

## **The Barry Gaskins Mentor Legacy Award**

Barry Gaskins, APR, served as NSPRA President in 2001-2002. He passed away unexpectedly in March 2003, to the great sorrow of all who worked with him and called him friend.

Barry was known and respected as a consummate school public relations professional who was passionate about public education and his NSPRA “family.” During his 24-year career as the first and only public information officer for Pitt County Schools in Greenville, North Carolina until his death, Barry gained a national reputation for his skill as a school public relations professional as well as his ability to engage diverse groups of people in supporting public schools.

Throughout his career he put service above self, championing schools and quality education for all students. He was committed to promoting public education through open, honest and responsible communication and ensuring that all citizens recognize their responsibility in making a positive difference in the lives of children.

Barry was also one of the first public relations professionals in North Carolina to become accredited, and throughout his career advocated the value of professional accreditation, serving as a mentor to others pursuing this goal. He was a much sought after speaker and a popular presenter at the NSPRA Seminar each year, drawing capacity attendance at his sessions. He was always ready to lend a hand, provide counsel and share his time, talent and expertise with colleagues across the nation.

Always a leader, during his career Barry also served as NSPRA Southeast Region Vice President; President of the North Carolina School Public Relations Association; President of the North Carolina Association of Community Education; and President of the East Carolina University Adult Education Association. He also served as Chairman of the Board of the Pitt County United Way; the American Cancer Society; and the Mediation Center of Eastern North Carolina.

One of NSPRA’s shining stars, Barry’s legacy lives on through this award that honors his commitment to assisting and mentoring the professional colleagues and friends he cared so deeply about.