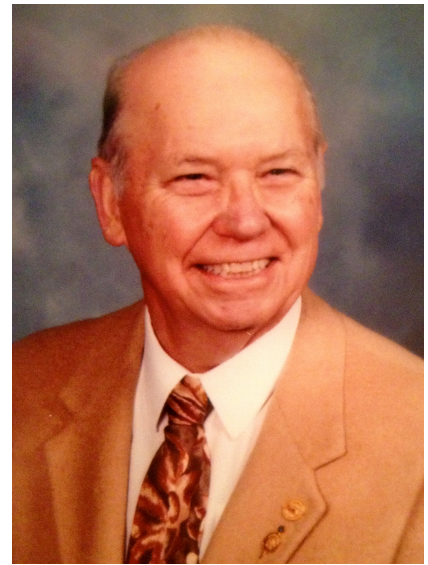


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Award Named for Bridwell

Charles Bridwell of Kingsport was honored this week by the naming of an award in his honor. The board of trustees of Utrust voted unanimously to establish the Charles Bridwell Award for Excellence in Unemployment Administration. The award will be presented to three school boards annually. The first awards were presented earlier this week at the Utrust Annual Member Appreciation Dinner in Nashville.



“My first thought was ‘What did I do to deserve the honor?’ Bridwell said. “I enjoyed serving as chairman of an excellent board with so many individuals who made significant contributions. I am very grateful and humble,” he continued.

Bridwell was a longtime member and chairman of the Sullivan County Board of Education. During that time, he also served as a member and chairman of the Tennessee School Boards Unemployment Compensation Trust whose name was later changed to Utrust.

“Charles Bridwell was chairman of Utrust when the board hired its first money manager and began to do well with its investments,” according to Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust Administrator. “He was a strong and effective leader and passionate about the mission of Utrust. We could not have had better leadership than that provided by Charles Bridwell.”

Current Utrust Board Chairman David Jones of Hancock County said, “Charles Bridwell is quality through and through. He was an outstanding chairman and he consistently led us to make the best decisions for the future of Utrust. He helped put into place key policies and procedures still used to guide the Trust today.”

Utrust is a statewide organization that promotes excellence in employee relations and administers unemployment compensation for local school boards in Tennessee. Utrust also sponsors the School Employee Appreciation Program and an annual writing competition for both students and adults. The writing competition provides twenty cash awards to students and adults who write about the difference a school employee has made in their lives.

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