

Award: Lifetime Achievement Award
Recipient: Lloyd Carter, Jr.
Presenter: Lisa Dixon

Thank you, Paulette. Good evening again.

Several months ago, our Board and Staff had joyfully and enthusiastically selected our long-time fellow Board member, Mr. Lloyd Carter, Jr. to be the recipient of our Lifetime Achievement Award.

We knew that Mr. Carter would be pleased to receive this recognition, and presenting this award to him was to be one of our highlights of this evening.

This was never intended to be a posthumous award. Sadly, Mr. Carter passed away on April 5 of this year. He was 86 years old.

But we are grateful this evening to be joined by Mr. Carter's son, Raymond, and his wife Connie, who are here to receive the award on behalf of Mr. Carter.

Raymond and Connie, we are sorry for your loss. Your father was a truly wonderful man.

Our Lifetime Achievement Award recognizes someone for a body of work over a lifetime. And Mr. Carter's life exemplified service and caring – service to this nation; service to democracy and civil rights; service to this community; and service to his family.

Mr. Carter was a navy veteran, born in Edwards, Mississippi, who lived most of his life in Champaign-Urbana. He was an electrician who started Carter's Electrical Contracting Company, one of the first black-owned firms of its kind.

In a 2007 News-Gazette article that featured Mr. Carter, the article stated that "Lloyd Carter, Jr. sees his responsibility as a public servant to watch out for the average person's interests."

And he did watch out for the average person's interests. He made it his mission. Mr. Carter had a long and distinguished track record of service to this community. He served on the Urbana City Council from 1968 to 1974.

He also served as President of the Champaign County NAACP. And a bit later, he went on to serve on the Champaign County Board for 24 years, since first being elected in 1992.

While on the County Board, he regularly called for more minority workers to be hired on for County projects.

Mr. Carter's service work was recognized nationally, when he received the National Council of African American Men's Community Achievement Award.

Our organization was fortunate to have Mr. Lloyd Carter, Jr. serve on our Board for over 20 years, since when he joined in the mid-90s.

Whether on our Board, or on the County Board, Mr. Carter was diligent – he always did his homework. He read his packet and he came prepared to legislate. He was outspoken. He never hesitated to speak or to express himself. Never.

But always, his focus was on serving the interests of the people – low-income people; average people.

And no matter how outspoken Mr. Carter was, or how much you might disagree with him, you could never not like him.

He was warm, sincere, true, and kind. As our fellow Board member, Jenny Putman said, “Mr. Carter was all heart.” He would always greet you with a smile, and his warmth would light up the room.

Mr. Carter loved Health Care Consumers. Even when he couldn’t attend our Board Meetings because they conflicted with County Board meetings, he would call Claudia or see her out somewhere and tell her that he loved us and missed us, and he would let her know that he read his packet. He was proud to serve on our Board, and we are so proud and grateful to have had his service.

Mr. Carter truly graced our organization, and we are all better because he was here, to make things better. We love him and we miss him, and we want to make him proud.

Raymond and Connie, on behalf of Champaign County Health Care Consumers, with gratitude, I present you with your father’s Lifetime Achievement Award.