



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1996

REVEREND ABRAHAM LINCOLN WOODS is a native of Birmingham. He graduated from Parker High School and attended Morehouse College prior to being awarded a Bachelor's degree in Theology from Birmingham Baptist Bible College. In 1962, he was awarded an undergraduate degree in Sociology and a Minor in English from Miles College. He received a Master of Arts in American History from the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.

A person of untiring energy, Reverend Woods remained active in the civil rights struggle and in the organization Alabama Christian Movement organization until his death. He served with Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth and helped to lead the massive demonstrations of 1963 in Birmingham, along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was one of the first ministers to be arrested during the sit-ins in the city and was sent to work on the City Jail Farm.

Reverend Woods was selected to serve on the city's first Bi-racial Citizen's Affairs Committee by Mayor Albert Boutwell. He served on the Jefferson County Bicentennial Committee and was a member of Mayor Richard Arrington's Police Shooting Policy Committee. Reverend Woods was a plaintiff in many lawsuits that affected racial issues including one that changed the makeup of the Jefferson County Personnel Board.

Recognized for serving on many boards and working in areas affecting young people throughout the metropolitan area, a noted milestone of Reverend Woods is his service on the Board of the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute. He also led the effort to desegregate Shoal Creek Country Club, which resulted in county clubs around the country opening their doors to African-Americans and women.

He passed away in November 2008.