

## **Tribute to Professor Emeritus R.L. McNeely**

*Written by HBSSW professor and former dean Stan Stojkovic*

R.L. McNeely was a well-known professor and scholar over his 37 year career at UWM. He was one of the first people to publish an anthology on race and crime with former professor Carl Pope of the criminal justice department back in the late 1970's. His seminal work (2 editions) entitled "Black Milwaukee" was a treasure trove of details and facts that highlighted the enormous disparities that existed between black Milwaukeeans and white Milwaukeeans. His message was clear: Milwaukee was a hyper-segregated city that the benefits of the American Dream were not evident for most black persons in the city. Working with others over a 37 year academic career, he published dozens of academic articles and obtained a law degree from Marquette University. He worked with numerous social service agencies and non-profit organizations to assist those who were caught up in the criminal justice system and suffered its indignities. He even spent a weekend in jail for his refusal to provide a thumb print to police when stopped for a traffic violation. His later activities included working with the Felmers O. Chaney Advisory/Advocacy Board as board president over the past 10 years to improve the lot of offenders returning from prison. His interests in the city of Milwaukee were unparalleled, as he fought for equality for all persons, as well as being very interested in the activities and organization of the Milwaukee Police Department and worked with others in addressing the size of the prison population in the state of Wisconsin up until his recent death. He will be missed. His legacy lives on.