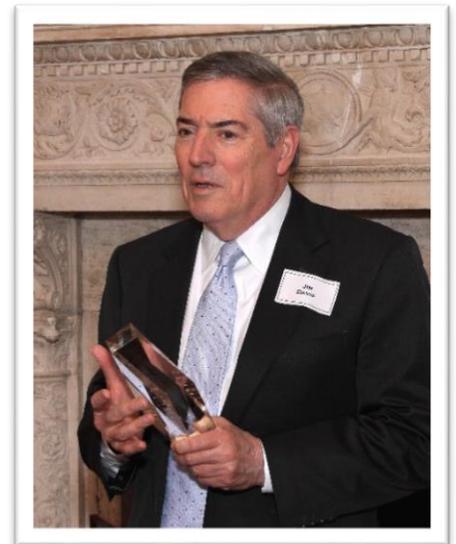


# THE VISIONARY AWARD

The Visionary Award was established by the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama on the occasion of its tenth anniversary in 2007 to recognize extraordinary service by an organization or an individual in addressing the unmet eye care needs of Alabama's citizens.



During the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the organization, two distinguished individuals who were instrumental in its creation were awarded the seventh and eighth Visionary Awards. For their leadership and guidance, **Clarence B. Blair** and **James D. Davis** received recognition at the September 12, 2017 reception hosted by UAB. Mr. Blair was the chairman of the Eye Foundation Hospital during the time of its sale to UAB, and Mr. Davis stepped in as the first chairman of the new grant-making foundation that was created as a result of the sale. These two successfully led the transition and helped define the mission of the new organization, originally known as the Alabama Eye Institute before changing its name to the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama. (Clarence Blair, left; Jim Davis, right photo)



## Past Visionary Award Recipients



2013: **Dr. Alston Callahan** became the sixth recipient of the Visionary Award during the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the facility that bears his name, the UAB Callahan Eye Hospital. The award was presented posthumously in recognition of his wisdom, leadership, and dedication to making his dream of providing top quality eye care and research for the benefit of all citizens of Birmingham and beyond come true. In photo: ESFA Chairman Robert Field presents the Visionary Award to Dr. Mike Callahan, son of Dr. Alston Callahan.

**2011: Lanning B. Kline, M.D.**

For his extraordinary leadership as Chairman of the Department of Ophthalmology at the University of Alabama School of Medicine and the impact he has made on improving eyesight throughout the state and beyond through the Department's teaching, research, clinical and service activities.

[www.uab.edu/eyedoc/](http://www.uab.edu/eyedoc/) (in photo: ESFA board chairman Steve Yoder, past ESFA chairman Jim Davis, Dr. Kline, and past ESFA chairman and Visionary Award recipient Allen Rushton)



**2011: Hall Williams Thompson**

Given posthumously for his steadfast determination, leadership and generosity in supporting efforts to provide quality eye care to all Alabamians, but especially for the state's most vulnerable citizens--our underserved children.

**2010: Allen D. Rushton**

For his longtime support, leadership and dedication to the mission of the EyeSight Foundation of Alabama, including many years of service as Chairman of the Grants Committee, and also to Eye Foundation, Inc., including service as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

**2009: Alie B. Gorrie**

For her compassion, vision and determination in creating Songs for Sight, a unique musical celebration that raises awareness and funds to support the ongoing clinical and research activities of the UAB Center for Low Vision Rehabilitation and its Low Vision Support Group, Orientation and Mobility Services and Low Vision Equipment Program for young adults in need.

[www.songsforsight.org](http://www.songsforsight.org)

**2007: Sight Savers of Alabama (now Sight Savers America)**

For its phenomenal success in providing comprehensive eye care for thousands of at-risk children throughout the state through a network of referrals, providers and other eye care professionals, improving vision among those whose eye care needs otherwise would go untreated.

[www.sightsaversamerica.org](http://www.sightsaversamerica.org)