

*Arlington County Civic Federation
Arlington, Virginia
93rd Year
The Civic Voice of Arlington*

CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The Honorable Frank K. Wilson

April 3, 2009

Our honoree tonight arrived in Arlington from Oregon in 1961 to find a life still constrained by segregation in housing, restaurants, and public transportation. And, as our honoree noted last year, "Schools still reflected that." So, for almost a quarter of a century – from 1984 – 2009, this person became a tireless fighter for an environment in which all students would achieve.

An independent thinker, our honoree was willing to cast his vote against the majority when necessary to support principles he believed in, bringing fundamental diversity of viewpoint to School Board deliberations and decisions. The results were instrumental in creating Arlington's first all-day kindergarten, supporting the rapid and responsible adoption of technology (no surprise from a person who retired as a computer systems analyst with the Joint Staff at the Pentagon), fostering achievement-oriented minority assistance programs, and helping establish the Claremont Early Childhood Center and Science Focus alternative schools.

We know Frank as the longest-serving member of the Arlington School Board, but we also want to recognize him for his many contributions to the community, which include volunteering in the PTAs of Glebe Elementary School, Williamsburg Middle School, and Washington-Lee High School; as president of the John M. Langston Citizens Association; and as a member of the Board of Directors of Arlington Hospital, and the Northern Virginia Hospice. But his contributions didn't stop in Arlington. They extended to the Virginia School Boards Association, the National School Boards Association, and service on the Governor's Commission on Youth and Violence.

A consummate gentleman, our honoree demonstrated courtesy and respect even when tempers were frayed. For almost 25 years, he would say, and mean it, "If we have a process, we've got to let it work its way through. I am going to listen, even if I hear the same thing over and over."

It is with great pleasure that we present this Certificate of Appreciation to Frank K. Wilson.

Lawrence R. Mayer
President

Peter Owen
Chairman, Executive Committee