

# Editorial and Opinion

## The Dream Lives On

Every once in a while, Banker & Tradesman will use this space as an opportunity to comment on the passing of someone who made an impact on the industries we cover – either directly or on a broader level, i.e. via public office. The death of former Massachusetts Gov. Edward King, for example, was noted only two weeks ago. But while politicians like King are written about all the time, hardworking people like Norma Moseley often toil in relative obscurity.

News of the 75-year-old housing advocate's pneumonia-related death on Sept. 16 didn't make the pages of The Boston Globe until Oct. 2. Perhaps that's appropriate, since the fiery Moseley rarely had time for the spotlight during four decades of helping others. After enjoying a comfortable life in the days of her youth – she was raised in the affluent community of Darien, Conn., attended an all-girls preparatory school and graduated from Radcliffe College – she became intrigued by social causes and witnessed Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. Her initial interest led to volunteerism and ultimately a position at the Ecumenical Social Action Committee, an agency based in Boston's Jamaica Plain neighborhood.

Over the years, Moseley fought on behalf of thousands of clients who had been victimized by lenders, brokers, contractors and others. Recognizing the importance of keeping a home, she told Banker & Tradesman in 2001, "Even though I'm a very strong advocate for homeownership and affordable housing, I'm a stronger advocate for sustainable homeownership. That's our key word." Although she made those comments at the time of what was called her "retirement" from ESAC, she continued to reach out to those in need until the very end.

ESAC established an endowment fund in Moseley's name when she stopped working full-time five years ago. The fund is designed to help the agency preserve and develop new homeownership programs. In our book, there are few causes that are worthier.