

RECOGNITION of EXCELLENCE AWARD 2009

Mr. Bill Hall

Mr. Hall has impacted the Kokomo area in many ways. He polished shoes in the Basement of the Howard County Courthouse and polished the black marble in front of a restaurant called Dukes for many years. He kept the marble polished so brightly "that you could see your image from across Sycamore Street."

Mr. Hall has not had what most of us would call an easy life. He entered Riley Hospital at the age of 5 and began several long stays there. He has had to endure several operations.

He is a self-taught man. Many people applaud him for being self-taught - much like the namesake of the Carver Community Center, George Washington Carver, was self taught. But, it was a hard way to obtain an education and a way that no child should have to undertake.

Bill, however, has made his mark by writing a witty and wise column for the Kokomo Tribune for many years. He has recorded history and told stories and carefully helped his readers think by correlating past events to the present.

One remarkable column that Mr. Hall wrote just one month after 911 warned about the dangers of profiling by outside appearance rather than by understanding what is in the mind and thoughts of individuals.

Mr. Hall writes of painful memories without disparaging those who caused the pain. It is not that he excuses them in anyway but rather he instructs in a better way to live. He is a Mighty Man and he has wielded the pen wisely.

Thank you, Mr. Hall, for collecting articles and ideas. Thank you for giving Carver Community Center your binder of newspaper articles documenting the history of this place!

Special Guest

Sally Williams is the Director of Indiana Right to Life's Urban Outreach. Sally has great information to share with you about the better choice of Life vs. Death. Please stop at her table and collect some of the brochures and fliers and educate yourself about this important health and moral issue. Please invite her to come speak to your youth groups or church services or civic gatherings.
<https://www.rtlindy.org>

WELCOME to the CARVER FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH LUNCHEON !

February 13, 2009
Friday

There is no short cut to achievement. Life requires thorough preparation - veneer isn't worth anything.

George Washington Carver



Carver Community Center Incorporated in 1943.

SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHIES

Willie Jenkins - Former Field Director of Prison Fellowship Ministries for the State of Indiana

Mr. Jenkins has been with Prison Fellowship since April 1998. He served as the Executive Director for the San Francisco Bay Area from September 2001 to October 2003. He served as the Field Director for the State of Indiana from November 2003 until this past week. A major reduction in funds has required the ministry to lay off 45 employees across the nation. Willie will continue as a volunteer with Prison Fellowship.

Willie holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Business from Excelsior College, and an Associate of Arts from Columbia College.

Willie served his last 16 years of a 24 year military career as a recruiter with the U.S. Army Recruiting Command. He served as the Battalion Sergeant Major for the Southern California Recruiting Area. In 1973 Mr. Jenkins was selected the top recruiter in the Nation and in 1987 he retired and received the gold ring, the recruiters highest award.

Mr. Jenkins attended the U.S. Army Sergeant Majors Academy, and the Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary in Mill Valley, CA in the Mastery of Divinity Program.

Willie is a native of Toledo, Ohio. He is married and has seven sons, one daughter, and 22 grandchildren. He is an Associate Minister at St. Luke M.B. Church.

Willie's hobbies include golf, reading and helping others that are impacted by crime.

Mr. Jenkins helped Carver Community Center host a Christmas Party this past December for 11 families with children whose fathers are incarcerated around the country. There are over 200 children in Howard County with one or more parent in jail. Twenty children were given gifts here through a program of Prison Fellowship called Angel Tree. Fathers had filled out requests for specific gifts for their children and the contact information. The gifts were presented to the children in the name of their earthly fathers and in the name of their Heavenly Father through His Son, Jesus.

The name of the center was chosen with a great deal of care. The center was to have a humble beginning, but hopes were high that it would grow, develop and become strong in the community. What a better comparison than that with the life of George Washington Carver. (Community Resource Workshop, 1970, By **Reba J. Echelbarger**)

Isaac Randolph - Executive Director of Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Isaac E. (Ike) Randolph Jr., is a 22-year veteran firefighter with the Indianapolis Fire Department, certified in the areas of arson/fire investigator, emergency rescue scuba diver and advanced emergency medical technician. During his tenure with the department he received several accommodations for exemplary service including Medals of Bravery and Merit, and the American Red Cross Hall of Fame. Randolph's parallel career as a community leader includes; founder and Executive Director of the St. Florian Center, policy advisor for faith-based initiatives to Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, Executive Director of the Front Porch Alliance, and Executive Director of the Ten Point Coalition. Most recently Randolph served on the Indianapolis City-County Council representing Pike Township in District one. He currently resides in Indianapolis with his wife Regina, and daughters Nia, and Sydney.

www.in.gov/ofbcj/
www.goodworksindiana.blogspot.com

On March 14, 1940, Reverend Perry brought Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt to visit Douglas School during her short stay in Kokomo. While the school was in the headlines for having entertained the "First Lady of America," Reverend Perry took steps to draw to the attention of Kokomo's citizens the serious lack of recreation facilities for the Negro youth. He went on to suggest and promote a recreation center for northside residents.

To this end the citizens of Kokomo contributed \$6000. The City Council, during the administration of Mayor Harold Freeland, appropriated another \$10,000. Federal governmental assistance, through the Works Progress Administration, was sought but before more than a formal approval for a \$32,000 building could be secured, our country entered World War II. The \$10,000 appropriation reverted to the City's general fund. (Community Resource Workshop, 1970, By **Reba J. Echelbarger**)