The city lost a great community leader and I lost a friend last week with the sudden passing of Albert Talley, Sr. Strong communities like Renton are built through the selfless contributions of individuals like Al. He was a dedicated and dynamic community leader and public servant whose passion for Renton came through in everything he did. He was a Renton icon and beloved by everyone in our community.

While Al is best known as a school board member for 16 years, he was also a long-time mentor for many young students and a board member of Communities In Schools of Renton. He made an impact on the city by serving as the chairman of the city’s Human Rights Commission. He was also chairman of the Board of the Renton Chamber of Commerce. Al was active in the Renton Rotary and was a regular volunteer for many local organizations and service clubs. He was always there to offer his expertise on local projects while refusing to accept credit.

In 2005, his numerous selfless acts of generosity and work as a volunteer in the community were formally recognized as he was named Renton’s Citizen of the Year. He was a tremendous ambassador for the Renton community and will truly be missed.

On behalf of the entire city, we send our deepest condolences to his wife Candis, their children Debra, Albert Jr., Michael and Susan, along with his extended family. The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the contributor’s favorite charity in Albert’s name.