

When Bobby Hill started volunteering with the Davis Corner Volunteer Fire and Rescue Squad in 1968, he displayed as much enthusiasm as one would expect of the then 19-year-old.

“There was an excitement about it,” said the Princess Anne High School alum of responding to calls for help on the wheels of an emergency vehicle. He was also drawn to the challenges, such as fighting a fire or extricating someone from a vehicle after a collision, he said.

But Hill’s service gene seems as firmly planted as his Princess Anne County roots – both his father and uncle were volunteer firemen, Hill said, and two brothers are career firefighters in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach, respectively.

Hill, who retired this year as chief magistrate of Virginia Beach, is the new recruitment coordinator for the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation. His primary role is to open doors and communicate a “you can do this” attitude as far as volunteering for the citywide nonprofit emergency rescue service, he said.

There’s always a need for “volunteers on the street,” Hill said, but there are also administrative support positions volunteers can fill.

“Our message is simple,” he explained. “Doesn’t matter if you are 18, 28, 48 or 68 years of age, you can make a difference in someone’s life as a Virginia Beach EMS volunteer.”

To find out more about becoming an EMS volunteer, visit www.livesneedsaving.com, or call 385-2911.

What you enjoy most about the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation The passion that flows from the foundation board members and the executive director in supporting an all volunteer Virginia Beach EMS system. I wish I could bottle that passion and donate it to the people of Virginia Beach.

Connection to the foundation prior to becoming its recruitment coordinator My service with the Virginia Beach Volunteer Rescue Squad started in 1972. The foundation came into existence in 1982 and in the late 1980s I began focusing more on recruitment and retention of volunteers, which led to a closer working relationship with the foundation.



STEVE EARLEY | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Bobby Hill

Recruitment director for Beach Rescue Squad Foundation wants volunteers to know they ‘can make a difference in someone’s life’

INTERVIEW BY VICTORIA BOURNE | THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Challenges you expect to face The “volunteer spirit” is very strong in the Hampton Roads community. Activating that “volunteer EMS spirit gene” will require an ongoing marketing campaign.

What about the job excites you most The opportunity to partner the foundation resources with the resources of the Virginia Beach Department of EMS recruitment career staff.

Describe EMS volunteers in two words Caring professionals.

A snapshot of you enjoying a perfect day A cool crisp clear early spring day, traveling around the city with my Sony digital camera and lens bag, shooting photos of people, wildlife and everyday events.

Favorite gadget A clean, fully equipped

staffed Virginia Beach ambulance.

Favorite movies “Star Trek” (all zillion of them), “Gettysburg,” “Gods and Generals”

A recently read book you’d recommend “The Power of Small, Why Little Things Make All the Difference” by Linda K. Thaler and Robin Koval

Most utilized recruitment tool A trained EMS volunteer.

Pet peeve To hear someone make a comment that EMS volunteers are not professionals. Career and volunteer medics are certified, highly qualified, motivated individuals.

Comfort food My wife’s made-from-scratch meatloaf.

The TV show you’re most likely to TiVo “NCIS”

Of what achievements are you most

proud? My career as chief magistrate in the Virginia Beach Court System was a rewarding time for me. However, during my 40-year EMS volunteer service I delivered four babies and on at least three occasions, I successfully restarted the heart of a pulse-less, nonbreathing person by defibrillation. But just as rewarding were the many calls for service where the focus was and still is on providing compassion, comfort and a hand to hold on to when transporting to the emergency room.

If you could invite three famous people, living or dead, to dinner, who would they be? Leonard Nimoy, President Barack Obama, Dr. Mehmet Oz

Theme song “It’s a New Day” by Will.i.am

What would you tell someone to encourage their interest in becoming a rescue squad volunteer? Some people volunteer looking for the rush that comes with the response to an emergency, others seek certification skills in the emergency medical field in hopes of finding employment and many just want to help their community. Join one of our 10 volunteer squads and offer a hand to someone in need and feel the satisfaction that comes with helping others.

Bio

Full name Robert S. Hill Jr.

Neighborhood Great Neck Meadows

Age 60

Nickname Bobby

Marital status Married to Terry Lynn Hill for 38 years.

Children Becky, 28, transplant supervisor at Washington Regional Transplant Community

Occupation Recruitment coordinator for the Virginia Beach Rescue Squad Foundation.

Education High school with a year or two of college plus a plethora of certification hours in the EMS/rescue field.

Community service 40 years Virginia Beach EMS/fire/rescue volunteer; 12 years working with the Miyazaki Sister City program.

Hobbies Photography, reading

Good luck charm Dragons

Personal motto “You can make a difference.”