

Lee B. Brawner Lifetime Achievement Award

Barbara Eskridge

Recipient of the Lee B. Brawner Lifetime Achievement Award for 2008 is Barbara Lynn Eskridge. Well known as a volunteer with many worthy organizations over the years, Mrs. Eskridge is particularly noted for the breadth and depth of her years of service for the benefit of local and state libraries and her dedication to literacy and tutoring.



Appointed by Mayor Patience Latting in 1972 to serve on the Metropolitan Library System Library Commission, Barbara was Chair of the Commission for three terms. During that time period, she joined with Lee Brawner and others in establishing a statewide Friends group to be supportive of libraries large and small across Oklahoma. Friends of Libraries in Oklahoma (FOLIO) was created in 1978. Barbara was both a founding member and FOLIO's first treasurer. That same year, she was Second Vice President of Oklahoma Library Association, having previously served as Chair of the Trustees Division.

Beginning in 1984, Barbara Eskridge served on a steering committee for two years with other library volunteers, Commission members, and Friends of the Library officers to create the Library Endowment Trust (the entity that sponsors tonight's Literary Voices™ dinner). The Trust was officially launched in 1986 and Barbara served as a founding Trustee through 1992, giving many hours of time towards fundraising.

Tutoring has been a part of Barbara's life since 1978 when she began tutoring in Oklahoma City Public Schools. One-on-one tutoring with children striving to learn how to read has been deeply rewarding to Barbara and she continues in this role at this time. For a few years, she was additionally involved in tutoring adults through the Literacy Council.

Among the many awards and accolades Mrs. Eskridge has received, a notable one was being named the 1992 Outstanding Philanthropist and Fundraiser by the Association of Fundraising Professionals. A sustaining member of Oklahoma City Junior league, Barbara has shared her time and talents with Oklahoma City Orchestra League, Passageway, YWCA (President '83-'84), American Red Cross, the University of Oklahoma College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors, and many other organizations. One of the most important aspects of her life has been her many years of service within United Methodist Church of the Servant, including serving as Chair of the Administrative Council.

Barbara and Ed Eskridge are the parents of Lynn Eskridge Fielding and Frank Allen Eskridge. Grandchildren include Kelly & Kim File; Edward, William and Murphy Eskridge.