

(Georgia)

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NEWS for immediate release

OEO ANNOUNCES URBAN SERVICE AWARDS

Twelve community leaders, four newspapers, a television station and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce were among the first to receive the recently established Urban Service Award of the Office of Economic Opportunity, Sargent Shriver, Director of OEO, has announced.

This honor is for those individuals and organizations "whose dedicated efforts to alleviate the problems of the poor in America's cities have helped create a better life for our citizens," according to the award.

The individuals included: in Atlanta, Mayor Ivan Allen, Jr., Boisfeuillet Jones, Dr. Vivian Henderson, William W. Allison, Dr. William Holmes Borde Dan Sweat, Mrs Earl Metzger, Jr., Mrs Mattie Ansley and the late Charles O. Emmerich; in Athens, Judge James Barrow; in Augusta, the Reverend E. O. Waldron; and in Columbus, Virginia Barfield.

In addition to the above individuals, citations also were made to the Atlanta Constitution, the Atlanta Journal, television station WSB and the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce; and the Athens Banner-Herald and Daily News in Athens.

Mayor Allen was cited for his dynamic leadership of a progressive city during trying times, while Bill Allison and Dan Sweat were both cited for their service to Economic Opportunity Atlanta and to the city government and the citizens of the Atlanta area.

Mr. Jones, who has served as Chairman of the Board of Economic Opportunity Atlanta, Inc., was cited for his numerous civic contributions and for his particular support of the War on Poverty.

Mrs. Metzger was named for her service with the special task force assisting EOA in its programs around Atlanta, particularly in the Head Start Programs.

Dr. Henderson was cited for his service to the community at large and the involvement of Clark College in poverty programs.

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Dr. Borders was named for his long leadership in Atlanta and especially for the self-help projects which he has headed in poverty communities.

Mrs. Ansley has worked diligently in creating interest in resident participation since the beginning of the War on Poverty in her neighborhood; her most recent activity has been to spearhead the target area elections for low income area representation to the Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Mr. Emmerich launched, was the first Director of Economic Opportunity Atlanta. He worked tirelessly from the time OEO programs were first started in Atlanta until his untimely death; in a very real sense, he gave his life in the War on Poverty.

Judge Barrow has been active in the operation of the Athens Community High School and adult education program financed through grants made from OEO.

Reverend Waldron has been extremely active in the development of the Community Action Agency in Augusta, Georgia. He worked diligently in uniting the community, as well as interpreting the concept of Community Action to the point that the total community became concerned over the need to activate a program for the impoverished of Richmond County and Augusta, Georgia.

Mrs. Barfield should be commended for her outstanding work in accomplishing the coordination of local resources in the establishment of the MIND Center at Columbus, Georgia, which is an adult education vehicle designed to take low-income persons with less than an eighth grade education and upgrade them educationally two to four grade levels in eight to ten weeks.

In presenting these Urban Service Awards, Sargent Shriver said, "America's most difficult challenge is in the city, and you met it by working in the city to help improve the quality of urban life. Awards can never repay you for this unselfish dedication to the welfare of your fellow man, but they do affirm our deep appreciation for your work in behalf of the poor."

Dr. Ralph A. Phelps, Jr., Southeast Regional Director of OEO in Atlanta, said that all of the honorees were nominated by OEO's Regional Office on the basis of their efforts to help the poor in their own communities. Awards went to War on Poverty Agencies, workers, volunteers and supporters in over 300 American cities.
