

## **Frank M. Ruff, Jr., Senate of Virginia**

Senator Frank Ruff was elected to serve in the Virginia Senate in November 2000 to fill the unexpired term of the late Richard Holland. Prior to Frank's election to the Virginia Senate he served in the Virginia House of Delegates since first elected in 1993. Frank is retired from the furniture business and dedicates his time to serving the people of Southside Virginia.

Frank serves on the Senate Standing Committees of Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources, Rules, Finance, and General Laws and Technology of which he is Chairman. He serves on the Broadband Advisory Council, Center for Rural Virginia Board of Trustees, Small Business Commission, Southern Virginia Higher Education Center Board of Trustees, Tobacco Region Revitalization Commission of which he is Vice-Chairman, Virginia Board of Workforce Development, Growth and Opportunity Board, as well as several other committees and commissions and is involved in several national organizations.

For the last several years, Frank has focused on economic development, education, and workforce training in rural Virginia. He led the effort for forgivable student loans through the Tobacco Commission scholarships for students returning to the area after graduation. As well, he has worked with businesses and community colleges to create workforce training to independent certifications that is offered in several weeks rather than the traditional two year programs.