



The first recipient of the Bill Rowe Service to Affordable Housing Award goes to **Lucius Jones**.

Lucius has received state recognition for his long service in this state by being inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine. We want to take this time to honor him specifically for his service to affordable housing by awarding him the newly minted “Bill Rowe” **Service to Affordable Housing Award**.

Some people sit on Boards others like **Lucius Jones** SERVE on Boards.

Lucius Jones served as the Chairman of the N.C. Housing Finance Agency's Board of Directors for 16.5 years (without missing a meeting) before retiring in June, 2010.

Lucius service covers time as a mayor, President and many other posts in the NC League of Municipalities, NC Homebuilders Association Board, and First Citizens Bank Board amongst other institutions. In fact, there may not be a more well-known person in NC who has not held statewide office or been a professional athlete or entertainer. – I can especially say that because Thad Woodard from the NC Bankers Association is not here.

During his tenure, Lucius led the NCHFA Board in overseeing programs that provided affordable housing for over 126,000 families. In addition, he served for several years as a board member and president of the National Council of State Housing Boards to help lead all of the states in shaping federal housing policy.

Lucius supported legislative action in the General Assembly to expand the state's investment in affordable housing through appropriations to the NC Housing Trust Fund, the Home Protection Program, the Key Program, and the Housing 400 Initiative.

He personally walked the halls of the General Assembly in support of these programs and was an active participant in our legislative work around the Campaign for Housing Carolina – our effort to get \$50 M in annual funding for the NC Housing Trust Fund. It is especially powerful when someone advocates like he has done with no direct financial benefit and for that we are all especially grateful.

Lucius was a key contributor to the development of the state Housing Credit, which has significantly improved the income targeting of rental projects. As a result of his leadership, the Agency was recognized with 20 national awards for program excellence during his time as Chairman.

For all of these contributions Lucius we honor you today with the Bill Rowe Service to Affordable Housing Award.