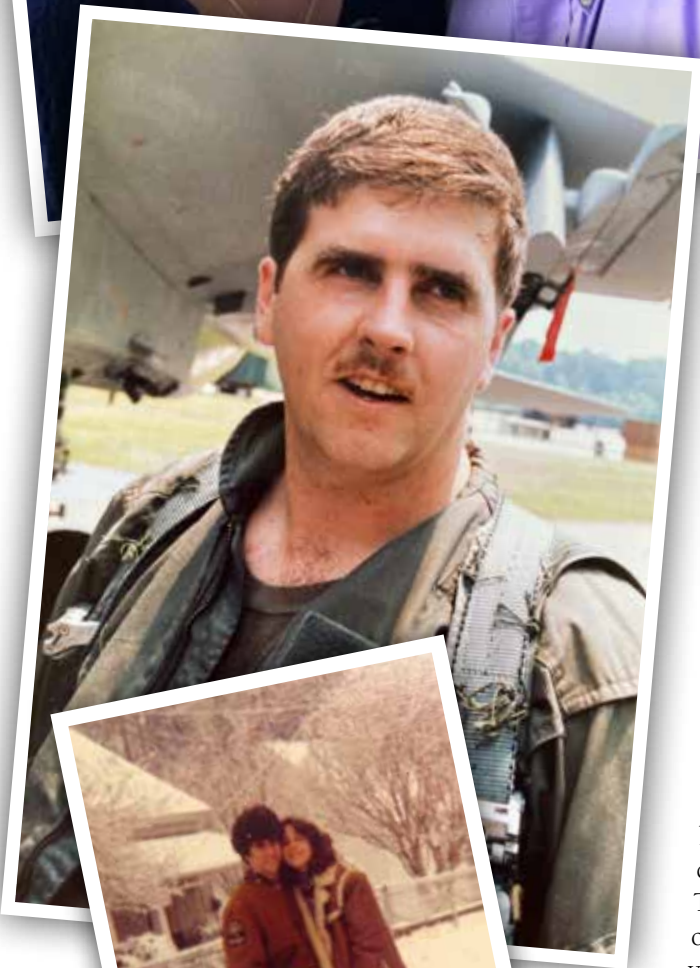




by Jackie Perrone



Tim Ivey

Tim Ivey is in Lexington because of an offer he couldn't refuse; however, he has been thankful every day that he landed here. "I love our community, and being store owners is great, but my wife and I agree—being grandparents is the greatest job of all."

The enthusiastic entrepreneur and his wife, Jane, own and operate The UPS Store in Lexington's Publix Shopping Center, assisted by two of their four adult children along with a rotation of young people he has the opportunity to mentor and appreciate. It all started in Union, S.C. when a pair of high school sweethearts began their married life.

"I was working in a mill at night, and taking computer classes," he recalls. "I knew I needed a change and I joined the Air Force to learn electronics. It was a great decision. My assignments were Biloxi MS, Homestead FL, and Myrtle Beach SC - all on a coast somewhere." Along the way, he picked up extra work with a few video game companies, and one in Columbia hired him after his military service in 1988. He and Jane moved to Lexington with their first two children. After some time spent primarily on the road, they opened The UPS Store in White Knoll Shopping Center. Ever since those early days they have made it a practice to hire high school students and to support local schools. They work closely with the community printing banners, graduation signs, etc. and organized a group that has donated over \$8,000 in scholarships to White Knoll High.

Around 2015, another great offer came his way; the owner of The UPS Store in Publix Shopping Center asked if they would be interested in purchasing her business—it was fate. Tim and Jane had just recently built a house just across the street from the location. The store has always thrived in the current location, and Tim remarks, "We have had lots of employees over the years, and one of my main objectives is to make them understand they have value, and we hope we train them to be successful." Four children (Krystine, Keely, Tyler and Amy), seven grandchildren, and 42 years later, Tim and Jane celebrate every Friday night with "date night," exploring the Midlands restaurant scene. "We critique them all, and try never to be negative," he says.

Their favorite hobby is RVing, and they have been active in the music ministries at Lexington Baptist Church since 1994. ■