



James R. Drinnon (Jim)

Jim Drinnon has a public service career that spans over 37 years. This includes extensive experience in emergency response and management from a Public Health perspective.

Jim was raised in the middle Georgia area and graduated from Mercer University, located in Macon, Georgia with a BS in Biology. After graduation he began working with Public Health as a County Environmentalist in Putnam County (1971-1973) and then later in Houston County (1973-1983), Georgia.

He received extensive training at Wichita State University in Kansas in Occupational Health and Emergency Response; he was hired in 1983 by the State of Georgia and served until 1990. He was the Public Health Representative to the State Operations Center during disaster response, and also conducted environmental health investigations for state employees and communities involved with hazardous materials incidents or exposures.

In 1990 he was appointed as Director of the Environmental and Injury Control Branch for the Division of Public Health, for the State of Georgia. During this time he led the environmental response for the 1994 Palm Sunday tornado disaster in Georgia and the response to the Tropical Storm Alberto disaster. In 1996, he was responsible for all environmental health programs at the Centennial Olympic Games and was the Public Health Duty Officer on the night the bomb exploded in Centennial Olympic Park.

In 1998, he left the State and became the District Environmental Health Director for the Coastal Health District. During his tenure, he was the Director of the Food Security Program for the G-8 summit meeting at St. Simons Island in 2004. Jim retired from Public Health in 2006.

During his employment with Public Health he received the 1976 Outstanding County Environmentalist Award from the Georgia Environmental Health Association; he co-shared the Vice President Al Gore Golden Hammer Award for his work on the 1996 Olympics; and he received the 2006 Outstanding Environmentalist Award from the Georgia Public Health Association.

In 2006, he began working with the Chatham Emergency Management Agency where he is employed as an Emergency Management Specialist.

Jim is a retired United States Army Reserve Officer having achieved the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His military badges and awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Master Parachutist Badge and the Parachute Rigger Badge.

He is married to Elizabeth (Locke) Drinnon and has 4 sons James, Steven, Michael and Bruce.