

Mayor Carson Ross Resume

Carson Ross, a Blue Springs resident for more than 50 years, was initially elected as Mayor in April of 2008 and reelected in April 2012, April 2016 and 2020. He is the first African American Mayor of Blue Springs, Missouri. He retired as Mayor after 16 years of dedicated service on April 15, 2024.

Ross most recently served as Chair of the Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) Board of Directors and served as the Missouri Co-Chair of the MARC Total Transportation Policy Committee. Ross served as President of the Eastern Jackson County Betterment Council, and as Chairman of the Mayor's Advisory Board for the Little Blue Valley Sewer District where he also served as the Vice Chairman for their Board of Trustees.

Ross has served the City of Blue Springs and surrounding regions for numerous years, in an array of capacities including: Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Blue Ridge Church of Christ, President of St. Mary's Medical Center Board of Associates, presently serves on the Centerpoint Medical Center Board of Directors., member of the Community Services League Board of Director, former Chairman of the Missouri Veterans Commission and Advisory Committee on Minority Veterans with the US Department of Veterans Affairs, President and member of the Missouri Municipal League Board of Directors.

Elected to the Blue Springs Board of Alderman in 1981, Ross served Districts 2 & 3 for eight consecutive years as Alderman and one year as Mayor Pro Tem.

Ross was elected to the Missouri House of Representatives in 1988 representing the 55th District. Ross served a total of 14 years in the Missouri House of Representatives (1989-2003). He served as Republican Whip in 1991-92.

Ross worked for Hallmark Cards, the company from which he retired after working in various positions for 39 years. He is President of Graves & Ross Investment Co., dba Smoking Hill Bar-B-Que at the Lake of the Ozarks since 1988.

A 1964 graduate of Bradley County High School, Ross attended the University of Arkansas – Pine Bluff and received a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from Rockhurst University in 1977.

In 1995 and 1996, Mayor Ross was recognized by the Kansas City Globe as one of Kansas City's most influential African Americans. He was awarded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Black Achiever in Industry Award in 1985. He also received the Spirit of Enterprise Award from the Missouri Chamber of Commerce in 1991.

He received the 1997 state award by the Kansas City Globe as the Most Influential African American, only the second time this award has been given. Ross was also honored with the United States National Guard (NGAUS) Major General Charles Dick Medal of Merit Award in 1998. He is a US Army Vietnam Combat Infantry Veteran serving from 1967-69. He received several citations including two Valorous Unit Awards while serving in Vietnam from 1967-68. Ross has received numerous awards and recognition including, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Legacy Award presented by the Olathe, KS Chapter of the NAACP.

Ross was born on December 15, 1946 in Warren, Arkansas and was married to his late wife, First Lady Eloise for 49 years before her heavenly departure on Aug. 28, 2019. They have three daughters: Rechele, Carla and Diana; six granddaughters, one grandson who is deceased, four great-grandsons, and one great-granddaughter.

Mayor Ross was married March 23, 2023, to First Lady Ola Truelove-Ross in Maui, Hawaii. He also has a stepdaughter, Teasha Truelove.