in 1971. After completion of high school, he attended and graduated from Gainesville College. Then he began studies at the University of Georgia. However, it became necessary for him to withdraw from college when he was 20 due to his father's death in 1973. At that time, Jim became President of Andean Motor Company and was one of the youngest dealers in the country. Later, he was privileged to graduate from Chevrolet Dealership Management School in Warren, Michigan.

Jim and Janet Smith met while both were members of the Youth Choir at First Baptist Church. They began dating and were married in 1978. God blessed this union with four sons: James, John, Joseph, and Jacob. Jim is also blessed to be "Opa" to eight grandsons and two granddaughters. He is known as a true "family" man.

Janet is now the Controller at Andean, and their sons have responsibilities in different aspects of the business including sales, finance, and bookkeeping.

Jim is an active member at First Baptist Church, serving as an usher and as a former deacon.

Community involvement has been important to Jim through the years. He has served in leadership positions in various civic organizations. He was one of the original members of the Forsyth County United Way, served on the Board of Directors for the Cumming-Forsyth Chamber of Commerce, past president of the South Forsyth Rotary Club, member of the City of Cumming Industrial Authority, and a director at several area banks. He is on the Board of Directors at Lanier Technical College. When his boys were young, he coached county recreation baseball and basketball. He supports numerous local causes including area schools and City of Cumming events.

Additionally, Jim has been actively involved in the Georgia Automobile Dealer's Association (or GADA) and National Automobile Dealer's Association. He was named the Director of the Year by GADA for four consecutive years. Ultimately, one of GADA's most prestigious awards was renamed as The Jim Otwell Distinguished Director Award. In 2002, he was also honored to be named the Time Magazine Quality Dealer from Georgia by NADA. Jim was also a member of the Bulldog Chevy Dealers Association.

Thank you, Jim Otwell, for your many years of service to the Cumming community!