

6. Educational Background *(attach additional material if necessary):*

Prairie View A&M College (Dr. and Mrs. Crear)
University of California, Irvine School of Medicine (Dr. Crear)

7. Reasons for Nomination: *(Please include outstanding accomplishments, achievements, and contributions to Nevada and its people. Please be specific and provide considerable detail. You may attach additional pages if necessary.)* See attached biography.

8. Other NSHE Awards *(please list other awards this individual has received):* _____

9. Nominated by Regent: Full Board of Regents

Dr. John Crear and Mrs. Barbara Crear

In March 1966, John and Barbara moved to Las Vegas from Los Angeles by way of Houston, Texas. Although ten years apart, both John and Barbara attended Phyllis Wheatley High School and Prairie View A&M College in Texas. John's studies were interrupted his junior year to proudly serve his country as a medic in the South Pacific during World War II. Not until they both relocated to Los Angeles would their paths cross.

At the time John graduated from Prairie View, most colleges were not accepting blacks into medical school, so he went to work as a laboratory technician at Meharry Medical College before being accepted to the University of California, Irvine School of Medicine. While at Irvine, one of John's professors told him that he would not make it past the first year and should consider dropping out. John did not give up, however, and instead went on to become one of the most honored and respected physicians in Nevada.

John met Barbara, a great influence who helped him stay focused, while he was completing his residency at Los Angeles County General Hospital where Barbara worked as a Dietician. Soon after they married, Charles West, the first black doctor in Nevada, recruited John to move to Las Vegas. He accepted, and became the second black Family Practitioner in Nevada. He set up his practice in the Westside of Las Vegas, the only place blacks could live at the time, right next to the Moulin Rouge on Bonanza Road. Barbara worked in the front office and began teaching within the Clark County School District as a substitute. When John and Barbara moved to Las Vegas, there was much need in the black community. They quickly became friends, confidants and mentors to many trying to find their way in a very difficult, segregated society.

John and Barbara welcomed a son, Kenneth, in 1968. A second son, Cedric, followed in 1969. Kenneth and Cedric both attended public schools in Las Vegas, and later graduated from Bishop Gorman High School. Barbara volunteered often at their schools, always lending a helping hand to their teachers, and even hosting many parties for their schoolmates at her home. In addition to working in John's office, Barbara was also an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and many other civic groups.

Meanwhile, John's practice was a busy one. Not only did he have office hours six days a week, he also made house calls and did night rounds at the hospital. It was not uncommon for his

children to wait up past 9 p.m. for their father to get home for dinner. Although John was very busy, it was clear he was not in the business of medicine to get rich. Son Cedric worked in his office on Saturdays and was often told to only accept payment for what the person could afford. John just wanted to help people the best he could. He also found time to give free physicals to children that needed them for sports, school or any other activity. He worked tirelessly every day, but never complained. Instead, he always wore a beaming smile on his face, willing to do even more if he could. John was a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha and Sigma Pi Phi fraternities, and the founding member of the West/Crear Medical Society, the local chapter of the National Medical Association.

Years later, John began studying addictive behaviors and became a leading specialist and authority on treatment for substance abuse. He was the Medical Director for the Care Unit at Lake Mead Hospital and retired as the Medical Director for the Nevada Treatment Center. Governor Bob Miller appointed him to the State Board that addressed these pressing issues.

John and Barbara were friends to many and loved by all. They tried their best to help every person in need.