



Robert Moore, 2010 First Citizen nominee

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Robert Moore's approach to life has served him well. It's been almost entirely about service, after all.

"You don't do nothing by yourself," Moore said.

Moore's contributions to the Springfield community and beyond tend to keep to a singular theme.

"Righting wrongs is a pretty good way of looking at my situation," Moore, 67, said.

Richard Bowen, Moore's longtime friend and retired Lincoln Land Community College business professor, said Moore has never been one to sit idly by.

"He's a leader in just about everything he's done," Bowen said. "He's a take-charge kind of guy. If you don't intend to work, you have to get out of his way because he's going to stick with it and see it through until the end."

Moore's resume is a mile long. For starters -- retired U.S. Marshal, appointed by President Bill Clinton; retired police chief, Jackson, Miss.; former president, Springfield Frontiers International Club; leadership positions with the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and Illinois State Police. He's currently working on a history book about black U.S. Marshals.

Moore grew up in segregated Mississippi, with separate drinking fountains and where eating at restaurants meant sitting in the back. He'd test the rules sometimes, sneaking a drink at the "whites only" water fountain. As he matured, he merely incorporated his sense of justice into his growing repertoire of management and leadership skills, which he has used to help others.

He developed affirmative action policies for the Illinois State Police, which helped significantly increase minority employment. He's been a regular chair of the Frontier International Club's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Breakfast and Golf Scholarship Outing at the Rail Golf Course, which has raised roughly \$50,000 for students in Sangamon County.

"Our job is to keep (King's) dream alive, but not offensively, so people can relate," Moore said of the breakfast. "We believe the breakfast brings together people from all cross-sections of the community to promote racial harmony."

Moore also has stood his ground in more symbolic ways.

In the early 1990s, he was instrumental in getting the Martin Luther King Jr. statue moved to its current site at the northeast corner of Second Street and Capitol Avenue and facing Abraham Lincoln's statue across the street. Before, the King statue had been placed in an obscure section of the capitol complex.

A few months after the statue was moved, Moore outmaneuvered the KKK, which had planned a rally at the statehouse, but was blocked from holding one when Moore's Frontier International quickly organized and applied to hold its own rally, beating the KKK to the punch.

Moore said he credits Springfield for giving him a chance to contribute.

"I feel comfortable here," he said. "In Springfield, you know who you can turn to, who's got your back. People here want you involved. They call on you."

ROBERT MOORE

Occupation: Retired U.S. Marshal, chief of police. Owner, CEO, Robert Moore and Associates Black Police Resource Center.

Family: Wife Barbara Moore, daughters Kimberly and Tamara, grandchildren Aminah, Charles and Jocelyn.

Education: Bachelor's degree in criminal justice and master's degree in public administration, University of Illinois Springfield. Graduate, Southern Police Institute, University of Louisville.

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