



## **JAMES F. McKEON, IOM, CCE**

**President and CEO  
Rapid City Area Chamber of Commerce**

Jim McKeon became President and CEO of the Rapid City (SD) Area Chamber of Commerce in 1995. Under his direction the Chamber has grown in membership numbers, community involvement, and business-related programs. The Chamber currently has over 1,400 members – almost twice the average number for a community that's Rapid City's size.

McKeon earned his Institute for Organization Management certification and is one of only 170 active certified Chamber Executives (CCE) nationwide. He is the Treasurer of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives and chairs its finance committee.

A Philadelphia native, Jim earned a Bachelor of Science Degree from St. Joseph's University, Philadelphia and a Masters Degree in Business Administration at Trinity University, San Antonio. Following Air Force pilot training in Alabama, he served five tours in Viet Nam accumulating 199 combat missions in the B-52 aircraft. Jim graduated from the Air War College, Air Command and Staff College, Armed Forces Staff College, and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces. He commanded the Royal Air Force Base in Fairford, England from July 1987–July 1989 and in August 1989 became the first Wing Commander of the 99th Strategic Weapons Wing at Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota. After serving 27½ years he retired from the Air Force as a Colonel.

His Chamber career began in 1992 when he became the President and CEO of the Pierre (SD) Economic Development Corporation and the Pierre Area Chamber of Commerce.

Some of Jim's additional community activities are: President of the regional United Way Board, Board member and teacher for Junior Achievement, Rotary International, founding Board Member for America's Promise in Rapid City, Rapid City Economic Development Partnership, US Chamber of Commerce, member of Mt. Rushmore Society, Chairman of the Black Hills Business Council, Undoing Racism Committee Chair, and Community Advisor for South Dakota School of Mines & Technology.

Jim and his wife, Eileen, have four grown children.