

TWO MEN WHO GAVE BACK

Morgan, Melvin honored for helping the fight against bias in the Triad

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Staff Writer

GREENSBORO — The Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award Dinner fed more than 1,000 people, raised more than a quarter of a million dollars and honored a pair of Jims for improving the state of human relations for Triad residents.

"It's very exciting to be at an event where there's over 1,000 people standing up and making a community commitment to a world that's better ... to fight against bias, bigotry and racism and to honor these wonderful men," said Susan Feit, executive director of the National Conference for Community and Justice of the Piedmont Triad.

The 44th annual dinner was its most-attended and most financially successful. About 1,300 tickets were sold, and dinner sponsors contributed \$257,030.

High Point lawyer Jim Morgan and former Greensboro Mayor Jim Melvin received the 2010 Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award for their Triad community service.

Morgan, managing partner and attorney with Morgan Herring, spent three two-year terms in the N.C. House of Representatives and provided leadership for more than 60 community organizations.

Melvin was mayor of Greensboro from 1971 to 1981. The city government building is named for him.

He was chairman of more than a dozen nonprofit and university boards. Melvin, the president and CEO of the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation of Greater Greensboro, helped create and still leads Action Greensboro and the Greensboro Partnership.

During his speech, Melvin asked Guilford County Schools Superintendent Maurice "Mo" Green to stand as he asked each diner to make an effort to help the school system.

"Human relations is what we used to call in football 'one-on-one.' You can't do it by mass inoculation," Melvin said.

"If we make up our mind to do it in private, together,



Jim Morgan, above right, and Jim Melvin, left, were presented the Brotherhood/Sisterhood Citation Award from the National Conference for Community and Justice of the Piedmont Triad.

PHOTOS BY JOSEPH RODRIGUEZ/News & Record

for the people at the Koury Convention Center: Stand if any of the four statements apply to you.

"If you've ever felt in danger by your race, religion, gender or sexual orientation, please stand."

A few people sprung up from their seats.

Soon the whole room stood after Gooding asked if they had ever been denied an opportunity based on those criteria; been the minority at school, work or within a group; or ever heard, told or been the subject of a joke that was discriminatory.

His point was that bigotry affects everyone.

"Anytown inspired us; it uplifted us and gave us the hope that one day our world would truly embrace acceptance," Gooding said.

hand-in-hand, educating those 72,000 young people that are in our schools, we'll be all right."

The Citation Award Dinner is NCCJ's largest single fundraising activity. Money raised goes toward its educational programs, especially

those aimed at developing student leaders to become advocates for improved human relations. The annual budget alone for Anytown, its flagship program, is \$450,000.

High Point Central junior Thomas Gooding, an Anytown alumnus, gave a polite order

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