

Melvin E. Walker, Jr.
Retired Professor of Agricultural Economics and Economics
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Melvin E. Walker, Jr. was born on October 23, 1946, in Shivers, Mississippi. He attended Lily Hill Elementary School and graduated from New Hymn High School, Pinola, Mississippi in 1965. He received the Associate of Science degree from Prentiss Junior College, Prentiss, Mississippi in 1967; the B.S. degree in General Agriculture from Alcorn State College, Lorman, Mississippi in 1969; and the M.S. and the Ph.D. degrees in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois in 1971 and 1973, respectively.

Walker joined The Fort Valley State University in 1973 as Assistant Professor of Agricultural Economics and was appointed Coordinator of Rural Development Research in 1974. He was named Director of the Agricultural Research Station and promoted to the ranks of Associate Professor and Professor in 1978 and 1984, respectively. He was appointed Dean and Research Director, College of Agriculture, Home Economics and Allied Programs on September 1, 1987. He was appointed Acting President effective October 1, 1988, and returned to the positions of Dean and Research Director on August 9, 1990 where he served until 1998. He served as professor of Agricultural Economics from 1998 to 2007 and as Professor of Economics from 2007 until retirement in December, 2012.

He has published extensively in the areas of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology. Among his publications are: "Economic Effects of a Total Farm Nitrogen Balance Approach to Reductions of Potential Nitrate Pollution," "Poverty and Alienation: A Case Study," "Yield and Income Variability for Selected Georgia Crops," "Are Rural Service Agencies Reaching the People with the Greatest Needs?," "The Culture of Poverty among Families in Rural Georgia," and "Powerlessness and Its Effects on Social Participation."

He holds membership in a number of professional and civic organizations and has served on many regional and national committees. Among these are: The American Agricultural Economics Association; The American Association of University Professors; The Southern Agricultural Economics Association; The National Economics Association; The American Rural Sociological Society; The Alumni Chapter of Future Farmers of America (President); The United States Department of Agriculture, Economic Research Service, Price and Income Policy Workers Task Force; The Southern Rural Development Center's Impact of Government Transfer Payments on Human Resource Development Network; Membership Committee of the American Agricultural Economics Association; The American Rural Sociological Society's Committee for the Development of Rural Sociology in the South; Advisory Committee for the Western Rural Development Center; The Board of Directors of the Georgia Agricultural Economics Association; Board of Directors of Division of Agriculture, National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges; the Experiment Station Committee on Organization and Policy; and the Association of Research Directors (two term Chairman). He is a member of the Fort Valley Kiwanis (President and Board Member); Fort Valley Evening Optimists (President and Board Member); Leadership Georgia; Leadership Peach (President); and the Joint Council of Food and Agricultural Sciences, United States Department of Agriculture. He has also served as a member of the Board of Trustees, Peach Public Libraries; Board of Directors Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America (Vice President for Membership); the Peach County Water and Sewage Authority (Chairman); the Peach County Board of Commissioners (Chairman); Board of Directors, Association of Social and Behavioral Scientists (Treasurer); and the Board of Directors, Citizens Bank, Fort Valley, GA. and Columbus Bank and Trust, Warner Robins.

He has received several outstanding service awards including Jack and Jill of America's Father of the year; Trinity Baptist Church's Man of the Year; Saint Peter AME's Community Man of the Year; and the Central Georgia Council, Boy Scouts of America's Golden Eagle Award 1912. He is listed in the 1969 Edition of Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities; the 1976 Edition of Outstanding Young Men in America; and is a member of Gamma Sigma Delta Honor Society of Agriculture, and Beta Chi Boule'.

Walker is the son of the late Melvin, Sr. and Rosie Walker of New Hebron, Mississippi and is married to the former Jeraldine Wooden of Albany, Georgia. They have four children: Angela- *Special Education Teacher*, Charlotte (NC); Daphne Melinda – *Former Chief Magistrate Judge, Clayton County (GA) and current President and CEO, Partnership Against Domestic Violence*; Melvin, III (deceased) -*Mechanical Engineer; Robins Air Force Base*; and Melanie Latrice -*Dental Student, Meharry Medical College (TN)*. He and Jeraldine reside in Fort Valley, Georgia.