



Alabama Department of
REHABILITATION SERVICES



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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Longtime staffer Nowell retires after 47 years

MONTGOMERY – The Alabama Department of Rehabilitation Services (ADRS) said farewell to longtime staff member Carl H. Nowell at a retirement reception held in his honor yesterday.

With 47 years of selfless dedication to the state of Alabama, Nowell had a distinguished and lifelong career in education, training, and experiential involvement with and rehabilitation of people with a range of disabilities.

“Rehabilitation is my life,” said Nowell, “My career has been such a joy for me that parting with it truly is bittersweet.”

Fondly dubbed the “Grandfather of Rehab,” the 88-year-old Nowell began his storied career with ADRS in 1965 as a counselor in the Vocational Rehabilitation Service office in Mobile and was later promoted to supervisor and rehabilitation specialist.

Throughout his career, Nowell was consistently recognized and honored by peers and dignitaries alike for significant contributions to the field of rehabilitation. Later in his career, his areas of interest included mental illness, substance abuse, autism, and specific learning disabilities. Nowell’s achievements include development of the Alabama School of Alcohol and other Drug Studies and tireless devotion to rehabilitating public offenders through the Alabama Volunteers in Corrections program, which named an award in his honor. The law library at Stanton Correctional Center also bears his name.

Among the many accolades given to Nowell are acknowledgements from Govs. Guy Hunt, Fob James, Guy Hunt, Don Siegelman and current Alabama Gov. Robert Bentley. Last year, he was also the recipient of ADRS’ highest honor, the Lamona H. Lucas VIP Award, which is presented to an individual whose leadership embodies the characteristics of vision, involvement and persistence.

Nowell, a World War II veteran, received his bachelor of science from Mississippi State University in 1948, his master of science from MSU in 1957, and his master of arts from the University of Alabama in 1965.

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PROVIDING SERVICES TO ALABAMIANS WITH DISABILITIES