

Ray Crenshaw awards an "honor" for recipients

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(Photo: Gordon Rago, York Daily Record)

The Rossum sisters — all four of them — started singing at their grandparent's wedding anniversary back in 1995. Back then, their brother sang with them. Now it's just the girls.

As they grew up, the group had the support of their community, and much of that came from a man named Ray Crenshaw, a friend of their father, Oscar Rossum. Crenshaw, a dedicated public servant, elected official and businessperson, has been a namestay in York for the last several decades.

He has sat on several boards, led the York chapter of the NAACP, sat on city council and, in 2001, became York's first African-American mayoral candidate, losing to the incumbent mayor by 100 votes.

On Saturday night, the York community came together to recognize him, and those like him, during an awards ceremony in his name.

The Rossum sisters were one of the winners.

"It's an honor," said Corrinne Rossum.

"He was so charming," added sister Ciara Darr of Crenshaw. "He was very supportive of our music."

The sisters, who go by The Rossums in the singing world, are a family gospel singing group consisting of Corrinne, Ciara, Carissa and Casey. They took home the award for best singer, nominated in a group along with Britney Brooks and Bridgette Shockley, also known as Georgia Brown.

This was the first year for the ceremony, dubbed as the Ray Crenshaw neighborhood awards. York Mayor Kim Bracey says she plans to hold the awards each year at the Voni Grimes Gym.

Part of the ticketed proceeds will go toward renovations of the gym.

Crenshaw, who is 84, could not attend the awards because of his health, his son Raymond Russel Crenshaw said. His father has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease for the last year.

Much of Crenshaw's family was in attendance, including his wife Dottie who got up on stage after Bracey welcomed the crowd and said she would be giving Crenshaw a key to the city along with other accolades.

"There's one thing we know. He continued to tirelessly keep his finger on the pulse of this community," said Diana Thompson-Mitchell, city clerk, in a recorded video tribute played during the award ceremony.

She then directed her tribute directly to the man of the night.

"If it wasn't for you, we wouldn't be the community we are today," Thompson-Mitchell said.

Here's a list of award categories and who was nominated:

Best sports coach: Kerry Glover

Best nail salon: Spa at Yorktowne

Best school teacher: Crissy Washington (York City School District)

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Members of the Bible Tabernacle Christian Center accept the Ray Crenshaw neighborhood award for best church choir Saturday night at the Voni Grimes gym in York. (Photo: Gordon Rago, York Daily Record)

Best church choir: Bible Tabernacle Church Choir

Best barbershop: Tony Orr Sons & Daughters Barbershop

Best hair salon: Beneath the Surface, Diana and Anita's Hair Salon, Didi and Smiling Johns

Best service professional: York City Fire Department

Best beauty supply store: Hair Depot

Best photographers: Lawrence Tyler

Best rap & hip hop: Kahlil "Lost Cause" Thompson

Best apparel store: The New Hub

Best Latin/Spanish restaurant: Mi Caldero

Best singer: The Rossums

Best poet: Jerald "Proc" Proctor

Best coffee shop: New Grounds

Best corner store: Green's Market

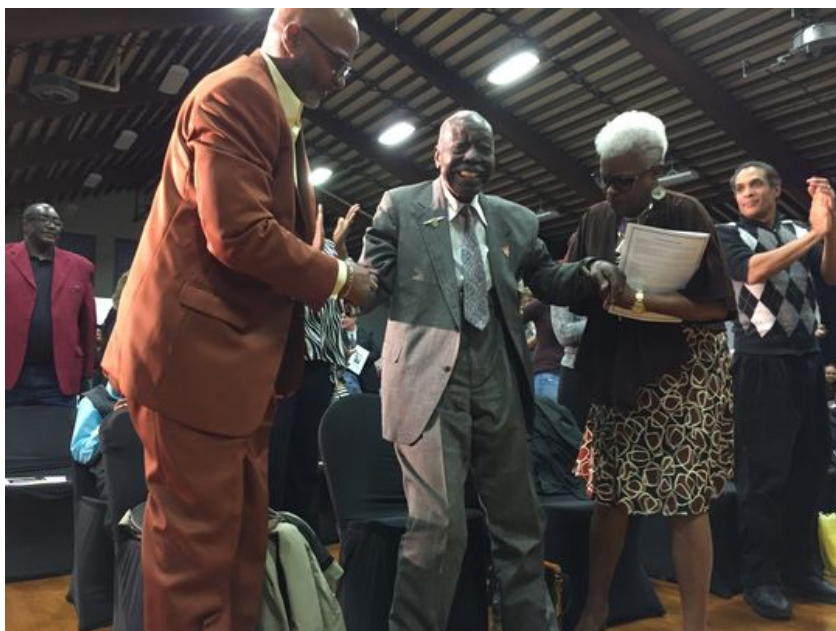


Kerry Glover, Jr., a 7th grade student at Northeastern Middle School, won for best young athlete. His father, also named Kerry Glover, took home the award for best sports coach. (Photo: Gordon Rago, York Daily Record)

Best youth athlete: Kerry Glover, Jr.

Best after-school program: YWCA QOP

Ray Crenshaw Award: Voni Grimes



Voni Grimes was presented with the first-ever Ray Crenshaw Award by York Mayor Kim Bracey on Saturday night. (Photo: Gordon Rago, York Daily Record)

