



*Development Resource Center
1250 Market Street, Suite 3050
Chattanooga, TN 37402
Tel: 423-209-7842
Fax: 423-209-7843
wwta.hamiltontn.gov*

For Immediate Release

July 22, 2016

**Cleveland T. Grimes Awarded 2016 Golden Manhole Award
By The Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment**

Hamilton County-TN, On Tuesday, July 19th, 2016, Cleveland T. Grimes was awarded the Golden Manhole Award by the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Environment Association at the Kentucky-Tennessee Water Professional's Conference in Knoxville, Tennessee. The Golden Manhole Award is an award given to those who have dedicated their careers to the wastewater collection field and have made outstanding contributions in the area of wastewater collection systems. One person each from the states of Kentucky and Tennessee was given the award. Cleveland was this year's award winner for the state of Tennessee.

A committee reviewed nominations and selected a winner based on education, years of experience in the wastewater industry, achievements, accomplishments and contributions to the wastewater industry. Cleveland graduated from Brainerd High School, Chattanooga, Tennessee and received a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Memphis State University, Memphis Tennessee. Cleveland began working for Hamilton County in 1981 and worked for 35 years until his passing in 2016. Cleveland served as the Executive Director for the Hamilton County Water and Wastewater Treatment Authority (WWTA) for nine years. In 1993 Cleveland received the County Service Award, an award presented by the County Mayor for distinguished service to Hamilton County. In 2006 he received the Employer Service Award signed by the United States Secretary of Defense recognizing Cleveland as an employer who supported his employees being active in the Armed Forces. Upon his passing in 2016, Cleveland was recognized by the Tennessee State Legislature with Resolution 965 for his time and service to Hamilton County.

Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger commenting on the award said, "This recognition is another reminder of what a great civil servant Cleveland was. Cleveland's institutional knowledge was responsible for the successes of the WWTA and this award acknowledges Cleveland continued efforts to make Hamilton County an environmentally friendly community. My only regret is Cleveland is not with us to receive in person yet another acknowledgement by his peers of his outstanding leadership."

Accepting the award on behalf of Cleveland was Cleveland's widow, Mary Knaff, and WWTA Project Designer, Charles Webb. Also present at the award ceremony were WWTA Executive Director Mark Harrison, WWTA Chairman Mike Moon, and the mother of Mary Knaff, Bobby Hyman.