



Dr. LeRoy Zke Zimmerman was born in Cameron, South Carolina, on 12 September 1945. He graduated from South Carolina State College in 1966 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. In 1974, he received a Master's Degree in Industrial Engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. In 1996, Zimmerman received the Education Specialist Degree from the George Washington University. And in 2005, he received his doctoral degree in education, also from the George Washington University.

In 1966, he entered active duty with the United States Army as a Second Lieutenant. He served in the military for 27 years and retired in 1993 at the rank of Colonel.

During his tour in Vietnam, Zimmerman was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds received in combat.

In 1993, Dr. Zimmerman taught at Denbigh High School, Newport News, Virginia, for 1½ years before becoming an assistant principal at Woodside High School in the same city. Zimmerman remained in that position until 2003 when he moved to Savannah and became the Assistant Principal at Herschel V. Jenkins High School. He retired from Savannah Chatham County Public Schools in 2014.

Today Zke is active in the Savannah Community where he serves as president of the 100 Black Men of Savannah. He also holds active membership in Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Alpha Lambda Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the Executive Board of the United Way of the Coastal Empire and the Executive Board for the Boy Scouts of America in the Coastal Region. He has served as Moderator of First Baptist Church Richmond Hill for 11 years and taught Sunday School for 12 years.

Zimmerman and his wife (Alice) have been married for 48 years and have one biological child, Rodney who is a graduate of UCLA and former professional basketball player. They have 1 grandchild – Jada. They are also parents to 25 other children. They have acquired 7 children since moving to Savannah in 2003. Among their 26 children, one is a graduate of the United States Air Force Academy; one is a counselor at a women's college in New York; four have their PhDs; one is an associate professor at Norfolk State University; one is a graduate of Duke University; and one received her PhD at Virginia Tech in Operations Research. It is Zimmerman's philosophy that every student can go to college. The art is to match the student with the college that best fits her or him.