

## VINCENT R. FARIAS Biography

He calls himself “River Rat” through and through and, in fact, Freeholder Vincent R. Farias is a lifelong resident of Burlington County’s Delaware riverfront community. Born at Burlington County Memorial Hospital on February 22, 1946, Vince was raised in Beverly and currently lives in neighboring Edgewater Park, with his wife of 30 years, Michelle. They are parents to Stacy, Christie, and Brian, and proud grandparents to Sara and Allyson.

Vince Farias can lay claim to many titles- teacher, banker, businessman, and freeholder- but he also has a remarkable record of involvement with civic and charitable organizations. Flamboyant, outspoken and always upbeat, Vince’s “salesmanship” makes him an outstanding asset when it comes to promoting, and fundraising for, worth causes. And, as many will attest, he is not above putting on a costume or stepping a dunk tank to accomplish his goal.

The March of Dimes, and its dedication to research of children’s diseases, has long captivated Vince’s interest, and he is currently regional chairman. But he is also Chairman of the seven-county South Jersey Chapter of the American Heart Association, a member of the Rotary Club of Mount Holly, and a member of the Board of Directors for the Burlington County Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Not to be overlooked is his past memberships on the Edgewater Park Board of Education and the Burlington County Special Services School Board. Vince, by the way, has 25 years teaching experience in the areas of math and special needs; education and children often govern the decisions he makes as a public official, and the actions he takes as a volunteer.

It doesn’t stop there. Vince is extremely active with his church, St. Stephen’s Episcopal Church of Beverly, and he has a past history of volunteerism with the Edgewater Park PTA, and the Edgewater Park Athletic Association. His 20-year involvement in local youth sports- which included stints as an umpire, referee, and coach- has given him a wealth of humorous stories to draw upon, told only in a way that Vince can.

A 1969 graduate of Monmouth College with a Bachelor’s degree in political science, Vince received his teaching certification from Rider College in 1970.

For the past 27 years he has been the president of Farias, Inc., operating a chain of seven recreational equipment and sports clothing stores along the South Jersey shore which employ more than 50 people. He is also a Director of Farmers & Mechanics’ Bank, and an incorporator and director of Burlington County Bank.

Now in his third three-year term as a member of the Burlington County Board of Chosen Freeholders, Vince’s assignment areas these days include Burlington County

Library, the Office of Economic Development, the Office of Engineering, and the Highway Department.

Vince not only possesses an extensive record of community and public service, it can be safely said he has, through all his activities, literally touched the lives of thousands of men, women and children in Burlington County, and beyond our borders. The Volunteer Center of Burlington County is proud to honor Vincent R. Farias as the second annual recipient of the Lloyd Ritter Community Service Award.