

NEWS RELEASE

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**Donn Gunderson
2009 NCACDSS Lifetime Achievement Winner**



Donn Gunderson, former Director of the Craven County Department of Social Services from 1999 - 2005, was named the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner by his peers at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS). The award was presented posthumously on July 9, 2009 at the NCACDSS Awards Banquet in Wilmington, NC. Brenda Jackson, Director of Cumberland County DSS and Jim Cook, Retired Director of Cabarrus County DSS presented the award to Mr. Gunderson's family Thursday evening.

Don served as Director of Social Services in three counties: Lee, Vance and Craven. He was an active member of NCACDSS and served in many capacities including as President, and as Co-Chair of the Fiscal and Services to Children and Families Committees. Prior to his death in 2005, Don was especially instrumental in leading the Children Services Committee's efforts in advocating for child welfare legislation and policies that were crucial towards ensuring the safety and well-being of children and adults in North Carolina.

Always a true champion for the most vulnerable citizens served by county DSS, Don never hesitated to take a stand and be the first to make a motion for action. Gunderson is survived by his wife Jan and his two children Christopher and Beth Gunderson. Jan graciously accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award in memory and recognition of her husband's accomplishments.
