



Key to the City Recognition

Dr. Shannon Mize

Shannon Mize was born to Cecil and Frances Davis Mize in 1950 at Mary Alice Hospital, 100 feet from the current City of Cumming Council Chambers. Shannon's first eight years were spent at his Grandmother Jimmy Davis's home, across the street from the Cumming City School. In

1958 the Mize family moved to their new home on Ridgecrest Drive in Cumming.

Shannon grew up enjoying Friday night campouts and dozens of World War II and Civil War re-enactments, along with all-day-Saturday hiking and bicycle adventures on Pilgrim Mill Road (pre-asphalt), and hunts for arrowheads, potsherds and quartz crystals. This was the crucible where all the neighborhood kids learned the basics of bonding, leadership, loyalty and fair play.

Shannon was a Boy Scout in Troop 39, led by Jim Scully. He honed his leadership skills in scouting, and at Rainey Mountain was tapped for membership in the Order of the Arrow. He earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 1963 and attended the 1964 BSA National Jamboree at Valley Forge. He continued to support Troop 39 after his two sons, Shan and Alex, joined the troop. They both also achieved the rank of Eagle Scout.

He was a forward-thinking high school student who honed his leadership skills early on, in Hi-Y, 4-H, and other service-oriented organizations. Shannon graduated from Forsyth County High School in 1968 after serving as first tuba impresario in the Flash of Crimson band, stealing half-time shows with his unique hybrid style: high-step marching combined with Order of the Arrow turkey dancing. The crowd always went wild.

Shannon attended North Georgia College on a Hammock Scholarship, graduating Magna Cum Laude in 1972 with a BS degree in Chemistry. He and wife Gail then moved to Augusta to attend the Medical College of Georgia, where in 1976 he earned his MD degree. In 1979 he completed his 3-year Family Medicine residency at UAB Huntsville. Later that year, he worked with his life-long mentor and friend, Dr. Jim Mashburn. Doctor Mize opened his own family practice in January 1983. Shannon has always been humbled by the loyalty of his staff, patients, family and friends, many of whom have supported his practice for the entirety of the past 44 years.

Dr. Mize served on the first Board of the Wilson Clinic, which evolved into Georgia Highlands Medical Services. He has served as Chief of Staff at Forsyth County Hospital and Georgia Baptist Hospital, and Chief of Medicine at Northside Hospital. He is Forsyth County Health Board Chairman. He serves as preceptor for aspiring medical professionals at UNG, MCG, Mercer, Brenau, Emory and Georgetown Universities. He is an associate professor at Mercer University. He was FCHS Football Team Doctor for 25 years. In the same period, he served four years as State Physician for Georgia Thespians through the FCHS Drama Department. When Forsyth Central High School founded the FCHS Alumni Association in 2015, Dr. Mize and wife Gail (Herring) were among the first alumni named to the Board of Directors. Dr. Mize became a 2019 FCHS Hall of Fame inductee.

He is an ordained deacon and has taught Sunday School for 40+ years at Cumming First Baptist Church. He is a 43+ year member of the Rotary Club of Forsyth County. Dr. Mize most recently serves as board member and Medical Director at the newly-created Forsyth Community Clinic.

Dr. Mize and Gail have traveled to every continent on earth, often accompanied by sons Shan and Alex. Recently they island-hopped through the WWII Pacific Theater, visiting Corregidor, Guam, the Philippines, and Iwo Jima. Shannon and Gail mostly enjoy spending time with their children and grandchildren: Shan and Jamie, their daughter Laddie Jewell; and Alex, Lauren and their daughter, Gabrielle. Thank you, Dr. Mize as you continue to care for all your patients in our community!