

George S. Patton interviewed by Wanda Bruce Graham:



George S. Patton joined the Board of Directors for the Habitat for Humanity of Williamson County in February 2013. He was born on March 7, 1951 and is a life-long resident of Franklin, TN. George is a retired Financial Services Senior Executive. He attended Johnson Elementary School and graduated from Franklin High School in 1969 as part of the first integrated high school class in Franklin, TN. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Tennessee State University in 1973 and immediately began a selective management training program with Harpeth National Bank as its first African-American management trainee. Subsequent to completion of the training program, George was elected the first black bank officer for the bank, as well as for the City of

Franklin. His favorite college courses were marketing, accounting, law, finance and human resources. In fact, George stated that had he not gone into banking his next career choice would have been the law. His education also included Tennessee Young Bankers School-Certificate of Graduation in 1980; an Associate Degree in Banking from the Nashville State Technical Institute in 1981; University of Wisconsin (Madison)-Graduate School of Banking, Diploma of Graduation in 1986; University of Oklahoma (Norman)-Graduate of National Commercial Lending School; and Nashville's American Institute of Banking-Basic, Stand, General and Advanced Certificates. George S. Patton began his banking career with Harpeth National Bank and spent seven years with them before he departed for additional opportunities with then Commerce Union Bank (Nations Bank/Bank of America). His career with them spanned 22 years with a year of retirement and then his return to banking spending for an additional six years with Bank of Nashville and Regions Bank (formerly AmSouth Bank). From his pioneering position as a bank's first African-American management trainee, George's expansive banking career ranged from Commercial Loan Officer, Regional Commercial Loan Manager, Assistant Vice President, Vice President, Branch Manager for Special Assets, Credit Review Officer & Private Client Specialist, State Manager of Tennessee Credit Review, Senior Vice President of Tennessee Credit Review, Senior Vice President/Commercial Credit Risk Manager, Senior Vice President of Lending, Operations & Portfolio Management, Senior Vice President & Commercial Credit Review Team Manager, culminating with his successful retirement in 2009 from Regions Bank as Senior Vice President & Team Leader - Special Assets.

George S. Patton has been married to Delores Scruggs Patton for almost 39 years; she's a life-long Franklin resident as well. They have been very faithful and active members of Cummins Street Church of Christ since they were married. Their church's lot was donated by the well-known former slave and respected African-American Franklin citizen, Mr. A.N.C. (Allen Nevils Crutcher) Williams (1844-1930) and dates back to the 1800's. George is quite proud of Cummins Street Church of Christ's receipt of a historical marker. He serves in numerous capacities at the Cummins Street Church of Christ to include, Adult Sunday School Teacher, Chairman Emeritus of the Finance Committee, Church Trustee, Nursing Home and Jail Ministries, and most recently was selected as one of the church's first Elders. He was also an active participant in selecting the church's first Deacons. George enjoys the small family atmosphere and noted that many of the members are related. In the past, they have a unique fellowship with the Millview and Fowlkes St. Churches of Christ, participating in tent meetings; however, today their ministers swap pulpits periodically and enjoying congregational fellowship.

George is most proud of his pioneering family. His roots have been traced by the African American Heritage Society of Franklin back to early settlers of Williamson County. His mother, Annie Elizabeth Hunter, was recognized by the Society at its annual ball in 2004. His family lives in the Hillsboro community. He and Delores are the proud parents of two sons; Dr. George S. Patton II (36) married with two children in Chicago, and Justin S. Patton (33) who resides in Franklin. These days George enjoys golfing, playing tennis, and fishing, and participated in basketball, football, volleyball, and tennis during college days. George enjoys his family time, especially with his grandchildren; travelling, especially to the Caribbean with Jamaica as a favorite location; playing golf; his church family; and giving back to the community. George definitely is doing something that no one would guess when you consider his extensive education and experience in banking. Since retirement, he has been employed part-time with the Williamson County School Board as a bus driver for Winstead Elementary and Centennial High School for over two years.

George S. Patton serves and has served on the boards of Mercy Children's Clinic, Grace Health Clinic, Tennessee State University School of Business, Sister Cities of Franklin and Williamson County, JW Frierson Foundation, the Housing Task Force, and Franklin Tomorrow. George's first involvement with Habitat was with Cummins Street Church of Christ, making donations to HFHWC. He noted that they have a few Habitat homeowners who are members of the church. He fully understands the importance of being a homeowner and experienced his family living with grandparents during his early childhood. He's looking forward to joining the Family Selection Committee because that's where the connection to the community will be. He's said "Habitat provides partner families with an opportunity for pride of ownership and to get out of substandard housing. He believes in people working to help themselves, and that's what Habitat does for a family. It provides a hand-up not a hand-out so they can help themselves."