



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers honors MWRD Commissioner Avila with Chicago Presidents Award

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Commissioner Frank Avila was recently honored with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Chicago Presidents Award during the organization's 4th Annual Red Carpet Awards Banquet held at the Parliament in Chicago. SHPE Chicago is part of a nationwide organization of Hispanic professionals, and their mission is to develop and manage the tools needed to promote, advance and enrich the careers of Hispanics in the technical and engineering disciplines. Commissioner Avila received the honor for his contribution and advancement to the science and profession of civil engineering.

Commissioner Avila expressed his gratitude for the recognition. "I am deeply honored by the tribute," said Commissioner Avila. "It is an honor to receive this award, and it is my hope to have made positive contributions to water quality, aquatic life, and the lives of everyone living in Cook County."

Commissioner Avila was elected to the Board of Commissioners of the MWRD in 2002 and re-elected in 2008. He is Chairman of the Engineering Committee, the Maintenance and Operations Committee, and the Public Health & Welfare Committee. Commissioner Avila works to protect the health and safety of the public and protect the quality of water in the Chicago area waterways. His top priorities include cost-effective wastewater treatment, flood prevention, and the regulation of waste disposal to protect our waterways.

Commissioner Avila frequently speaks about the MWRD, addressing many community and business organizations, schools and public agencies. He and his wife, Sherry, have produced numerous Environmental Chicago Access Network TV shows that may be viewed at www.avilamedia.blip.tv and www.youtube.com/user/avilatvproducers. In addition, Commissioner Avila has produced several Public Service Announcements on protecting our water environment.

Commissioner Avila received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering from the University of Illinois-Champaign in 1961 and his Master's Degree in Finance from the University of Arizona-Tucson in 1968. He owned a civil engineering company named AVILA & ASSOCIATES, INC. and practiced engineering and land surveying for over 45 years.

Married for 48 years, Commissioner Avila and Sherry have three children and two grandchildren: son Frank, wife Rachel and two grandchildren, Clarence (17 years) and Thalia (32 months); son Quinn and wife Jackie, and daughter Audrey.

For more information, visit www.shpechicago.org.



Commissioner Frank Avila was recently honored with the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) Chicago Presidents Award. He is pictured with his wife Sherry and daughter Audrey.

*Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award-winning, special purpose government agency responsible for wastewater treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois. **Our water environment, take it personally.***