NEWS RELEASE

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25 Years Strong: Honoring the Businesses That Built Our Region

Danville, VA – In 2026, the Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce celebrates a milestone that reflects vision, collaboration, and a shared commitment to regional success - 25 years as a Regional Chamber.

The Chamber, as we know it today, was officially formed on July 1, 2001, following the merger of the former Danville Area Chamber of Commerce and the Pittsylvania County Chamber of Commerce.

This historic decision did not happen overnight. Merger discussions began in May 2000, after years of collaboration between the two organizations through joint programs and a shared membership base. Recognizing the opportunity to better serve businesses across the region, members of both Chambers overwhelmingly voted in May 2001 to unite as one.

With that vote, a new chapter began - one rooted in the belief that regional collaboration would create stronger outcomes than operating separately.

The newly formed Chamber launched under the leadership of its first co-chairs, Gene Hayes and Linda Rhue, alongside a diverse and dedicated board representing industries across the region. Their collective leadership laid the foundation for what would become a powerful voice for business in Danville and Pittsylvania County.

The merger also reflected a thoughtful commitment to serving the entire region. The main office was established in Blairs, with a continued presence in Danville and the addition of a satellite office in Gretna - ensuring accessibility and engagement across both communities.

While the Regional Chamber was formed in 2001, its roots run much deeper.

The Danville Chamber traces its origins back to 1894, when it was founded as the Commercial Association with a mission to promote the business and general interests of the city. Meanwhile, the Pittsylvania County Chamber was established in 1981 through the consolidation of the Chatham and Gretna Chambers, growing rapidly to support businesses throughout the county.

Together, these organizations brought more than a century of leadership, advocacy, and community focus into a single, unified Chamber.

Honoring 25-Year Legacy Members

As the Chamber celebrates this 25th Anniversary, it proudly recognizes 126 businesses and organizations who have remained committed members since that pivotal year in 2001.

These legacy members represent the backbone of our business community. Their continued investment in the Chamber, and in this region, has helped shape economic growth, support workforce development, and strengthen the connections that make Danville and Pittsylvania County thrive.

Their longevity is more than a milestone - it is a testament to resilience, leadership, and a belief in the power of partnership.

Through economic shifts, periods of transformation, and new opportunities, these businesses have remained steadfast - not only sustaining their own success but contributing to the success of others.

We honor their dedication.
We thank them for their continued trust.
And we celebrate the role they have played in building a stronger, more connected region.

Recognizing Our 25-Year Members

The Danville Pittsylvania Chamber of Commerce proudly recognizes the following members for 25 years of continuous membership:

Adams Construction Company - Southside Division
Ambulatory Foot Care Center PC
AmeriStaff Employment & Staffing Solutions
Appalachian Power Company
Arkema Inc., Sartomer Business Unit
Atlantic Union Bank formerly American National Bank & Trust
Averett University

Awards & Trophy Shop & Custom Framing
Barbee Fabrics of Danville, Inc.
Bearing Insurance
Ben David Jewelers
Better Business Bureau-Western VA
Beverage Tractor & Equipment LLC
Bisbee Honda of Danville
Blair Construction, Inc.
Bojangles - Tri-Arc Foods, Inc.
Brookdale Danville Piedmont
Carter Bank
Chandler Concrete Company
Chatham Family Medical Center
Chatham Hall
CIT
City of Danville
City of Danville-Utilities
Colbert-Moran Funeral Home, Inc.
Colonial Ridge Apartments
Columbia Forest Products
Comfort Inn & Suites
Commonwealth Home Health Care, Inc.
Daly Seven
Dan River Business Development Center
Daniel, Medley & Kirby, P.C.
Danville Area Humane Society, Inc.
Danville Community College
Danville Dental Associates
Danville Dental Associates - Chatham Office
Danville Distributing Company, Inc.
Danville Family YMCA
Danville Paint & Supply Co.
Danville Pathologists, Inc.
Danville Pittsylvania County Fair Association
Danville Register & Bee
Danville Science Center
Danville Toyota, Inc.
Danville-Pittsylvania Community Services
Davenport Communications
Davenport Energy, Inc.
Davis Storage & Warehouse, Inc.
Debbie's Staffing
Designed Benefits of Virginia, Inc.
Dewberry
Dr. Edward Snyder - Orthodontist
Eastern Panel Manufacturing, Inc.

El Vallarta Mexican Restaurant, Inc.
Electronic Development Labs, Inc.
Farm Credit of the Virginias ACA-Chatham Branch
Fire Sprinkler Ltd.
First Citizens Bank
First National Bank
First Piedmont Corporation
Fisk & Gregory, PLC
Four Seasons Pest Control, Inc.
Gateway Health
Ginger Bread House & Garden Center
God's Storehouse, Inc.
Goodwill Industries of the Valleys
Goodyear Tire & Service Networks
Hampton Inn
Hardy Petroleum
Hargrave Military Academy
Harris, Harvey, Neal & Co., LLP, CPA's - Chatham
Hughes Marine Service, Inc.
Intertape Polymer Group
J & J Truck Sales, Inc.
J. W. Squire Company, Inc.
James River Companies, LLC
JEB International Tobacco Company
K&K Owen Farms, Inc.
Lawrence Distributing Company
Longwood SBDC - Danville
Martinizing Dry Cleaning
Master Gage & Tool Co.
McDonald's of Chatham
Mecklenburg Electric Cooperative
Modern Pharmacy, Inc.
Movement Bank formerly First State Bank
Office Plus Business Centre
Peoples Mutual Telephone dba RiverStreet Networks
Peter Howard
Piedmont Broadcasting Corp., WBTM and WAKG
Piedmont Glass
Piedmont Precision Machine Co., Inc.
Pittsylvania County Community Action, Inc.
Pittsylvania County Department of Social Services
Pittsylvania County School System
Ramsey Yeatts and Associates, Realtors
Rippe’s Apparel, Shoes, Luxury Outerwear
River District Association
Riverside Health and Rehabilitation Center

Robert Woodall Chevrolet, Inc.
Roman Eagle Rehabilitation and Health Care Center, Inc.
Romar Elevators, Inc.
Russell L. Scruggs
Sacred Heart School
Simpson Realty Company
Southern Air, Inc.
Southern Refrigeration Corp.
Southside Electric Coop.
Sovah Health - Danville
Spectrum Medical
Star-Tribune/Womack Publishing
The Arc of Southside
The Community Foundation of the Dan River Region
The Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company
Town of Gretna
Townes Funeral Home, Inc.
Truist Wealth
United Way of Danville-Pittsylvania County
VA Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services
Virginia Employment Commission
VIRginia International Raceway
Wendy's, Catie Food Systems, Inc.
Wilkins & Co. Realtors
Womack Electric & Supply Co.
Wrenn-Yeatts Funeral Home
WSET-TV

Looking Ahead

Today, the Chamber continues to build on the vision established in 2001 - advancing business advocacy, supporting leadership development, and fostering meaningful connections across the region.

With a renewed focus on innovation, workforce development, and community impact, the Chamber remains committed to ensuring that businesses in Danville and Pittsylvania County have the resources and support they need to grow and succeed for generations to come.

As we celebrate 25 years, we are reminded that our greatest strength has always been - and will continue to be - our ability to work together.

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