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GARY RECOGNIZES RESIDENTS AS GARY LEGENDS

Gary, Indiana- During the regular meeting of the Gary Common Council, Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson recognized two Gary residents selected for the city's Legends Award.

The city's prestigious award recognizes residents who have made a significant impact or contribution to the city of Gary either through accomplishments or simply through work and service in the community.

Mayor Freeman-Wilson presented Gary Legends awards to Earl H. Smith, Jr. and Dr. David E. Ross, Jr. MD (posthumous). An abbreviated biography of the honorees follows:

Earl Smith is a lifelong Gary resident who graduated from Theodore Roosevelt High School in 1952 earning 10 varsity letters while participating in Football, Basketball and Track. He was a back to back champion in Broad-jump; breaking a 20 year record and was selected to be on an All American High School Track & Field team. Smith graduated from the University of Iowa and received numerous honors during his college reign. After graduating from the University of Iowa he returned to Gary and became a teacher, coach, administrator and city-wide athletic director. Coach Earl Smith Jr. spent 56 years with the Gary Community School Corporation and received numerous honors. He was inducted into the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 2007.

Dr. David E. Ross, Jr. MD was born in Lorrain, Ohio-growing up in Jackson, Mississippi. After a stint in the military he migrated to Gary, Indiana in 1960 where he launched his medical practice. Dr. Ross realized very young he wanted to be a doctor and enrolled in Meharry Medical College. He graduated in 1955. Dr. Ross was double board certified in Family Medicine and Emergency Medicine. He was the medical director of Drug Dependence, Inc., director of emergency services at Methodist Hospitals, director of Methodist Hospital's family practice residency program, director of the first mobile intensive care system among

many others. Dr. Ross served on the Gary Police Civil Service Commission, on the board of health and a number a state commissions and boards. He had a passion to teach new and foreign trained doctors. The emergency room and library at Methodist Northlake was name in his honor.

Coach Smith attended the Council meeting on Wednesday, May 8, 2019 to receive his award. The family of Dr. Ross was unable to attend. The award would later be received by the family.

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