

**Florida League of Cities
Council Member of the Year
Bill Garvie**

Name: Bill Garvie
Position: Council Member Seat 4/Mayor Pro Tem
Jurisdiction: City of Fort Walton Beach

Bill Garvie is a well know and very well respected resident of Fort Walton Beach. Over the years, he has served the people of Fort Walton Beach on various boards and committees. In 2007, he knew he wanted to do more for the community, so he filed his paperwork to fill the vacant Seat 4 on the Fort Walton Beach City Council. Councilman Garvie began his tenure as a member of the City Council on April 1, 2007. While that date may be associated with jokes and pranks, the issues Councilman Garvie works to alleviate are no laughing matter.

Councilman Garvie has strong ties to Fort Walton Beach. For the last 45 years he's been married to Martha Bass Garvie, one of the owner's of Staff's Restaurant, the oldest seafood restaurant in Florida. They have five children and fifteen grandchildren. He received his BA from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama, a Bachelors of Law (LLB) from Faulkner University in Montgomery, Alabama, and he is a graduate of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and the Senior Executive Institute at the University of Virginia. He served 25 years as a Special Agent in the FBI, and also served on the SWAT team during that time. He was Chief of the FBI Disaster Team and Legal Counsel for the National Crime Information Center (NCIC). He retired

from the U.S. Department of Energy as the Asst. Inspector General, an SES Level 6 employee, the highest civil service grade attainable.

Prior to becoming a member of the Fort Walton Beach City Council, Councilman Garvie served on the City's Waters Edge Ad Hoc Committee, the Okaloosa Walton TPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee and spent 8 years as a member of the City's Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), serving as both the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

Councilman Garvie is currently a member of the Board of Directors for the Regional Utilities Authority, West Florida Regional Planning Council, Okaloosa County League of Women Voters, Legislative Committee for the Florida League of Cities, and the Military Affairs Committee for the Fort Walton Beach Chamber of Commerce. He also serves as the Chairman of the Okaloosa/ Walton Transportation Planning Organization (TPO) and has been nominated to serve on the TPO Advisory Committee for the state of Florida.

One of Councilman Garvie's pet projects since joining the Council is to find a way to alleviate the homeless issues in the City of Fort Walton Beach, and all the surrounding areas. As a member of the Board of Directors for Continuum of Care, Councilman Garvie has coordinated, and attended, fact finding trips to try to find a solution to care for the area's growing homeless population. It is his goal to provide the homeless with a day shelter where they can not only get meals and take showers, but also receive mail, place and receive phone calls, store personal items and receive counseling for drug and alcohol addiction as well as employment and marriage counseling.

Councilman Garvie is working with a local judge/ reserve brigadier general to establish a Veteran's Center in Fort Walton Beach. The greater Fort Walton Beach area has one of the highest concentrations of retired veterans in Florida, but no veterans care center. He has sent letters of support to the U.S. Secretary of Veterans Administration, Congressman Jeff Miller and Senators Bill Nelson and Mel Martinez. Councilman Garvie is working on "The National Honor Flight Program" designed to transport World War II veterans to Washington DC to visit THEIR memorial. The top priority of the program is to transport, and provide a tour, for veterans with terminal illnesses to see the WWII Memorial, as well as the Korean, Vietnam and Lincoln Memorials. Councilman Garvie recently helped arrange a private luncheon at Staff's Restaurant for the nine remaining airman who participated in the Doolittle Raid on Tokyo in April, 1942 (the airman ate at the restaurant while training for the raid).

Councilman Garvie is a member of the Steering and Technical Committee for the Lovejoy Community Revitalization project. The Lovejoy Community is a low income minority community with areas located in both unincorporated Okaloosa County and the City of Fort Walton Beach, adjacent to the City's industrial park. As a member of the committee, Councilman Garvie has helped to initiate studies and action plans to help revitalize the neighborhood through code enforcement, stormwater management and other infrastructure improvements.

As a former FBI agent, Councilman Garvie continues the fight against crime as one of the Fort Walton Beach Police Department's strongest supporters. He, along with members of the Police Department, represented the City of Fort Walton Beach in Coral Springs, Florida earlier this year when the Fort Walton Beach Police Department received reaccreditation from the state of Florida. In addition, during the 2008 Peace Officer's Memorial Ceremony held at the Fort Walton Beach Police Department, Councilman Garvie represented the City by presenting a proclamation honoring all federal, state and local law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty over the last year.

Along with these various projects, Councilman Garvie also helps represent the citizens of Fort Walton Beach on the state and national levels. He was selected as a representative for the City to attend the National Convention of the League of Cities in New Orleans, Louisiana this year. In addition, Councilman Garvie has attended all legislative meetings in Tampa and Orlando as a member of the Legislative Committee. He volunteered to meet with State Senators and Representatives in Tallahassee this past legislative session to discuss goals of the League of Cities. He is also a very active participant in the Okaloosa County League of Cities.

Councilman Garvie serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of the Justice Federal Credit Union and as such, makes financial decisions regarding over \$500 million in assets. He and his wife own and operate Aunt Martha's Bed and Breakfast; he participates in the operation of Staff's Restaurant; he participates in the management of

“DB Daughters”, a family owned land management company; and he participates in GLC Contracting, a family owned commercial construction business.

But no matter how much Councilman Garvie represents the residents of the City of Fort Walton Beach abroad, he is always a champion for the residents here at home. He constantly attends events and appears on local radio and television to help residents better understand the various aspects of Fort Walton Beach. Councilman Garvie enters each meeting with an open mind and is determined to make the best decision possible for the citizens. He is so well respected by his peers on Council that he was selected as Mayor Pro Tem in just his second year of office. He works hard to help those in need, and to provide for the residents of the City. For these reasons, Councilman Bill Garvie deserves to be named “Council Member of the Year” by the Florida League of Cities.