



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2013

WILLIAM E. "BILL" RICKER, was a native of Carbondale, Pa., who established roots in Birmingham in the 1960s and served the city and the region in a variety of capacities for 47 years.

He finished high school in Europe and graduated from the Industrial War College and The University of Alabama, obtaining a Bachelor's Degree in Urban Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Administration.

Bill Ricker was a noted photographer who documented countless lives and stories. He was rarely seen without his camera hanging from his shoulder. He worked as a newsman for 13 years and was an award-winning photographer for The Birmingham News.

Ricker used his skills and talent to support the efforts of Birmingham's elected officials to improve economic prosperity, social services, public safety, and cultural enhancement for all area citizens.

He served as chief of staff for former Mayor George Seibels, executive director of Operation New Birmingham (ONB), planning director of the United Way, and a council assistant for Birmingham council members Dr. Jimmy Blake and Joel Montgomery.

Ricker also served his country; he was a private in the United States Army in the Korean War.

Ricker and his wife, Frances Leonard Ricker, had three daughters and one son.

He died on January 2, 2011 at the age of 77.