Mr. Billy R. Merritt  
Greensboro, North Carolina

Billy R. Merritt was born on a farm in Sampson County. After graduating from high school he attended Louisburg College from 1951 to 1953. From 1953 to 1955 he was a member of the Army. From 1955 to 1957 he attended Atlantic Christian College and graduated with a degree in chemistry. He worked for the city of Reidsville, North Carolina as a chemist and superintendent of the water and wastewater treatment plants from 1957 to 1961. He graduated from the University of North Carolina with a masters degree in sanitary chemistry and biology in 1962. In 1962 he was employed by a company in Atlanta, Georgia to sell water and wastewater treatment chemicals to industry in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. During this time period he helped industry solve many of their water and wastewater treatment problems.

In 1984 he started Water Technology and Controls, Inc. to treat water and wastewater for industry. In 1991 he formed Meritech, Inc. an environmental laboratory. The laboratory was formed to test water, wastewater, soil, and materials that needed testing before being applied to a land fill.

In 1957 he married Shirley Gillespie and they had three children. Two sons, David and Patrick, and a daughter Deborah. The three children are presently employed with Bill Merritt in the companies. Shirley died of cancer of the lymph nodes in January 1999. Two year later he married Katherine Lemons.

Merritt is a member of Woodmont United Methodist Church where is presently a Sunday school teacher, member of the finance committee, stewardship chairman, and a member of the official board. He enjoys reading history, particularly American history, and vacationing with his wife, Katherine, seeing as much of the United States as possible.