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South HUNTSVILLE NEIGHBORS



MEET

*Ron Hicks
and Family*



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By Lt. Col. (Ret.) Ron Hicks
as told to Bob Druckman

Photo by
Mandi Cook Photography

After 24 years in the military, Ron Hicks retired and opened up the Pool Scouts Huntsville franchise. He and his family love Huntsville and they can tell you why.

Tell us about your family. What type of work does your wife do? Children, names, and what they are doing?

I am a proud husband, dad, and grandfather. We are a family of six. My wife Sheena and I have three kids, two boys and one girl. We also have a six-year-old grandson.

My wife is a Senior Project Coordinator for a NASA contractor at Marshall Space Flight Center. Our children, Trae' works in the food and hospitality industry; Mahogani is an Executive Housekeeper Supervisor for a major hotel, and Rashad is a mechanical engineering student at Alabama A&M University.

What brought you to Huntsville? What is it about Huntsville that you enjoy?

I landed in Huntsville by chance. While in the Army, I was scheduled to become a Professor of Military Science at Shaw University over the ROTC program. As the household goods were being packed, I received a call to interview for a job at the Army Materiel Command (AMC). After performing the interview, I was informed the orders were changed and I was headed to Huntsville, Alabama. My wife was not happy but felt it was close to our family which was a plus. Nonetheless, the Army knew best. The household goods

made it to Huntsville, and this has been one of the best duty stations.

You are retired from the Army, How long did you serve?

I am retired from the United States Army after 24 years of service and four deployments.

What was your rank upon retirement?

My rank upon retirement was Lieutenant Colonel.

What was your favorite duty station? Why?

My favorite duty station was my time at Fort Cavazos (Ft Hood), Texas. At Fort Cavazos, which is the biggest post in the continental United States, I felt the love of the Army and esprit de corps as you touched every piece of the Army on any given day. I performed most of my formative years there as both an enlisted service member and an officer. I enjoyed the variety of assignments. You could easily be out running with Soldiers in the morning at the ground level touching the lives of an 18-year-old Soldier, transitioning to running meetings at the operational or strategic level, and finishing the day checking out a test on new equipment for the Soldier to be completed at Army Test and Evaluation Command. Every day was different, and every day was focused on people, the mission, and readiness. We trained to deploy at a moment's notice, always being challenged to "*Be all that you can be daily.*" America's Sons and Daughters lives depend on us training the way we fight.

What attracted you to the Pool Scouts franchise?

I was introduced to the Pool Scouts franchise by Steven Manker, my dear friend at Franchise. I liked the concept and model presented based on previous experience. I wanted to be a part of a franchise that believed in its people and cared about family. Kevin Wilson of Buzz Franchise Brands represented that family atmosphere along with Michael Wagner President of Pool Scouts. I desired to do something that allowed me to interact with our community. Pool Scouts has allowed me to connect with our customers in their most sacred place (their home) and extend that love into our community. It is a way to connect with our customers throughout the Tennessee Valley on a routine basis as we are in backyards every day performing over 32 visits per person over a pool season which is about 70% of the year. It's a place where we become part of someone's extended family. We also can help the youth with swimming, drown-proofing, and other initiatives.

What is your and your family's go-to place in Huntsville for dining out? Why?

One of our favorite restaurants in Huntsville is "The Boot" in South Huntsville. We love the family-friendly atmosphere and the people who work there. They always remember your name, so you are treated like family. Their Italian food is amazing, from pizza to lasagna they have not disappointed. The music is also a plus as they play a wide selection.

Tell us about your volunteer work and church affiliation.

We are members of Saint Bartley Primitive Baptist Church located in the Northwood community. Saint Bartley is the oldest African American Baptist Church in the state of Alabama celebrating over 200 years of service to Huntsville and surrounding communities.

My volunteer work revolves around, church, community, and our youth. I am a board Member of Bartley Bridge. My wife and I support the Huntsville Veteran Centers, surrounding schools in the Huntsville Independent School District (ISD), Manna House, Christmas Charities, and Tut Fann Veterans Home to name just a few.

Sheena and I donate to multiple causes. We participate in Read Across America, voting drives, giving to veterans, helping the homeless, donating to community gardens, community clean up through Operation Green Team of Huntsville, and other causes. She and I also assist our community through multiple organizations we are members of. I also teach at two of our local colleges, investing in our youth.

If you could invite three people, living or not, to dinner who would they be?

Major General David Wilson, Warren Buffet, General Benjamin O. Davis Jr.

Who would your wife invite to dinner?

Madam C.J. Walker, Walt Disney, and my grandmother, Valena C. Jones.

What would you like the readers of South Huntsville Neighbors to know about Pool Scouts and Rontario "Ron" Hicks?

Rontario Hicks is a native of Picayune, Mississippi. I am the son of Melvin and Lecrease Hicks. I thank GOD every day for allowing

me to serve his purpose. I am thankful for my wife Sheena and our amazing kids and grandson for the joys they provide in my life. I am a graduate of Alcorn State University where I obtained my B.S. and M.S. I am proud to have joined and served with the less than 1% of Americans that have served in the military as a Soldier both enlisted and an officer rank along with serving as a Department of Defense civilian for over 27 years protecting our freedoms in which we hold dear. I am the owner and general manager of Pool Scouts of Huntsville. I am a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc., the Prince Hall Freemasonry, and Improved Benevolent Protective Order Elks. I love being a member of the Huntsville community and I am proud of its diversity and growth. I am very happy and excited to be a servant of the community that believes in building partnerships for the greater good.

At Pool Scouts, we are dedicated to transforming your outdoor oasis into a worry-free haven. Our highly trained pool service professionals specialize in taking the stress out of pool maintenance and repair, allowing you to indulge in the pure joy of crystal-clear waters without a care in the world. We perform inground swimming pool services that cover everything and anything after water has been added to your pool. We perform routine pool service year-round, vacation pool service, pool inspections, heaters, salt systems, vinyl liner repair and replacements, and many other services. We guarantee perfection in every aspect of our swimming pool services. Delivering a promise as solid as Perfect Pools, Scout's Honor!

With cutting-edge technology and a commitment to best-in-class customer service, we provide a 5-star treatment for your pool care needs. Whether you require a one-time specialty clean or year-round recurring pool cleaning service, Pool Scouts is your trusted partner. We invite you to spend your precious free time enjoying your pool, leaving the cleaning and maintenance to us. Our goal is to make Pool Scouts your go-to pool service company and elevate your pool experience to unparalleled levels of relaxation and enjoyment.

At Pool Scouts, our vision is to redefine the standard of pool care by consistently delivering excellence and innovation. We envision a world where every pool owner experiences the sheer delight of a pristine oasis, effortlessly maintained by our dedicated professionals leaving our customers with the 5-Star experience. Through our unwavering commitment to cutting-edge technology and unparalleled customer service, we aspire to be the trusted partner in transforming outdoor spaces into worry-free havens.

NOW BOOKING!

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