

Shelby Irving was raised in Danville VA and is the youngest of seven children. A 1979 graduate of Tunstall High School, she went on to graduate from Ferrum College. While attending Ferrum she also played competitive basketball and softball.

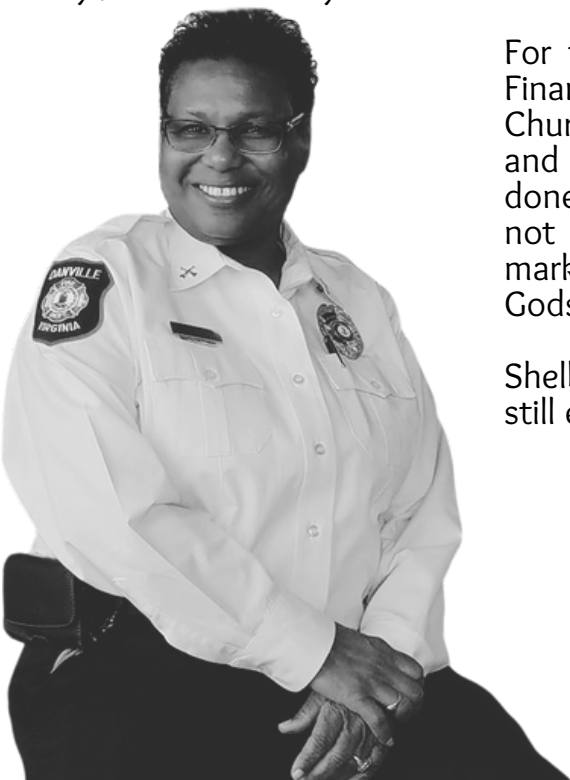
Immediately after graduating Ferrum, Shelby worked with Danville Parks & Recreation for 2 years. Her love for sports led to a 15-year career coaching basketball & softball at Averett University.

In 1987 Shelby took a leap of faith and interviewed for the otherwise male-dominated field known as the Danville Fire Department. Her tenacity and faith led to her becoming the first female firefighter for the City of Danville. She is the first African American Chief Officer, and currently the highest-ranking African America officer in the fire department. She spent 16 years as a firefighter at fire station three on Industrial Avenue. In 2004, Shelby was promoted to Assistant Fire Marshal. In 2007 Shelby was promoted to Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal. In 2022 Shelby was promoted to Division Chief/Fire Marshal. Shelby has been in the Fire Marshal's office for 19 years and is now serving as the Community Risk Reduction Director for the Danville Fire Department.

She is certified by the State of Virginia as a Fire Investigator, Inspector, and Fire and Life Safety Officer. Shelby is known for hosting a local television show "Fire Watch" which was broadcasted on local government channel 10 River City TV. In 1996 she was honored as the "Outstanding Young Firefighter of the Year". In 2005, she graduated Summa Cum Laude from Danville Community College with an associate degree in Fire Science. She was also inducted into their Honor Society.

In 2006, she was honored as "Firefighter of the Year by American Legion post 1097. In 2010, Shelby graduated Leadership Southside. In 2010 she was honored by DCC as one of their Outstanding Alumni. In 2012, she received the Ruby Archie Excellence in Leadership Award by Evince Magazine. In 2019, she received the Martin Luther King Jr. America's Sunday Supper Award. On January 20, 2020, Shelby was recognized by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity for Outstanding Service to the Danville Community. January 27, 2020, Shelby received the Community Strong Person of the Year Award given by URW Credit Union. In 2021 Shelby was inducted into the Ferrum College Sports Hall of Fame.

In 2022 Shelby graduated from the VA Law Enforcement Academy, obtaining police powers. In 2022 Shelby was honored as the 2022 Woman of the Year by the NAACP. Shelby serves on numerous boards throughout the community, Danville Pittsylvania Community Services as past Chairperson, God's Storehouse, Averett University Nursing Advisory Board, Danville Community College Alumni Council past President, Hughes Memorial Foundation Board of Directors, Festival in the Park Board, Co-Chair of the Harry Johnson Holiday Classic.



For the past 32 years, she has held the position of Treasurer and/or Finance Secretary at her home Church, Jones Chapel Missionary Baptist Church. Shelby is and always has been highly active in the community and her church. Always willing to lend a hand, and eager get the job done. Her faith is strong, and she finds her strength in God. When she is not working, she enjoys, attending sporting events, shopping, flea markets, relaxing at her lake house, or spending time with her precious Godson "JaShawn."

Shelby just started her 37th year with the Danville Fire Department and still enjoying every minute of it

Division Chief Shelby Irving