

RELIGION



Photo by Santana

Ernest Squire, seated, holding plaque; is flanked by his wife, Annette Banks Squire, seated; and son, Steven Squire. Standing are daughters Renee Squire-Golden, left, and Chandra Squire.

Ernest Squire is Mount Zion Baptist's Father of the Year

Special to THE CHRONICLE

The selection of Ernest Squire as Mount Zion Baptist Church's 1999 Father of the Year was announced by the Laymen's League of the church on June 20.

Robert W. Long, president of the league, made the announcement. Joining him in making the presentation were the honoree's wife of 29 years, Annette Banks Squire; the couple's three children and other family members.

In making the case for the league's choice for Father of the Year, Long referred to comments made by members of the Squire family. Those comments described the honoree as a strong but loving father figure who instilled in his children the importance of knowing God,

having a healthy self-concept and following their dreams.

The Squire children were asked to cite lessons they learned from their father. The list ranged from practical lessons to principles for success, including how to tie a tie, how to choose your friends, how to follow a budget, how to survive "temporary" disappointments, how to have fun but how to stay focused.

The information that the selection committee considered in naming Ernest Squire Father of the Year also included his church and community activities. At Mount Zion Baptist Church, he is a member of the Laymen's League, Sunday church school, Men's Usher Board and he is an adviser for the Youth Usher Board. In the

community he works for a local business enterprise. An avid sportsman, Squire uses that medium to coach and counsel young people he meets.

When called upon to make remarks, Squire said, "My life has been shaped by a number of experiences and positive role models. I want to share this award with all the men of the church and community who, by word or example, have given me guidelines for living."

The Vietnam veteran also acknowledged lessons learned in that military conflict.

A standing ovation from the congregation, a floral presentation to his wife and the supportive presence of family members solidified the Laymen's League's selection of Ernest Squire as 1999 Father of the Year at Mount Zion.

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