

James W. Frierson

Jim Frierson is the founder of **Compass Innovation**, a strategic consultancy that advises early-stage growth companies on market opportunities. He co-founded the **Tennessee Advanced Energy Business Council** and was vice chair of the **Chattanooga Green Committee**, appointed by the city's mayor to develop and implement the city's Climate Action Plan. Previously he served as a director of the **Advanced Transportation Technology Institute**, a national non-profit organization promoting research and development of next-generation electric and hybrid vehicles and systems.

He has served as director of programs for the **National Council on Readiness and Preparedness**, developing a national blueprint for homeland security that involves first responders, major employers and civic leaders.

Jim conceived of the family-sponsored Kruesi Spirit of Innovation Award, the nation's first award to recognize community-based breakthroughs and a model for programs elsewhere.

He has worked as a reporter, editorial writer and perspective editor for the **Chattanooga Times Free Press** and several city magazines. He served as chairman and director of the **Tennessee World Trade Center**. Jim was director of strategic initiatives at **RiverValley Partners**, the public/private entity driving the economic renaissance of downtown Chattanooga. He has worked in affiliation with the law firm of **Baker, Donelson, Bearman and Caldwell**.

With former US Senator Bill Brock of Tennessee, he co-founded **The Brock Group, Ltd.**, an international trade and investment strategy firm in Washington, DC, and was a partner until his return to Chattanooga in 1995.

As an appointee of President Ronald Reagan's administration, he worked with two cabinet officers, Bill Brock and Clayton Yeutter, in the **Office of the United States Trade Representative**, serving as the chief of staff in the second administration. Their teams from the Executive Office of the President developed and negotiated policies that launched the first bilateral free trade agreements and the new World Trade Organization.

Jim has a special background in **Japan**, where he has lived and worked on three assignments -- with the import-export firm of J. Osawa & Co., the law firm of Yanagida and Sakuragi, and on the faculty of the Institute for International Studies and Training.

His earlier Washington, DC experience includes positions with the **Republican National Committee**, the **Department of Justice** and **Senator Howard Baker** of Tennessee. He received his JD degree from **Vanderbilt University School of Law** in 1977 and was admitted to practice in both Tennessee and Louisiana. An AB degree in History from **Princeton University** in 1973 was awarded for his original field research and thesis on "Jose Clemente Orozco: The Mural Artist as Reporter of History."

Reflecting a wide spectrum of public policy interests in his state and community, Jim serves on the advisory boards of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition, Global South Summit and Tennessee Small Business Development Center. He was appointed to the Governor's International Affairs Council and the Southern Technology Council. For a decade he served as vice chair of the Tennessee District Export Council, appointed by three US Secretaries of Commerce; and as president and the sole public representative on the board of the Tennessee Architecture Foundation. He has been a board member of the Tennessee Technology Development Corporation (LaunchTN), Life Sciences Tennessee and the Chattanooga Technology Council. He has chaired the US Green Building Council's Technical Advisory Group on alternative transportation credits for LEED certification. He has worked actively in fifteen election campaigns, from city and county offices to the U.S. Senate and White House.

His spouse Patti, a 1978 graduate of Vanderbilt University, directs the online ChattanoogaNow.com for the *Times Free Press*. They and their three children are parishioners of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.