



Key to the City Recognition

Thomas B. McDonald

Mr. Thomas “Tom” McDonald, 90, Retired Army Colonel, has served his country and local community nobly and faithfully for decades.

Tom graduated from the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Military Engineering in 1957, and earned his Master of Science in System Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1967. He married his first wife and mother to his three daughters, Karen, in 1959. After he and Karen divorced in 2003, Tom married his present wife, Kay, in 2004.

In 1976, Tom made the greatest decision of his life: to abandon his life to, and be redeemed by, the Lord Jesus Christ. Since then he has worked diligently to spread the word of Christ and inspire others. For the past several years, Tom has led the City of Cumming Mayor & City Council in the Capitol Ministries Bible Study. As a Chaplain for many years, Tom has also worked with Georgia Baptist Disaster Relief, as a board member for a jail ministry and for Christian Financial Ministries, as a “Carpenter” with Builders for Christ, and a teacher and counselor for Christian Financial Concepts throughout five states.

He is also a speaker and writer on his website, WordsAlongTheWay.com. Tom has also authored 2 books: “Genuine Manhood” as part of his ministry for men, and “Why Pray?” for his prayer ministry, a portion of which included teaching prayer to Protestant pastors in poor areas of Yucatan, Mexico.

In his military career, Tom was stationed in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Puerto Rico, New Jersey, North Carolina, Virginia, as well as the nations of South Korea, Japan, South Vietnam, Thailand, Egypt, and West Germany. His military qualifications and activities included: Master Paratrooper, Army Ranger, Expert Pistol Shot & Rifleman, Army General staff member, Airborne Battalion Commander, Commander of “Eagle” DRC Philadelphia, Airborne Brigade Commander, J6 of Unified Command, and Army Colonel.

In his civilian career, Tom founded McDonald Applied Technologies Corp. where he worked for 9 years, and was later involved in commercial and residential real estate. He also served as a county planning commissioner and county zoning appeals board member. A graduate of Columbia School of Broadcasting, he also worked at Washington D.C. radio station, WAVA, and as an amateur radio operator while stationed in Puerto Rico.

He and his wife, Kay, enjoy traveling, and have visited numerous states and countries. Tom has also had a lifelong interest in sports such as track & field, swimming & diving, snow & water skiing, golf, tennis, handball, football, and soccer. He also has an interest in outdoor activities such as hunting & fishing, camping, hiking, flying (he was a private pilot while stationed in Puerto Rico), and has various other hobbies.

Thank you, Tom McDonald, for your many years of service to the Cumming community and to the United States of America!