Lee B. Brawner Lifetime Achievement Award

John W. Rex
1933-2006

John W. Rex lived an amazing life full of achievements and honors due to the profound impact he had on this community. Tonight we focus on John Rex's support for the Metropolitan Library System and literacy.

John became a champion of libraries, focusing with passion on making a difference in children's lives. John enjoyed visiting libraries during special parent/child programs where volunteers were reading aloud to children. John was moved by how the children absorbed the words they heard and the pictures they saw. He witnessed the difference this early contact made on reading and child development.

John's community service and civic involvement focused on childhood initiatives, education, scouting, and literacy. He was the key component in the remarkable Success by Six program—a program that has had tremendous implications throughout Oklahoma County. Besides being a strong advocate of the library, John was involved in numerous roles in our community including: past chairman of the Board of Directors of the United Way of Metro Oklahoma City, past chairman of the Oklahoma City Public Schools Foundation, member of the Education Policy Board of the Oklahoma Business and Education Coalition, board member of the Community Action Agency, member of the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber Education Committee, past president and chairman of the Trust Fund Committee of the Last Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America and board member of the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation. He received the Lieutenant Governor's Leadership in Literacy Award, United Way Lifetime Achievement Award, Friend of Children Award from the Oklahoma Institute of Child Advocacy, National Champions for Children Award from HOSTS Corporation, 2001 Friend of Education Award from the Oklahoma Education Association and many, many more.

John was a remarkable man who set the tone for how to treat people by the way he treated others. He inspired everyone to treat customers and employees alike with respect and kindness. He was a mentor and friend to all. We appreciate and honor the legacy of John Rex who was, indeed, "a true champion of libraries."