

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD



The ICMA Distinguished Service Award is given to a manager who has retired from the profession and made an outstanding contribution to the management profession and local government. The award recognizes a manager whose service in his or her community or communities has been judged by peers as strong or exceptional, and who has made major contributions beyond direct service to local government.

W. CALVIN HORTON

As Chapel Hill's longest-serving town manager, Cal Horton was considered the ultimate professional, personifying the craft of town manager as a noted champion and advocate for town employees, a trusted advisor for the council, and a voice of reason for the community.

After graduating from the University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill in 1968, he served as assistant city manager in Decatur, Georgia, while pursuing his MPA. He returned to Chapel Hill in 1989 as director of public safety; a year later, he was appointed town manager. During his tenure, he created an organizational culture that encouraged open communication, and he established several forums for employees. A tireless mentor for both MPA students and town interns, he also helped to initiate the Professional Partners Program of the North Carolina City and County Management Association (NCCCMA).

Mr. Horton was president of the Georgia City and County Management Association, the NCCCMA, and UNC's MPA Alumni Association, which honored him as one of only four recipients of its Distinguished Public Service Award. He also served on the Georgia Municipal Association's board of directors and on numerous committees within ICMA. In 2002 Mr. Horton became an ICMA Credentialed Manager.

When he retired in 2006, the Chapel Hill community established the Annual Cal Horton Municipal Service Award to recognize a town employee dedicated to "the highest ideals of public service." He was also selected as one of "Fifty Who Made a Difference: Chapel Hill-Carrboro's Top Fifty Leaders of the Last Fifty Years." In recognition of his 38 years of service and achievement, ICMA honors W. Cal Horton with the Distinguished Service Award.