

Bill Crump

A Delta "Helper"

By Charlotte Buchanan

Photograph By Jay Adkins

Bill Crump, native of Schlater, Mississippi, has spent almost his entire life supporting the Delta and looking for ways to improve the living standards of this area.

"At the age of 18, I was elected to the Board of Aldermen in Schlater and then at 19, I was elected its mayor, the youngest mayor in the country," he says.

Crump went on to spend ten years in Washington, D.C. where he was chief of staff for both U.S. Congressman Webb Franklin and Congressman Connie Mack. In addition, he served as Deputy to the Chairman of the Republican National Committee as well as other offices.

Crump has been with Viking Range Corporation for nine years. He currently holds the position of Director of Governmental Affairs and Executive Assistant to the President and CEO. He graduated from Delta State University in 1976 and was president of the student body his senior year.

The Viking executive played a vital role in getting the movie, "The Help." "I was very pleased to play a role in bringing this movie to Greenwood. Economic development is about much more than factories and factory jobs. It is about retail, service jobs, restaurants and hotels. Every once in a while, something comes along that has the potential of a major impact on the local community that does not fit in the usual category of economic development. 'The Help' was such an event," Crump says.

Crump is a member of the Greenwood-Leflore Chamber of Commerce and is currently serving as past president. He is chairman of the Greenwood-Leflore-Carroll Economic Development Foundation and is chairman of the Greenwood-Leflore Industrial Board. He serves on the board of the Mississippi Economic Council and the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Better Business Bureau, as well as the Greenwood-Leflore Hospital Foundation Board. He is a former vice-president of Delta Council and is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church in Greenwood.

Crump is modest about his role in the Viking Classic Golf Tournament, which was a huge success. "I was proud to play a small part in this, we have a great team of people and volunteers working throughout the year to make this a success. The tournament has an economic impact to the state of over \$20 million. It is broadcast by the Golf Channel so the image and public

