



Robert A. “Bob” Houck is the third and youngest child of Albert and Revere Houck. Born September 1947, he grew up on a dairy farm in Culpeper, Virginia. His father was the owner and operator of the farm while his mother was a high school business teacher, and influenced Bob in later choosing a business career. Bob helped his dad work the farm and was active in 4-H, the 4-H honor society, and a 4-H All Star. In 1987 Bob was honored as a 4-H Alumni member. Bob graduated from Culpeper High School in 1965 and attended Bluefield College, receiving an Associate degree in Business Administration. Then he went to Virginia Tech with a BS in Business Administration in 1969.

Professor Dr. Will Gordon at Bluefield was another great mentor and served as Bob’s business teacher and the assistant professor of business administration. Bob was instrumental in helping to preserve Professor Gordon’s legacy at Bluefield College by establishing the Will Gordon Memorial Scholarship.

While at Tech, Bob met Shirley Lumsden who attended Radford and they married in 1970. Upon graduation, Bob was a math teacher briefly, then in 1973 he began as a management trainee with Culpeper Co-op, becoming assistant manager in 1974. In 1980 he became a loan officer at Warrenton Farm Credit, then branch manager in 1982 and then Senior VP of Finance and Administrative Service in 1987. In 1998, the two Farm Credit Associations merged, and Bob was given early retirement. Bob and Shirley purchased a cattle farm in Culpeper in 1987 and operated it until 2016.

They moved to The Culpeper in 2018. As lifelong residents of the area, the Houcks visited occasionally and knew many residents and administrators. Their decision to move was for peace of mind, confident that they are both taken care of when necessary. Influencers now for Bob include The Culpeper team members. He and Shirley appreciate the loving care and attention they receive every day and are grateful to be a part of The Culpeper family.

Bob joined Stevensburg Baptist Church as a boy and has been actively involved ever since. In his teens, he was a member of the Royal Ambassadors (a Baptist missions organization for boys) and participated in Baptist churches while at school. Once he and Shirley moved back to Culpeper in 1973, he resumed his

membership at Stevensburg and has served as a Sunday School teacher, a Deacon, and on several committees. Bob became involved in short term mission trips after his retirement. He has done sixteen overseas mission trips to Europe, Africa, Central and South America.

Bob joined the Lignum Ruritan Club in 1973. He served as Club President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a member of the Board of Directors. He is active on the district level in Ruritan, has held all offices on the district level, and was District Governor in the Rappahannock and Rapidan Districts. He was elected to the Ruritan National Board of Directors in 1980. In 1983 he was elected National Secretary and served for three years. In 1986 he was elected National Vice President and in 1987 he was National President. In 2003 he was elected Trustee of the Ruritan National Foundation and was National Foundation President in 2007.

In 2009 Bob was appointed to the Culpeper County School Board. He served on the School Board until 2015. He served as Vice Chairman for one year and as Chairman for three years. Bob served as a member of the Bluefield Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2015 and is currently serving another term.

When Impact Mission Camps visited the Shiloh Association, Bob was the construction leader of a team for several years. Impact is a youth-oriented construction-based mission camp primarily for students who have finished grades 6-12.

Bob enjoys traveling and has been on all seven continents, has visited 76 countries, and still likes to travel. He and Shirley are proud to be members of The Culpeper and support the Virginia Baptist Homes Foundation. Their family legacy lives on with a sponsorship of a stained-glass window at the community.

At The Culpeper, Bob has served on the Resident Council for three years and is currently in his second year as President. He assists resident life by providing programs and presentations on his travel excursions, and often leads programs. As chair of the 2021 Christmas Fund, Bob was instrumental in raising the most monies ever to give back to the team members.

Bob’s favorite poem that speaks to his perspective on life is *A Bag of Tools*, by R. L. Sharpe (1870-1950):

A BAG OF TOOLS

*Isn't it strange
That princes and kings,
And clowns that caper
In sawdust rings,
And common people
Like you and me
Are builders for eternity?*

*Each is given a bag of tools,
A shapeless mass,
A book of rules;
And each must make—
Ere life is flown—
A stumbling block
Or a stepping-stone.*

