



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1980

DR. BENJAMIN M. CARRAWAY, SR., was born and raised in Birmingham. He attended Birmingham public schools, graduated from Birmingham-Southern College, earned his medical degree at Louisiana State University (LSU) and a degree in Surgery at the University of Pennsylvania. He became Chairman of the Board of Directors of Carraway Methodist Medical Center, formerly Norwood Hospital in 1957. It was a major accomplishment when the hospital grew to more than 600 beds. Carraway Hospital achieved an important distinction when it became the largest private non-profit hospital under one roof in the State of Alabama. A medical clinic was built in connection with the hospital and many new specialties were added.

Dr. Ben's vision rippled far beyond Birmingham and led to better health care for all Americans. He pioneered studies in the use of sodium pentothal for major surgical procedures, which has resulted in a change within the medical profession concerning the use of this anesthesia for long-term surgery. His findings were presented in a paper to the American Medical Association. Carraway Hospital provided the first post-operative recovery rooms, and the first emergency teams of highly skilled professionals. By 1980, a helicopter equipped as an emergency room, was used to transport accident victims and critically ill patients to the hospital. Carraway was also a major referral center for people in neighboring states and throughout the country.

Dr. Carraway passed away in 1996.