

**Supt. Danny Carpenter's Comments, Herman Ragin Center Dedication
Jan. 14, 2007, 2:30 p.m.**

Good afternoon! As Superintendent of Schools and a friend of Mr. Ragin's, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you here today for this ceremony to dedicate the former Perry Elementary facility in honor of Herman C. Ragin, Sr.

Recognizing individuals who have made a difference in this school system and in the Houston County community means a lot to me, especially when we are honoring a man such as Herman Ragin.

It has been such a pleasure knowing Mr. Ragin. I first had the opportunity to work with his son, Herman Ragin, Jr., at Northside High School in 1975. I knew of his father, Herman Ragin, Sr., but didn't really get to know Mr. Ragin until he served on the Student Review Committee while I was principal at the Elberta Center. Later on I also had the opportunity to work with his son, Wayne Ragin, and I saw the character of the father reflected in these fine young men.

I have also had the opportunity of serving on the Board of Health with Mr. Ragin. He is the model of a gentleman in everything that he does and this is easily recognized by anyone who has ever had the chance to interact with him. A person's character stands out and leaves an impression.

When talking to Wayne, he describes another type of man. His son talks about a father who was a stern disciplinarian, strict, but always a loving, caring dad with high expectations of his children. He expects the very best of them.

I know that Herman, Keith and Wayne are tremendously proud of their father for the way that he has always stood tall and stood firm about doing the right thing. He has always been someone for whom I have had the utmost respect. He is well-deserving of today's tribute and certainly deserves recognition in our community. This is a man who has made a tremendous impact on children, teachers, administrators and the community. A leader before, during, and after integration, he is the type of man that you want to be associated with and want to model your life after. He is a great Christian man, an inspiring educator and a legendary coach! This is the Herman Ragin I know.

The Board of Education members and I welcome you today and are pleased that you are able to attend this special event. At this time, I would like to introduce our Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Michael Roberts.