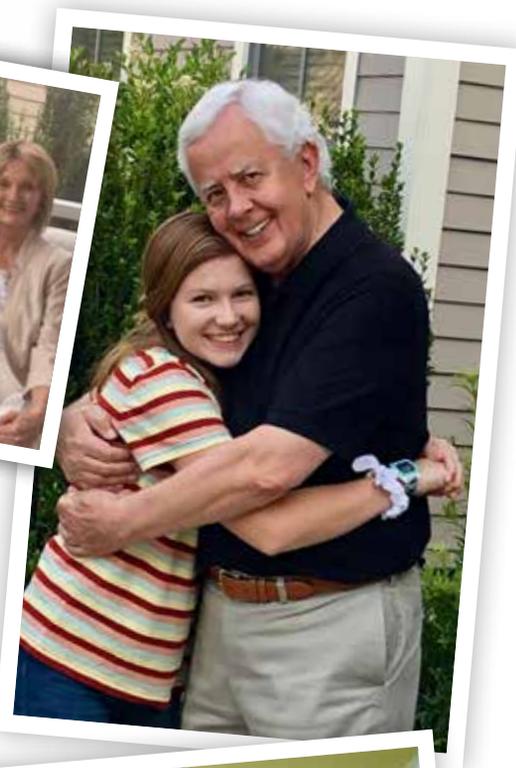


by Mary Ann Hutcheson

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DamJOHNNY W. JEFFCOAT
WALKWAY

Johnny Jeffcoat



Lexington County native Johnny Jeffcoat received his early education in Lexington County, later majoring in business management at Palmer College. He has served in various positions throughout his career. Currently, he coordinates all activities related to his position as a community and economic development catalyst for the Town of Lexington.

Jeffcoat began his career as a buyer for the men's department at JB White department store in Dutch Square. Later, he entered the insurance world at Colonial Life and Insurance Company as marketing director and sales manager and then with Nationwide Insurance Agency as a company contractor and doing business for himself for almost 30 years. He ran for Lexington County Council in 1996 and served for 20 years. During this period, he was chairman of the economic development committee, managing projects to stimulate growth and attract businesses to the county.

One of the first things Jeffcoat learned in the political arena was who he could trust. Running for office invites challenges, sometimes to one's integrity, and it can dissuade good people from entering the arena. Unfortunately, "It comes with the job," he says. A plaque on his work desk proclaims, "Never, never, never give up." Jeffcoat has tried to live up to the message in those words throughout his career. He points to new libraries, an updated and much larger, improved administration building and three industrial parks that were built during his time on county council.

Thanks to Jeffcoat's determined vision of a space where people could enjoy the lovely views of Lake Murray as well as benefit from outdoor exercise, the "Johnny W. Jeffcoat Walkway" was added to the widening of S.C. Highway 6. Hundreds of people use the beautiful passageway every day. The underlying theme throughout Jeffcoat's service has been to improve the quality of life for Lexington county residents while creating viable jobs. He left his position in December of 2019 after his wife Patricia lost her four-year struggle with cancer.

Jeffcoat was 16 years old when he met his future wife in 1963 at the Trailways snack bar in downtown Columbia. Early on, he knew that he wanted to marry the lovely young woman. They dated and were married three years later. Throughout their enduring marriage, he says, "She was my life, my heartthrob. I looked forward to coming home every day we were married."

The couple have two sons, both lawyers, and three grandchildren, the youngest 12 and the oldest 20. Jeffcoat enjoys hunting, fishing, and traveling. ■

