

## **DOBYNS BENNETT ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME**

### **Tom C. Parham Biography**

Tom Parham was born in Kingsport on November 15, 1941, to Mr. & Mrs. Tom Parham, Sr. He attended Kingsport City Schools, graduating from Dobyns Bennett in 1960. He subsequently graduated from ETSU in 1964, and pursued graduate studies at ETSU, UT, Emory University, and Eastman Executive Training.

Tom began his career at Tennessee Eastman following his graduation from ETSU. He worked in Administration, Financials, Public Relations and Communications, Polymers Business organizations and was responsible for Eastman and regional recycling programs, including beginning the "Good Sports Always Recycle" program at UT. He also began recycling programs in Mexico, Argentina, Brazil, and Germany. He retired after 36 years of service.

Tom's public service activities began early. He has been a member of Kingsport Kiwanis Club for 52 years and has served as an officer and Board leader. He was recognized as Kiwanian of the year in 1990.

Tom served as Chair of the Greenbelt Committee for 23 years, and personally negotiated each property that made up the Greenbelt, then secured the properties, engineering, and funding with City staff support. The Board of Mayor and Alderman recognized his leadership and stated that there would be no Greenbelt without Tom.

Tom's election to the Board of Mayor and Alderman required him to step down as Chairman of the Greenbelt Committee. He served with the BMA for 8 years as Alderman and vice Mayor. During his tenure with the BMA, he was instrumental in the development of the Academic Village, which led to the Harvard Government Innovation award. He was also a key figure in the development of the Aquatic Center and YMCA partnership, among many other projects.

While still a member of the BMA, Tom began his work with the Kingsport Animal Shelter, which was deemed "woefully inadequate" by a state study. He served as President of what is now PETWORKS for 11 years, successfully fundraising, working with designers, and ultimately building the new state of the art "Good Steward Adoption Center" on Stone Dr. This Public / Private shelter provides a safe, clean place for animals waiting for adoption.

Tom's additional volunteer contributions are truly too numerous to mention, but include the Riverfront Redevelopment, the Carousel Project, Executive Board of the Sequoyah Council of Boy Scouts, Fun First, Netherland Inn, Kingsport Chamber of Commerce, and many others. He has served on 45 community, youth, church, political, and state/national organizations. He provided leadership as President/Chair of 16 of these groups.

Tom developed an interest in running in his 30's. He continued with this interest for many years, ultimately completing several marathons, most notably the Boston Marathon, and the Marine Corps Marathon, which he ran three times.

He is the proud father of three children, Kim Gordon, Tom Parham, and Mike Parham. He has 3 grandchildren, Jenni English, and Jaxon and Kaden Parham. He has one great granddaughter, Olivia English. He has been happily married to

Martha Matherly Parham for 18 years.