

Getting to Know You

Vivian Hammond

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I was born in North Carolina in a small town in the Sandhills. My family has been in North Carolina for many years with grandfathers having served in the Revolutionary War and the [“War of Northern Aggression”](#). My father was a World War I veteran.

One of my treasured possessions is a Firestone radio which was placed beneath a map of Europe on the wall. Each day my father tracked the progress of our troops during WWII. Growing up in the shadow of Fort Bragg, I have many memories of that war: blackouts, then running outdoors the next morning to search for flour to see where the “bombs” were dropped; sitting on a rock wall waving at our “boys” as they went roaring by in big maneuver convoys; and watching the skies dotted with parachutes as they jumped from the big flying box-cars. Our Sunday dinner table was often surrounded by soldiers as my parents were very supportive of the troops. I remember families who moved to our neighborhood to be near their husbands who were stationed at Bragg. Oh, is there anything prettier than the polished boots of a paratrooper?



After the war I was able to continue with my life, participating in many activities. I achieved the highest honor then given in Girl Scouts and went on to receive National [4-H Club](#) honors for my foods and nutrition project record. This gave me a scholarship to attend Women’s College in Greensboro (now [UNC-G](#)) where I received a degree in Home Economics. I continued 4-H work as a Cooperative Extension Agent in Lumberton, NC.

After four years, I transferred to Wake County where I did 4-H work as well as foods and nutrition. While here, I met my husband, Ed Hammond, who was employed

with Nationwide Insurance. He was a veteran of the Vietnam era and served in the Army Reserve. We have now been married for almost forty-two years! We have one daughter, Maria, who is also a member of the Cary American Legion Auxiliary. She and her husband Brian live in Wilmington and both are employed with [Pharmaceutical Product Development \(PPD\)](#). Most important: they have a four year old son named Colin who is the “apple of his grandmother’s eye”! After Maria’s birth, I returned to my 4-H involvement by working about five more years with the State 4-H Office at NCSU.

In 1979, I changed career directions and became Department Executive Secretary-Treasurer for the American Legion Auxiliary of North Carolina where I stayed until retirement in 2000. After seven months the Department asked me to return which I did on a part-time basis for another year. During my tenure, membership was over 11,000 members.

Now in retirement, I remain active in my church, White Plains UMC and my Sunday School class. I also enjoy Pacesetters, an organization of retired Home Economists where I served two years as Vice President and two years as President. I stay involved with the American Legion Auxiliary as member of Cary Unit 67 and as Department Finance Committee Chairman.

Traveling is an enjoyable hobby for us. With the Auxiliary, I had the opportunity to travel much of this beautiful nation. Ed and I have also had the opportunity to travel in Europe many times. The greatest pleasure in my life is people... many of whom I have met in the American Legion and Auxiliary.

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