

Bruce E. (Gene) Ayers, Jr.
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Gene is the broker owner of Ayers Realtors in Gary, Indiana. A Realtor for over 40 years, Gene is committed to the real estate industry and his community.

- A. Community Service – In addition to his many business and Association responsibilities, Gene has given back to his community in many ways. He is the Past President of Gary Rotary with 34 consecutive years of perfect attendance. He has served on various Rotary committees, has attended international conventions and in turn has hosted Rotarians from abroad and he is currently serving on The Board of Directors

He is a current Board Member of the Miller Business Association and a member of the Gary Chamber of Commerce. Gene is a past Board Member of MCC – the Miller Community Corporation. Under the auspicious of the MCC, when taxes in Lake County went up as much as 500-600% in the Miller section of Gary, Gene served as an adjunct member of the MCC Legal Defense Fund. He started a Property Tax Task Force with the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors and was able to get the powerful lobbying staff of the Indiana Association of Realtors to support the MCC position to have property tax caps in place.

An example of Gene's commitment to the Miller Business community is illustrated by his founding of the Lake Street Beautification Committee. In 1994 Gene was asked to help secure a grant to improve streetscapes in business areas. He contacted every business in the Miller business area and got 100% participation when he asked business owners to sign a petition to encourage the city of Gary to seek the grant. At this time he organized the Lake Street Beautification Committee and raised over \$5,000 for the purchase of plants, organized volunteers to maintain the plants and planters and kept the planting alive for 3 years before getting the city of Gary to pitch in with upkeep.

In addition, Gene tirelessly supports Miller Little League, the Miller Garden Club and Miller Community Fund financially and with his time volunteering with these organizations.

- B. Realtors Professionalism – In addition to various offices and committee chairmanships, Gene was named Realtor of the Year in 2006 by the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors. He is currently one of 36 directors of the state wide Indiana Association of Realtors.
- C. Other Comments: Gene is a graduate of Wm. A. Wirt High School in Gary. He served as an officer in the National Guard and graduated from Indiana State University with a degree in Business Administration.