

VCA Lifetime Career Achievement Award

O. Randolph Rollins

October 25, 2019



Pictured left to right: Charles Kehoe, Drive-To-Work Board Member; Randy Rollins, President of Drive-To-Work and Michael Eaves, President of the Virginia Correctional Association

This year's 2019 Lifetime Career Achievement Award Honoree is a man who has dedicated his entire adult life to the law. A 1968 graduate of Duke Law School, he was admitted to the Virginia Bar in 1969. He was hired by McGuire Wood, LLP out of law school and became a partner in 1973.

In 1990, he was appointed Deputy Secretary of Public Safety by Governor L. Douglas Wilder and served in that capacity until 1992 when Governor Wilder appointed him as the Secretary of Public Safety. As Secretary of Public Safety, he also served as the Chair the Governor's Commission on Violent Crime. The Governor's Commission addressed violent crime and made numerous

recommendations to the Virginia General Assembly that resulted in the passage of several bi-partisan bills that greatly improved the criminal justice system in Virginia. As Secretary of Public Safety, he was always very supportive of the Departments of Corrections, Youth and Family Services (now DJJ), Criminal Justice Services and the Virginia Parole Board.

When Governor Wilder's Administration ended, he returned to the private sector as the President of Tultex Corporation in Martinsville, Virginia, but he was not finished helping people and pushing the criminal justice system to do more.

In 2006, a man in the Boaz and Ruth program, which was started by his spouse Martha to help people returning to the Richmond area from DOC correctional facilities and the Richmond City Jail, asked for help to get to a job because he had no driver's license. Our honoree volunteered to help the man and soon learned the man could get a restricted driver's license. After he helped that man to get a restricted license, he asked the Commissioner of the Department of Motor Vehicles how many other people had their driving privileges "suspended." He learned there were hundreds of thousands of people, or about 10% of all drivers in Virginia.

After consulting his former partners at McGuireWoods and others, he realized that not having a driver's license was a major barrier to employment, caring for families, attending school, receiving health care, and simply leading a normal life, especially for people living below the poverty level and those returning to communities from correctional facilities. He learned that DMV was overwhelmed with requests for help, which it could not provide and no organization in Virginia was doing anything about this problem. As he had done in the past when faced with a challenge, our Honoree found the solution. In this case, he decided the answer was to form a non-profit, tax exempt, organization to help low income and previously incarcerated persons to restore their driving privileges so they could drive to work and keep a job. Drive-to-Work (DTW) was born.

Over the past 12 years, DTW has provided assistance to nearly 2,500 individuals and has presented over 110 seminars to approximately 2,200 soon to be released offenders in the DOC facilities on “How to Get Your License Back.” These seminars utilize the services of volunteer attorneys who also benefit by becoming knowledgeable about Virginia’s correctional services. No other agency provides this kind of service for incarcerated offenders in the DOC. Soon, Drive-to-Work and the DOC will enable offenders to take a Driver Improvement Program. The program addresses a major employment barrier for offenders who will be returning to the community.

None of this would have happened if our Honoree had not taken the time to help a man at Boaz and Ruth get a restricted license. But helping people is second nature to him. He saw the need for a critical service and he found a way to address that need.

Our Honoree is a member of ACA and VCA and he has presented workshops, with the DOC leadership, at VCA and ACA conferences.

From Secretary of Public Safety to President of Drive-to-Work, this individual has had a profound impact on the criminal justice system in Virginia and has earned a place in criminal justice and corrections history in the Commonwealth.

Mr. President, your VCA Awards Committee recommends that you present the 2019 VCA Lifetime Career Achievement Award to the Honorable O. Randolph Rollins, President of Drive-to-Work and former Secretary of Public Safety.