



**NORMA ALDRIDGE RETIRES FROM FIRST FARMERS’  
N. ELLINGTON PARKWAY OFFICE IN LEWISBURG**

*Leaves behind almost half century of banking memories*

**LEWISBURG, Tenn. (May 25, 2010)** – After almost 50 years of helping customers with their financial needs, Norma Aldridge, First Vice President of First Farmers & Merchants Bank’s Ellington Parkway branch in Lewisburg retired March 31, 2010. The banking dynamo now intends to spend time with her favorite hobby – being a mother, homemaker and traveler.

“It’s been a real pleasure to earn a living doing what I enjoy, with people I loved and respected working for customers who were the best in the world,” Aldridge said recently. “The friendships, experiences, education and opportunities of the past 48 years have enriched my life more than I could ever imagine. I particularly appreciate my time with First Farmers.”

Aldridge entered banking in 1962, working for Peoples and Union Bank at its main office on the Lewisburg square. In 26 years she spent time in bookkeeping, teller service, Loans, Loan Processing, marketing, advertising and ATM operations. She also was a Stock Transfer Agent and Loan Officer.

In 1988, First Tennessee Bank, now First Horizon, purchased Peoples and Union, but allowed the bank to continue operating under the Peoples and Union name. For the next 13 years, Aldridge continued as a loan officer, as well as Senior Vice President and Manager in charge of the student loan program, staff operations and marketing. She also was a licensed broker/investment/insurance officer.

In 2001, First Farmers & Merchants bought Peoples and Union and Aldridge began working with her third bank company as a Loan Officer and Branch Manager of the First Farmers Ellington Office.

“Over the years I’ve witnessed a number of significant innovations in the banking industry, including drive-thru banking, ATM banking, computer conversions, on-line banking, ever-changing compliance and regulations issues and, of course, industry consolidation,” Aldridge said. “But it’s been

the people who have made all the difference for me, especially the Lewisburg staff who have been the ‘best of the best.’ They sweetened the years right down to my last day.”

The Lewisburg native cited a number of mentors that have made a difference in her career, including John L. Wallace, James M. Jones, William B. Marsh, and T. Randy Stevens, all attorneys and bankers who have demonstrated by example that “there is no substitute for quality” and reinforcing her belief that “excellence is the best job security,” she said.

Aldridge is a former member and director of the Lewisburg Rotary Club and a Paul Harris Fellow. She also served as Treasurer for the Marshall County Heart Fund for 12 years, Chairman of the Marshall County Cancer Memorial for eight years, Director of the Marshall County UGF for two years, Director and Chairman of the Board for the Marshall County Senior Citizens for two years and Director of the Marshall County Chamber of Commerce for six years.

She is now devoting time to her husband, Jackie, a retired ICP manager and her son, Troy, and daughter-in-law Terrie. Troy is Gifted Student Counselor at Ravenwood High School in Brentwood, Tenn., and Terrie runs her own event production business in Nashville.

“While it’s hard not to go to work at the bank every day, I know it will continue just fine without me,” Aldridge said. “It’s in great hands with wonderful management who, I know, work hard every day to provide the best financial and community services. I’m looking forward to simply being a customer!”

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***About First Farmers & Merchants Bank***

*Founded in 1909, First Farmers & Merchants Bank (Member FDIC) is one of the most successful independent banks in Tennessee, with total assets of approximately \$935 million and deposits in excess of \$772 million. An additional \$2.7 billion in assets is held by its Trust & Financial Management Department. Headquartered in Columbia, Tenn., the bank operates 17 offices in a seven-county area in Middle Tennessee that includes Maury, Lawrence Marshall, Hickman, Giles, Dickson and Williamson counties. It is distinguished by its commitment to traditional, personal banking relationships that incorporate state-of-the-art technology to provide the highest possible level of service. For additional information, visit [www.myfirstfarmers.com](http://www.myfirstfarmers.com) or call the main office at 931.388.3145.*