JOE CLAYTON HONORED FOR 15 YEARS WITH SHELBY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Collierville Mayor Joyner Presents Plaque to Distinguished Educator

For some four decades, Joseph A. Clayton has been a highly respected educator who contributed greatly to the field of Education, most recently with the Shelby County School Board. At a reception for the Town of Collierville Boards and Commissions on Tuesday, November 19, the Collierville Board of Mayor and Aldermen honored Mr. Clayton with a plaque. He was first elected to the Shelby County School Board in August, 1998, and re-elected for a total of four terms ending in August 2012.

Mr. Clayton consistently served as the voice of integrity in education and school administration for over 40 years. A 1950 graduate of Collierville High School, he attended the University of Memphis on a football scholarship, receiving a bachelor of science in physical education and secondary education; in 1961 he earned a master of arts in educational administration and began a distinguished teaching career. In 1954, Joe became teacher and coach at Collierville High School. After a two year stint in the U.S. Army he returned to Collierville, taking over as head football coach in 1957. He also served as head football coach at Oakhaven High School and later assumed duties as assistant principal, becoming principal in 1964. After serving as principal at Overton High School for three years, he was named Principal at Briarcrest School for 14 years, and in 1989 named President of Briarcrest Christian School System.

In 1996, he retired as President, but continued to give of his considerable talents with election to Shelby County School Board; as well as the University of Memphis Education Alumni Board, the U of M School of Education and more. Mr. Clayton is a past recipient of the “Man-Of-The-Year” award from the Southeast Memphis Exchange Club; recipient of the Freedom Foundation’s American Educators Medal award and in 2005 received the coveted Collierville Person of the Year designation from the Chamber.

Mr. Clayton and wife, Nell, make their home in Collierville and have three children, Anita Hurdle, Andy Clayton and Alan Clayton and ten grandchildren.

The plaque of Recognition, from the Town of Collierville states, “Joseph Anderson Clayton is an outstanding individual who has served as the voice of integrity in education in Shelby County for over 40 years and me for his dedicated service to the welfare of the youth of Shelby County, Serving on the Shelby County School Board from 1998-2012.”