

W-S Urban League's Gene Bass Dies

By DAVID L. DILLARD
Chronicle Staff Writer

Friends say Gene A. Bass had the ability to make anyone smile when they were feeling down.

According to Cleo Solomon, employment director of the Winston-Salem Urban League, in your time of need, Bass was always there and he knew how to make you feel special.

"He was the most caring person who always made you feel special," Solomon said. "He had that same kind of special relationship with people he didn't even know. He was just a wonderful person."

Bass, 66, was born in Golds-

bore where he attended Dillard High School. He earned bachelor's degree from Morgan State University, a master's degree from Hunter College and completed course work for a Ph.D in clinical psychology from New York University. Bass also did additional studies at Yale University.

Marshall Bass, Gene's brother, said he served in the army during the Korean War and worked with the Maryland state prison and Baltimore school system before coming to Winston-

Salem in 1982. "He was truly a giving person," he said. "He cared about people and did what he could to help everyone he had contact with."

Bass spent more than 30 years helping substance abusers and juveniles. He retired last April after 11 years as an employment specialist with the Winston-Salem Urban League.

"He could take any idea and create something magnificent," Solomon said. "He was a very strong, force at the Urban League."

Bass died December 16 and services were held at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Goldsboro on December 23.



Gene A. Bass

City Seeking Funds for E. Winston

grants to areas designated as enterprise communities which will be used to stimulate wealth and empower poor communities. The city's enterprise community was mostly on the eastern side of town and also included downtown area and the Smith-Reynolds Airport.

Winston-Salem Mayor Martha Wood said the city is planning to help the 15 square-mile area but now they must search for additional funding.

"We're going to have to sit down and rethink our position," Wood said. "We had planned to go ahead with our proposal whether we get the money or not, it may take us longer now but we plan to search for other sources."

Wood said the city's applica-

tion, which had to identify the problem and show how they were currently addressing the problem, was so strong, it may have hurt them.

"If you can show what you're doing to improve the areas now, it could say to them 'they don't really need the money,'" Wood said.

Assistant City Manager Allen Joines said the city had a strong application with community input and they plan to go to foundations and the private sector for funding.

"The community put together a strong application and we felt real good about it," he said. "We will continue to seek aid for the enterprise zone and look for other sources of funding. We had already planned not

to let the project die."

Joines said the city might be eligible for technical assistance from HUD. Meanwhile, they have the five-year housing plan underway and are taking steps to form a community congress to oversee the project to make sure the money will go to the enterprise community.

James Grace, director of the East Winston Community Development Corporation, didn't elaborate on their plans but said they plan to search for other areas of funding to help poor communities.

Throughout the state, Charlotte along with Robeson County, Edgecombe, Halifax and Wilson Counties were the only areas to receive the federal grant.

Boy Scouts Get 1st

a lot of creativity and a desire to help kids become productive citizens. That's what we were looking for."

Hunter said the Boy Scouts has traditionally been dominated by white males, but minorities are being encouraged to become scouts through the Urban Emphasis Program which started last year to recruit inner city youths.

Rep. Larry Womble, chairman of the Urban Emphasis Committee, was once a boy scout and said years ago black youths were encouraged to become scouts through their churches.

"When I was growing up in East Winston the church was the hub of the community and scouting was one of their outreach programs," he said. "It taught us ethics and morals and kept us from becoming idle. What we're trying to do now is bring scouting back into the inner city and create an awareness of the program."

Womble said Hunter was chosen because she could help push the program into new areas.

"She's dedicated to trying to move the scouting program forward and wants to take it to a higher level in our community," he said.

Hunter said hiking, camping and other traditional scouting activities are good, but one of the ways to make it more attractive to inner city youths—both black and white—is to increase cultural specific activities.

"We can incorporate our cultural heritage into the traditional scouting program and learn more about African and African-American history," she said. "I think the program teaches qualities that we all want to instill in our children and we can infuse it with our heritage."

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Murray also said Hunter's creativity will help enhance and spread the scouting program. He said the Council will give Hunter "enough latitude to accomplish her goals" of expanding the program to inner city youth.

Currently, the Urban Emphasis Program is recruiting scouts and adult volunteers in the public housing communities and other inner city neighborhoods. For additional information about the program, call the Old Hickory Council at (910) 723-5506.

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