

Hello Everyone:

I am pleased to introduce myself as a new member of the leadership team for the Southeastern Firefighters Burn Foundation. I'm a native of North Carolina where I graduated with a degree in business administration from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I received a law degree from Emory University, followed by twenty-seven years as an attorney and administrator in higher education. Twenty-two of those years were spent at the Medical College of Georgia where I retired in 2001 as Vice President for Business Operations and Legal Advisor to the President. Following retirement, I joined the law firm of Kilpatrick Stockton LLP and practiced in the Augusta office. My wife, Deborah, is a native of Augusta and a physician specializing in emergency medicine. We have two children. Paul is a student in the film school at the North Carolina School of the Arts, and Katie is a student at Augusta State University.

Community service has always been a high priority for me. I have served as a board member or officer for a great many local nonprofit organizations. At the moment I am on the boards of the Southeastern Natural Sciences Academy, Sacred Heart Cultural Center, the United Way of the CSRA and the Augusta-Richmond County Community Partnership for Children. I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Augusta since 1996 and will serve as its president in 2007-08. I am also treasurer of the National Association of College and University Attorneys.

For twelve years, I served on the City Council of Augusta where I had the pleasure of working closely with the Foundation's former leader, Charles DeVaney, when he was Mayor. Charles' untimely death was a tragic loss to the Foundation and to the community. It is a privilege to be able to follow in Charles' footsteps in assuming a leadership role with the Foundation.

I welcome this opportunity to help lead the Foundation in its support of families of burn survivors. The Foundation has had excellent support by a broad base of firefighters and other community volunteers who want to help the family members who need housing assistance while attending to their loved ones being treated in the Burn Center. It is our responsibility to expand that support and take the services of the Foundation to an even higher level.

Growing the resources of the Foundation so we can do an even better job of serving these families in a time of need is going to take a lot of work by our staff, the board of directors and our volunteers. I look forward to joining all of you in this effort. Together we CAN make a difference!