

2015 Special Award of Merit –

Robert Anstine



Macomb Beautiful Association presented a Special Award of Merit to former mayor Robert Anstine at its annual Awards Banquet on Thursday, October 15th, 2015.

News Release:

Robert Anstine has the distinction of being the longest-serving mayor in Macomb's history, holding the office for a remarkable eighteen years, from 1973 to 1991. During that long period of time, he spearheaded a variety of efforts in economic development, public facilities, social services, and other community concerns—including community appearance and neighborhood upgrades, which make him an inspiration for other officials and residents generally, as well as an ideal recipient of the first Macomb Beautiful Special Award of Merit. For example, in the downtown area, Mayor Anstine improved sidewalks on and near the square, secured a Main Street Project grant for preservation and enhancement of the downtown, and provided funding for building rehabilitation. He was also an enthusiastic supporter of the McDonough County Courthouse restoration and beautification. In residential areas, Mayor Anstine upgraded about 200 single-family dwellings through the housing rehabilitation program, and the city acquired many dozens of parcels of deteriorating property, to be sold for new housing. His administration also planted many hundreds of trees and shrubs to enhance the appearance of neighborhoods; constructed eleven miles of new sidewalks in residential areas—not only to provide better walking facilities but to serve as a catalyst for neighborhood appreciation; acquired 25 acres for the expansion of beautiful and historic Oakwood Cemetery; made improvements at Spring Lake Park, and upgraded many city streets as well.

After his mayoral efforts here, Bob Anstine worked with state government on community development and improvement matters, and he has continued to lead in local civic organizations and efforts. For example, he is the current president of the McDonough County Historical Society.

Especially as Macomb is now striving to develop better residential upkeep throughout the community and to promote restoration of the new downtown Historic District, honoring Robert Anstine, the past public official who has done more than any other for community upkeep and beautification, is an appropriate gesture for our organization. The Macomb Beautiful Association is pleased to express its appreciation, with the 2015 Special Award of Merit, to former Mayor Robert Anstine.