

played several years ago
at an anniversary service

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Our country and
our principles are
more important than

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TRIBUTE—(from left) Andre Peery, Mike Ramsey, Carla Lewis (holding plaque), Bob Hale, Roma Willis-Turner, Tramere Monroe, Shelia Umberger and Evelyn Bethel.

Friends and family pay tribute to librarian, Carla Lewis

by S. Rotan Hale

Mention the name Carla Lewis in the right crowd and watch people smile. Some may even glow as she glows, simply from the reflection of hers.

The name Carla Lewis is synonymous with grace, style and a multitude of other amazing qualities which were so appropriately articulated by many of her fans during a recent tribute held in her honor at the Historic Gainsboro Library.

Who is this individual who has been far more than just branch manager at the Gainsboro Library for 36 years and what would possess so many to testify over and over to her greatness. Ask any

of the 150 who attended the ceremony on March 12 and the answer would be unanimous—for she is unequivocally considered the best of the best... among the best!

A native of Bladen County, NC, Carla possesses an incredible ability—an extremely personable disposition which allows her to connect with individuals on any level. This factor is one of many which explains her amazing popularity thereby justifying a grand tribute of such caliber.

Consequently numerous accounts from various locals flooded the affair. Some sang, some recited poetry and others stood

up and simply told stories and presented her with gifts.

Local jazz pianist Bob Hale accompanied by his Jazztet supplied the music for the evening's festivities. At one point Hale himself presented Carla with a beautifully framed collection of before and after photos featuring the recently remodeled library building taken in various stages of its development.

In a most dramatic performance Roma Willis-Turner gave the entire affair a certain flair as the MC for the night.

Carla's pastor Rev. E.T. Burton of Sweet Union Baptist Church, as the

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can be more harmful than ignorance.