

# Bank of Granite

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**NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Forlines to Retire at Bank of Granite Will Serve as Consultant

Many of John Forlines' friends said he would never retire from Bank of Granite, where he has worked for almost 52 years. However, Forlines has announced, effective January 8, 2006, that he will no longer serve as Chairman and will retire from active management of the bank. Charles M. Snipes, who already serves as President and CEO, will also assume the title of Chairman.

While he will no longer be an active officer, Forlines will continue to keep his office in the bank's Granite Falls office and will serve as a consultant to Bank of Granite and Bank of Granite Corporation. Snipes said Forlines will be asked to do a number of special projects for the bank and the company and Forlines said he would be available to help Snipes and his management team in any way he is needed. Snipes said he expects Forlines to be a Goodwill Ambassador for the bank. "Fortunately, for me and Bank of Granite, my long-time Executive Assistant, Melodie Mathes, will continue to work with me," Forlines said.

Forlines said he would remain active in the community, particularly, locally, especially with Caldwell County Hospice and Palliative Care and with Caldwell Community College Foundation, and also with Duke University. Forlines also said he wanted to travel more and spend more time with his four children and eight grandchildren. "I'll be available to help the bank, but I will also have time to do other things that I haven't had time to do for the past 52 years." He also plans to play a little more golf and visit Quest 4-Life, a Lenoir fitness center, more often. When asked why his retirement was to be effective on January 8, he said, "It's no big deal. It's my birthday and I thought this was a good time to do it." Forlines will be 88 on January 8, 2006. He said he didn't feel that old and wanted to stay healthy and active as long as possible.

Forlines became head of Bank of Granite on May 1, 1954, when it had one office, in Granite Falls, with resources of slightly over \$1 million. Today resources are over \$1 billion and the bank has twenty-one full service offices in seven counties—Caldwell, Catawba, Burke, Mecklenburg, Watauga, Wilkes, and Forsyth. Bank of Granite Corporation also owns Granite Mortgage, Inc., headquartered in Winston-Salem, which originates home mortgages in all of the bank offices as well as in Greensboro, Salisbury, and Fayetteville.

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