

## **Eastern Carolina Council of Governments Annual Leadership Awards**

The Eastern Carolina Council of Governments held its annual Leadership Awards Banquet at the New Bern Riverfront Convention Center on December 10, 2009. One hundred and eighty people attended the banquet from the Council's nine-county region which includes: Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, and Wayne Counties were in attendance.

### **Regional Leadership Award**

The Honorable **Jimmy A. Sanders**, Mayor of Havelock was presented the Eastern Carolina Council Regional Leadership Award. Mayor Sanders has led the Havelock community for more than 35 years. As a key member of Allies for Cherry Point's Tomorrow (ACT) (a lobbying group that insures the continuation of MCAS Cherry Point in Eastern North Carolina) and is currently serving the City of New Bern to establish a regional sewer solution that may result in our region being designated as a "Metropolitan Statistical Area". Mayor Sanders volunteers on several local community organizations.

### **Regional Transportation Leadership Award**

**Wilbur E. "Andy" Anderson**, Wayne County Commissioner was awarded the Eastern Carolina Council Transportation Award for his efforts in the ground work and coordination of agencies in the completion of Interstate 795. Andy Anderson's was instrumental in recognizing the need for an interstate connecting from I-95 to I-40.

### **Local Leadership Awards**

**Joan E. Lamson**, former Mayor of Pine Knoll Shores was awarded the Eastern Carolina Council Local Leadership Award being recognized for her achievements in six key areas of Governance, Administration, Public Safety, Infrastructure, Governmental Relations, and Communications.

Eastern Carolina Council Local Leadership Award was also awarded to **Frank Rush**, Town Manager of Emerald Isle. The project of a "New Public Boat Launch Facility" was instrumental by Frank Rush in negotiating the deal, convincing the commissioners, securing funding, revising the schedule, and getting the deal completed. Emerald Isle will have a first class boat launching facility by late 2010. This project would not have been completed without the leadership and dedication of Frank Rush.

### **Regional Area Agency on Aging Leadership Award**

**Ms. Alfreda Stout** was honored with the Area Agency on Aging Leadership Award. Ms. Stout has been instrumental in strengthening the provision of services to Craven County's aged population through its Senior Services and Adult Services programs at Craven County Department of Social Services. As a result of her hard work and dedication, numerous seniors, vulnerable elderly, and disabled adults have benefited from the programs provided by our agency. These services include: Adult Protective Services, Case Management Services, In-home Services, Guardianship Services, Crisis Intervention/ Information and Referral, Adult Care Home Monitoring, Home-Delivered Meals, Congregate Meals, and Senior Center Activities.

### **Sara Jo Jackson Advocacy Award**

This year's Sara Jo Jackson Advocacy Award recipient is **Ms. Fran Kasey** from Wayne County. Ms. Kasey has served on the Wayne County Adult Care Home Community Advisory Committee for over nine years; a member of the Goldsboro Wayne Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities for the past 20 years. She also has a small tax preparation service providing free tax preparation for senior citizens and disabled adults. Ms. Kasey is a true advocate for our community because she does what she does, not for recognition, but from the heart.

**We congratulate this year's recipients and thank them for their contributions to the quality of life in our region.**

The mission of the Eastern Carolina Council is to provide human, planning and economic development services to local governments and area residents. Winners of past awards have been recognized for their leadership in successfully implementing critical projects, for creating new programs that made a difference, for working or volunteering long hours on a regional or local effort, for a lifetime of commitment to an organization or cause, or for outstanding advocacy.