

Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS)

News Advisory

Release date: October 23, 2014

Contact: Barbara Shaw, Public Affairs Mgr., 251 694-3113 or bshaw@mawss.com

Chamber Renames Award for Former MAWSS Board Member Wesley James



The Late Rev. Wesley James (1952-2010)

A former Board member of Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) is being remembered for his efforts to foster diversity and promote minority-owned businesses. The Mobile Area Chamber of Commerce changed the name of its Minority Business Advocate Award to the Reverend Wesley A. James Minority Business Advocate Award to recognize the contributions of the late community leader. The award will be presented today to Austal USA during the Eagle Awards ceremony luncheon at 11:30 a.m. at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel, part of the activities for National Minority Enterprise Development Week.

James, who died in November 2010, was instrumental in establishing the Small and Underutilized Business Enterprise (UUBE) Program to give minority and women owned enterprises opportunities to do business with MAWSS. The program, which has successfully helped minority owned firms become prime contractors with MAWSS, was honored by the Chamber of Commerce in 2004, with the first Minority Business Advocate of the Year Award.

“Naming this award for Wesley James is a fitting way to pay tribute to our former friend and colleague who worked so hard to advance opportunities for members of his community,” said MAWSS Board member Maynard Odom. “I know Rev. James is smiling down on all of us today as we present this award which honors his memory,” said Odom.

James provided leadership on the MAWSS Board for 20 years.