

We won't say good-bye, Joe

It is truly impossible to say good bye to those that we love and hold dear—those people who are outstanding examples of what it means to be a servant. That is why, even though he and his wife Annette are moving to Florida, we won't say good bye to Joe Sutton.

A former member of the Board of Directors, Joe has been a part of the MACOA family since 1998 when he became an RSVP volunteer. He was asked to serve on the RSVP Montgomery Advisory Council in 2002 and named chairman in 2005. As an RSVP volunteer he has served in disaster preparedness and in community and economic development, but his most memorable areas of volunteer service are with VIPS and the Alabama Department of Archives and History.

On April 15, 2003, Joe became one of the original 13 volunteers that joined VIPS—Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS). RSVP partnered with the Montgomery Police Department to establish the program locally. RSVP recruits, screens, and supports the volunteers in VIPS. VIPS is one of five Citizen Corps partner programs formed after the terrorist attacks in 2001. Joe served in the detective division, in recruiting, and in the neighborhood watch program. He and two other VIPS maintained a database of information on 10,000 weapons retrieved at crime scenes. Now, thanks to Joe Sutton, when a detective needs to look up details on a confiscated weapon used in a crime, he or she can look up the information on a computer and not through dusty, faded index cards. Joe served on the VIPS Advisory Board where he received special recognition for his dedication to the program. Joe's most recent VIPS service was in the supply division where confiscated items are held from crime scenes and are used as evidence. He has streamlined the paperwork necessary to retrieve items from the supply division.

His service at the Department of Archives and History consisted mainly of archiving the personal documents of such noted Alabamians as George Wallace and Albert Brewer. He began serving there in 1996 right after his retirement.

Joe and his wife have been faithful members of Thorington Road Baptist Church where they have been members for 40 years.

We will miss seeing him every day in his VIPS uniform patrolling neighborhoods or behind a desk at the Archives furiously archiving some important document, but we know he will be happy near his beloved daughter, son-in-law, and grandchildren in Tallahassee, Florida. Keep in touch, Joe. We love you!