

WILLIAM H. MCCLURE

It was the evening of February 2, 1998, opening of the newly constructed East Point Branch of the Atlanta Fulton Public Library (AFPL). Staff was overwhelmed with lines extending down the aisles, of people waiting to check out materials. William McClure dropped by to check on the opening progress; he observed the situation and immediately asked how he could help. Staff gave him a pad and pen with instructions to get each person's library card number and the bar code number of materials to be checked out; staff would enter this information into the system later. His willingness to pitch in greatly helped in serving customers on opening day.

Mr. McClure's commitment and focus on library services for East Point, began as early as 1995. He was a newly appointed member of the Library Board of Trustees during the transition from the independent City of East Point Library into a Branch of the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System. He was appointed to the AFPL Board of Trustees in 1995 by then Fulton County Commissioner Michael Hightower, who represented the City of East Point.

Serving as Interim City Manager for the City of East Point during this period of transition, Mr. McClure provided on-going support and resources to assist staff with rebranding the East Point Library. His support facilitated the opening of the East Point Branch of the AFPL System in the former East Point city library building in January, 1996. Realizing the location was too small, Mr. McClure successfully lobbied the Fulton County Board of Commissioners, along with other East Point officials, for a new library. As a result, the new state-of-the-art East Point Library opened in February, 1998. He also worked diligently with Commissioner Hightower to secure funding for East Point's collection. These efforts resulted in Fulton County allocating \$500,000.00 to rebuild the library collection for East Point.

Subsequently elevated to Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. McClure worked with Board and staff to make the Atlanta Fulton Public Library System the quintessential library system in Georgia. During his term as Chairman, several new state-of-the-art libraries were on-boarded in AFPL System, all equipped with the equipment and technological resources needed to make the Branches successful.

A native of Carrollton, Georgia, Mr. McClure received his BA Degree from West Georgia College, followed by his service to his country as a member of the United States Armed Forces. Upon honorable discharge, he began his professional career as Employment Counselor for the State of Georgia, which inspired his interest in providing employment and training services to a wider spectrum. To this end, he formed William McClure and Associates in 1981, providing employment services training in sexual harassment, hostile work environments and other areas of employment law, to employees of Federal, State and Local governments as well as private sector employers.

Mr. McClure and his family settled in East Point in 1977. He became active in his community through his participation/involvement with neighborhood organizations aimed at improving living conditions in the City; he also served as President of Oak Knoll Elementary School PTA and coached little league baseball teams in the city. His civic engagement was further enhanced through his active participation with his fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi in serving the community as a whole. Interested in expanding his service to the larger community, Mr. McClure opted to become a public servant with his election in 2002 as Ward C City Councilmember in East Point. He used this platform to focus on the city's economic development, including the area surrounding the newly constructed East Point Branch Library. Mr. McClure remained committed to the city and East Point Library until his death October 25, 2005.

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