



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1995

JAMES (J. L.) LOWE was born in Livingston, Alabama. He graduated from Industrial High School, which later became Parker High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science Degree and Masters of Art in History from Teachers College in Montgomery. Mr. Lowe taught in the Jefferson County school system and served as Principal of Carver High School for 14 years. He contributed 43 years on all levels to education while performing as a musician.

Mr. Lowe founded the popular Birmingham Heritage Band in 1976 and the Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame in 1978. He was hired by the legendary John T. "Fess" Whatley to play with his band as a saxophonist and continued to play with Whatley longer than any other musician. He served as a board member of the Birmingham Arts Commission, Alabama Council of Arts and Humanities, American Federation of Musicians and City Stages. Mr. Lowe was a member of the Board of Directors for the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute, Cultural Affairs Committee of Operation New Birmingham (ONB) and Birmingham Jam.

A renowned musician, Mr. Lowe has been the recipient of many awards, such as the Governor's State Arts Award of Excellence, Birmingham Area Chamber of Commerce "Quality of Life" Award, NAACP Honoree of the Year, Festival of Arts Silver Bowl Award and the 1988 Preservation of Work Culture Award.

He passed away in 1998.