



**(L-R) Hickory Public Schools Superintendent, Dr. Walter Hart; Photojournalist, Robert C. Reed; and HPS Public Information Officer, Beverly Snowden. (Photo credit: Larry Clark/HDR)**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**TO:** All Area Media  
**FROM:** Beverly E. Snowden, Public Information Officer  
Hickory Public Schools, 828.322.2855 / snowdenbe@hickoryschools.net  
**SUBJECT:** Hickory Photojournalist Receives Order of Long Leaf Pine  
**DATE:** January 4, 2012

### **HPS Presents *Order of Long Leaf Pine* to Photojournalist**

**HICKORY...**North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue recently awarded the *Order of the Long Leaf Pine* to Robert C. Reed, a renowned photojournalist who served the Hickory Daily Record for more than 34 years.

The *Order of the Long Leaf Pine* is among the most prestigious awards presented by the Governor of North Carolina. The *Order of the Long Leaf Pine* is presented to individuals who have a proven record of extraordinary service to the state. Contributions to their communities, extra effort in their careers, and at least 30 years of service to their organizations are some of the guidelines by which recipients are selected for this award.

The award was presented to Reed by Superintendent of Hickory Public Schools, Dr. Walter Hart, and HPS Public Information Officer, Beverly Snowden.

Snowden, who has worked with Reed through education and corporate media coverage since 1984, submitted the request to Governor Perdue, on behalf of Hickory Public Schools. “Robert Reed has always worked closely with our schools, capturing the precious faces of our students and revealing their wide-eyed discovery in learning,” said Snowden.

“For the past 34 years, Robert has served every aspect of our community with his professional photography while working with the HDR. He had to be available to cover crime, late hour car wrecks, and tragic stories that darkened many a day,” said Snowden. “But Robert’s photos have also brightened our hearts with hope and encouragement—as he seasoned our morning reads with creative visuals that opened our eyes. His decades of service have contributed to our hometown history—building archives of visual stories that otherwise, might be lost. His photos tell it all: truth and clarity, with an occasional angle of humor.”

Robert Reed started out as a photo stringer with the Hickory Daily Record while he was still a student at Hickory High School. Over the decades, he moved from the dark room to digital—continually capturing award-winning shots. “Robert knows the leaders, the politicians, the homeless, the brokenhearted, the movers, the shakers, the young and the old. He knows Hickory, Catawba County and beyond. Robert Reed is our hometown photojournalist,” added Snowden.

During Reed’s tenure with the Hickory Daily Record, he received numerous professional awards including: First Place, 2011—NC Press Association General News Photography; Second Place, 2009—NC Press Association Photo Illustration; Third Place, 2007—NC Press Association Photo Page; First Place, 2006—NC Press Association General News Photography and the NCPA Program Cover Photo; Media General Yearly Award 2009; Best Watchdog Reporting Fourth Quarter 2010 for “Coverage of the Zahra Baker Case,” among many others.

“Robert’s journey has been exceptional. He is one of the originals, from an era gone by. Robert is an unpolished jewel, yet he shines in our community with admiration from all for his integrity, honesty, dedication, and passion of life,” said Snowden.

On behalf of North Carolina Governor Bev Perdue and Hickory Public Schools, HPS Superintendent, Dr. Walter Hart, made the formal presentation of the ***Order of the Long Leaf Pine*** to Robert C. Reed. “We are extremely appreciative of your service to Hickory Public Schools—capturing our history for more than three decades,” said Dr. Hart. “Your talent is extraordinary; and we are grateful for your coverage of our students and their successful achievements. Thank you for your service to our community—and in particular, to education.”

Robert C. Reed now joins other recipients of the ***Order of the Long Leaf Pine*** including Maya Angelou, Billy Graham, Michael Jordan and Bob Timberlake, along with longtime state employees, prominent business executives and noted politicians, athletes, musicians, actors and advocates.

***Congratulations, Robert C. Reed and thank you—from Hickory Public Schools!***

