

Connecting Generations Congratulates

Senator Thomas Carper

Ninth Annual Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

January 19, 2008



During more than 30 years of public service, Tom Carper has served Delaware in many capacities. He has been Delaware's State Treasurer and Governor, a U.S. Representative, and has served as one of Delaware's U.S. Senators for the past seven years. He currently serves as Deputy Whip in the Senate Democratic Leadership, and is on four Senate committees: Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Banking, Housing and Urban Affairs Committee, the Environment & Public Works Committee and the Special Committee on Aging.

While serving as governor, Senator Carper discovered the joys and benefits of mentoring, and made mentoring an important cause both in Delaware and in his personal life. His commitment to mentoring continues today.

For 10 years, Senator Carper spent his Monday mornings with Darryl, starting when Darryl was a fourth grader at Warner Elementary School. He was one of five boys living with their single mother in Wilmington. Darryl graduated last spring from Delcastle High School and is working as a security guard in Wilmington. Beginning late last year, Senator Carper began a new mentoring relationship with Brian, a Kuumba Academy first grader.

As a mentor, Senator Carper focuses on the life skills that all children need to succeed, providing support and encouragement, as well as addressing academic needs of his mentees. He learns about their lives, families and communities, and believes he is a better individual and public servant because he mentors.

As Governor, Tom Carper created the Delaware Mentoring Council, which brings together representatives from different fields including education, government, businesses and mentoring service providers with the common goal to increase mentoring in Delaware. He set a goal of recruiting 10,000 mentors in Delaware, reaching out to individuals, businesses, places of worship, and senior and retirement centers, to adopt schools and get mentoring programs started in schools across the state. He reached the goal 10,000 mentors just two years later. We cannot underestimate Senator Carper's role and influence in expanding school-based mentoring in Delaware.

This honor is bestowed today to recognize the immensely important work Senator Carper has done for children and families in Delaware.