A Bank Within Reach | A Lifetime of Service

A Lifetime of Service. A Commitment to Community. Meet Colonel Henry Byrd.

Every community has people whose lives remind us that service isn't something you simply retire from. It's a way of life.

This week, our A Bank Within Reach spotlight introduces someone who has spent much of his life serving others — Colonel Henry Byrd, U.S. Army (Retired).

Colonel Byrd comes from a proud military family whose history of service to our country dates all the way back to the Revolutionary War. He credits his ancestors, particularly his father, with helping shape the man he is today.

And while his military career may be behind him, his commitment to serving others certainly isn't.
Today, Colonel Byrd is involved with the 3SIXTY Jeep Club, an organization dedicated to giving back to the community. He also advocates for individuals he believes have been wrongfully incarcerated.

When asked what he loves most about Cullman, his answer was simple: the friendliness of the people and the way neighbors still look out for one another.
During our conversation, Colonel Byrd shared something that perfectly captures his philosophy on life:
"You actually need to give back."

And that brings me to something a little more personal.
Henry is the perfect example of why we started A Bank Within Reach in the first place.
Shortly after moving to Good Hope in February, I was sitting at Applebee's when a gentleman approached me. Apparently, my haircut led him to believe I was a member of the military, and he graciously offered to buy me a drink.
That gentleman was Henry Byrd.
Once he learned I wasn't a military veteran, the roles reversed. I bought him a drink instead.
Not because I wanted his business. Not because I was looking for another customer. And certainly not because I expected anything in return.
I picked up that tab as a very small token of my enormous appreciation for a man who had devoted so much of his life to serving our great country.

What began as a chance encounter between two strangers at Applebee's became a friendship and, eventually, a business relationship.

And THAT is what A Bank Within Reach is all about.

You see, I'm sitting in the same restaurants you visit. I'm at the car shows, community events, stores, and many of the same places you frequent.
Most of the time, I'm not dressed like a banker. I'm just another person sitting nearby, having a conversation, listening, laughing, and learning more about the communities and the people we are privileged to serve.
I'm not there to sell you a checking account or convince you to borrow money.
I'm there because I live here, too.
And because I genuinely enjoy getting to know people.
Banking may be my profession, and EvaBank is certainly a tremendous part of my life, but neither defines everything about who I am.

My faith, my freedoms, my friendships, and the people who make our communities what they are mean far more to me than any title I could ever hold.
And I never forget that I have the privilege of living this life because of my faith in God and because of people like Henry Byrd — men and women who have been willing to risk everything to defend the freedoms I hold so dear.
That is something I will never take for granted.

Henry, I'm grateful that a simple haircut and a chance meeting at Applebee's brought us together. I'm grateful for your friendship, your service, and the example you continue to set for others.
And I'm especially grateful that you reminded me, once again, why we started this community outreach series.
We don't have to look very far to find extraordinary people. Sometimes they're sitting at the table right next to us.

To my friend, Colonel Henry Byrd — God bless you. And God bless every Veteran who has worn the uniform of this great country. us

And this November, the lights at EvaBank will shine red, white, and blue in honor of Henry and every veteran who has served in the greatest military on Earth. Each light will be a small reminder of our enormous gratitude for the courage, sacrifice, and unwavering

commitment of the men and women who have defended our nation and the freedoms we cherish.

From all of us at EvaBank, thank you for your service, your sacrifices, and the freedoms you have helped preserve.

EvaBank. **A Bank Within Reach.**

And this week, A Thankful Bank Within Reach. ❤️‍🩹

