

NEWS RELEASE

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Date: July 22, 2009
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Edward L. Garrison 2009 NCACDSS Lifetime Achievement Winner



Edward L. Garrison, Retired Director of the Pitt County Department of Social Services, was named a 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 on July 9, 2009 at the NCACDSS Awards Banquet in Wilmington, NC.

Garrison (*pictured third from the left*) had been a Director of Social Services in North Carolina for 37 years. During that time, he served as the Director of the Pitt County Department of Social Services from January 1980 to December 2005. His experience in and impact on Social Services has been broad and significant throughout the State of North Carolina.

Over the past 37 years, Garrison has been active in creating and shaping Social Services programming. In 1963, Garrison graduated from North Carolina State University with a Bachelors degree in Rural Sociology and earned his Masters in Social Work from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1967. From 1963 – 1966, Mr. Garrison worked as a social worker at the Rutherford County DSS and worked at the McDowell Co. DSS as a Social Work Supervisor until 1968. It was in 1968 that Garrison was named Director of the Department of Social Services in Halifax County where he served for the next 11 years. In 1980, he began his duties as Director of Pitt Co DSS in Greenville, NC where he retired in December of 2005.

His many honors include: The 2005 Order of the Long Leaf Pine by Governor Easley, Outstanding Director of Social Services by the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, Past President of Southern Community Services Executive Blue Ridge Institute and as President of the NCACDSS, NCACDSS Director of the Year, NASW Social Worker of the Year, Service Award as President of NCSSA and the Seniors Call to Action (SCAT) Volunteer of the Year Award in 2007.

Garrison has one daughter Harriett and son-in-law, Keith and is the proud grandfather of 2 grandchildren, Kelly and Alex. Garrison graciously accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award from nominating directors, Jack Jones (Lenoir County DSS Director), Jay Burrus (Dare County DSS Director) and Jerry Rhodes (Washington County DSS Director) and acknowledged the many years of meaningful contributions made by his peers and staff, and the valuable partnerships that contributed to his success.
