



*From the Desk of:  
Councilwoman Mary C. Woolridge, District 3*



This past month, our community and many others across this country celebrated Black History month, a time to honor African Americans who have made a difference in their neighborhoods and in the lives of others.

Every year, the Metro Council selects someone from each of our 26 districts of in the city to honor. This year my choice was an easy one. I would like for every to get to know someone who not only cares about his community but takes care of those who are his neighbors.

Mr. Ralph Blackshear has lived in Louisville for 46 years and has lived in the Hallmark Neighborhood for 39 years. He is married to Annie Blackshear a retired nurse and they have one daughter, Frances. He is a Stewart at his St Paul AME Church. He sings in the male chorus and the mass choir. Until recently, he drove the church van to pick up parishioners.

He retired from the United States Army after serving his country for 23 years. He also retired from Jefferson County Public School and the Kentucky Department of Corrections.

Mr. Blackshear retired from three paying jobs but works harder now than before he retired. He gives many hours volunteering and assisting seniors in his neighborhood. He delivers flyers every month to over 300 houses in his neighborhood. He is the Hallmark Neighborhood Association Block Watch Captain. He is also the organization's Chaplin.

Ralph is very diligent in transporting his neighbors to and from their doctor visits and the grocery store. He puts out the recycle bins and garbage cans for disabled seniors in the neighborhood. He will call or visit a sick neighbor everyday to make sure they are okay. Mr. Blackshear is very generous when it comes to helping the poor. He gives money to buy turkeys for both Thanksgiving and Christmas for those who are needy.

We need to mention that Mr. Blackshear does all of the many volunteer acts described in spite of having some personal health issues. He has had quadruple by-pass surgery and is a diabetic.

Ralph Blackshear is someone who does not ask for praise or attention for the things he does. But it is important that everyone know about people like Ralph. His example is an example for all of us and what is important in everyday life. Mr. Blackshear, let me thank you on behalf of our city and may we all have inspiration in what you do naturally.

I was very happy to honor him during the Metro Council Black History Program for his many contributions to the Hallmark Neighborhood and very proud to have him as a District 3 constituent. Thank you, Ralph Blackshear!

Sincerely,  
Mary C. Woolridge  
Councilwoman  
District 3