

Sunrise's Steven B. Feren Selected for League's E. Harris Drew Award

by Mandy Stark Rogers



PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEWART NELSON, FLORIDA LEAGUE OF CITIES.



2006-07 League officers congratulate Steven B. Feren.

Sunrise Mayor Steven B. Feren has been honored by the Florida League of Cities as this year's E. Harris Drew Municipal Official Lifetime Achievement Award winner. This annual award recognizes an elected official who has performed in an outstanding manner and has made an unusual and lasting contribution to the improvement of municipal government. The award was presented on August 17 during the League's 81st Annual Conference at the Orlando World Center Marriott.

The award is named in memory of Florida Supreme Court Justice E. Harris Drew, who authored the League's motto – "Local Self-Government, Keystone of American Democracy" – when he was active in the Florida League of Municipalities in the 1940s and early 1950s.

Feren said he was happy, surprised and shocked when his name was called to accept the award.

"It was a justification and acknowledgement of the fact that I've put 20 years plus of my life into working to make my city better for the residents," he said.

Feren was first elected to the Sunrise City Commission in 1987 and served for six years before being elected as a state representative. After leaving the Florida House of Representatives, Feren returned to the Sunrise City Commission in October 1996 and was appointed mayor the following month upon the death of Dan Pearl. He was elected mayor in March 1997 and re-elected without opposition in 2001 and 2005.

Feren serves on the Broward County Water Advisory Board, the Broward County Fire-Rescue Council and the Broward County Planning Council. He also serves on the National League of Cities' Transportation Infrastructure and Services Steering Committee, as well as the U.S. Conference of Mayors' Travel, Art, Parks, Entertainment and Sports Standing Committee, and the Community Development and Housing Standing Committee.

Since 2000, Feren has served on the board of directors of the Florida League of Cities. He also is treasurer and a past president of the Broward League of Cities. In addition, Feren was elected as the first president of the Broward League of Mayors and is the president-elect of the Florida League of Mayors.

Feren said he is proud to be active in public service to his city and community, and was honored to receive the E. Harris Drew Award.

"It is nice to be recognized for my public service," he said. "I've been active in Broward County and in Florida – it's not just being involved in my city, it's being involved in municipal projects throughout the state."

Feren graduated from Queens College and St. John's University School of Law; he has had a general practice of law for 26 years. He and his late wife, Meryl, have a son, Adam, who graduated from Johns Hopkins University and currently is studying at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law in Manhattan.

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