

## Ben F. Williams, Jr. Bio

Mr. Ben F. Williams, Jr. was born and raised in Greenwood, Mississippi. He is a graduate of Greenwood High School and a 1966 Distinguished Military Graduate of Mississippi State University (Army, Reserve Officers Training Corps). He served as a Finance Officer in the Army from 1967 to 1970, obtaining the rank of Captain. His assignments include; Fort Benjamin Harrison, Indiana; 8<sup>th</sup> Army Headquarters, Seoul, Korea; and Fort Lee, Virginia.

Williams recently retired from the National Infantry Museum Foundation where he spent the last 17 years serving the Infantry through his extensive work at the Foundation as the Founding Executive Director (and later as its President), Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer. The Foundation was created to design, arrange funding, build, and operate the National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center (NIMSC) in partnership with the Chief of Infantry and the leadership of Fort Benning. The NIMSC was created to provide education and training to Soldiers, families and the general public on all facets of the history of the Infantry and the origin and development of Fort Benning. The Foundation's vision was to create a facility that would be recognized as the nation's premier military museum honoring American Soldiers past, present and future. In its first seven years, the museum has hosted 2.2 million visitors, earned a prestigious global themed attractions award and received national attention from the media and visitors for its quality.

Earlier in his career Williams also served as the District Manager for Southern Bell; and Executive Vice President for Columbus Bank & Trust.

He has also been very active in and provided leadership to many community organizations. Some of these include: **Past Board Member**, National Infantry Association; **Past President**, Chattahoochee Council, Boy Scouts of America; **Past President**, Rotary Club of Columbus; **Past President**, Association of the U.S. Army; **Past President**, Better Business Bureau of West Georgia and East Alabama; **Past President**, Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau; **Past President**, Columbus College Athletic Board; **Past President**, Columbus High School PTA; **Past Board Member & Treasurer**, United Way of Columbus; and **Past Board Member**, Columbus Chamber of Commerce.

His honors include: Columbus' Outstanding Young Man of the Year – Columbus Jaycees; Named one of the five Outstanding Young Men of the Year in Georgia – Georgia Jaycees; Silver Beaver Award – Chattahoochee Council Boy Scouts of America; James H. Blanchard Leadership Award – Synovus Financial Corporation - Columbus; Paul Harris and Will Watt Fellow – Rotary Club of Columbus; and the Order of Saint Maurice – Primicerius – National Infantry Association.

He is married to Rose Marie Coke Williams. They have two adult children, Kim and Todd, and two grandsons, Ben and Josh.