

Orange Water and Sewer Authority

A public, non-profit agency providing water, sewer and reclaimed water services to the Carrboro-Chapel Hill community.

NEWS RELEASE December 27, 2009

OWASA honors the late W. Everett Billingsley, the utility's first Executive Director

OWASA is honoring the late W. Everett Billingsley, who served as the Executive Director of OWASA from its formation in 1975 to his retirement in 1996.

Mr. Billingsley passed away on December 21st at the age of 79.

(His obituary is published on line at
<http://www.walkersfuneralservice.com/december.html#William%20Billingsley>.)

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, December 29th, from 6 PM to 8 PM at Walker's Funeral Home, 120 West Franklin Street, Chapel Hill. The funeral will be held at 2 PM on Wednesday, December 30th, at University United Methodist Church, 150 East Franklin Street, Chapel Hill.

Ed Kerwin, Executive Director of OWASA since 1996, said "We extend our deepest sympathies to Mr. Billingsley's family and friends, and we want to publicly recognize his many achievements as the chief administrative officer of OWASA.

"Mr. Billingsley was a strategic thinker who worked tirelessly with the OWASA Board and other community leaders in the 1970s and 1980s to make the Cane Creek Reservoir a reality as our community's primary water source in 1989.

"With a combined capacity of 3.5 billion gallons, the Cane Creek Reservoir, University Lake and our Stone Quarry Reservoir remain very high quality resources because of the stringent watershed protection measures which OWASA proposed during Mr. Billingsley's tenure, and which local governments adopted as policy.

"However, Everett was most proud of the talented staff at OWASA," Kerwin said. "Today, several dozen employees hired during Mr. Billingsley's career at OWASA continue to serve the community in providing high quality, reliable water and sewer services for the public safety and health."

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