



2003

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

February 2003

Charleston, West Virginia

The 2003 West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Honorees

Louise Payne Anderson

Louise Payne Anderson has resided in Cannelton, West Virginia all of her life and during her 79 years has served as an advocate for the youth and her community. She is a graduate of Washington High

School, Bluefield State College and Marshall University. She was the first African-American to serve as a department head at East Bank High School. Under her leadership, the Annual Mary L. Williams Human Relations Awards were established in the WVEA.

In her community in the Cannelton and Montgomery areas, she was worked tirelessly to address the economic and human rights conditions. She has served as branch president of the Montgomery Branch of the NAACP for the last twenty years, and has worked in the Montgomery Branch for over fifty years. Her efforts have included working with the police departments, the may, West Virginia University-Tech, and other community based organizations to ensure adequate educational and economic opportunities for minority citizens.

At the 2002 Annual State Conference, Louise was awarded the T.G. Nutter Award that is presented to the West Virginian who has made significant contributions to the causes of equality and justice. Although her health has diminished her participation, she still regularly attends the NAACP State Conference and is active in her church, the Bethel Baptist Church of Cannelton, The Mt. Olivet District Association where she served as counselor for the youth, and the WV State Baptist Association. Another way that she serves the community is through her participation on the Board of Directors for the Washington High Community Education Center. Through her vision and perseverance, she approached the Kanawha County Board of Education in 1989 and was given the deed to the property in London, WV. The Association is still active today and provides services for the citizens of the Upper Kanawha Valley.

Joan Browning

Joan Browning was born as Shiloh, Wheeler County, in rural South Georgia. Her exposure to the Civil Rights Movement occurred while a student at Georgia State College for Women in Milledgeville, Georgia

when she attended the 1961 Paine College Student Christian Conference with her friend Faye Powell. Paine College students along with Reverend James M. Lawson and Dr. Louis Glover taught her how to behave as a nonviolent student Christian witness against racism. Immediately, she began participating in pickets and sit-ins. She worked side by side with Julian Bond at the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Council office in Atlanta Georgia. Later, she participated in the Albany Freedom Ride. She was the only white woman on the Albany Freedom Ride to be jailed for a week and a half. Ms. Browning was awarded the 2000 West Virginia Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commissions highest honor, the Governors Living the Dream award, as a person who best exemplifies all of the characteristics of justice, scholarship, sharing of self, human and civil rights, and advocacy of peace. Nominated by the Lewisburg Business and Professional Women, Browning was chosen as the first Business and Professions Women of West Virginia's business Woman of the Year for making an impact to promote women in business. She is a member of the Visiting Committee for West Virginia University's Center for Women's Studies and is an organizer of the Coalition for West Virginia Women. She and Dr. Barbara J. Howe, Director of West Virginia University's Center for Women's Studies, cochaired the West Virginia Advisory Committee to the Institute for Women's Policy Research report, Status of Women in West Virginia, released in November 2002. Ms. Browning is a West Virginia State College graduate with a Regents Bachelor of Arts and twelve hours toward a Masters Degree from Marshall University. She lectures on topics in the history of the American south, civil rights, and women, and the motivational power of religion. In West Virginia, she had been a guest lecturer at West Virginia University, Fairmont State College,

Glennville State Colleges Summersville campus, West Virginia State College and West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine. She is the staff of Greenbrier Community College Foundation and a Concord College consultant.

Philip Carter, Jr.

Philip Carter, Jr., professor and chair, Social Work, School of Medicine at Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia is a social welfare policy advocate and community political planner. He has been recognized for his successful leadership for social justice by political, academic, labor and community organizations in Ohio; Pennsylvania; West Virginia; Miami, Florida; and Los Angeles, California.

He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Marshall University with a concentration in political science and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Pittsburgh.

Mr. Carter was the first Division I African American basketball student/athlete at a white college in West Virginia arrested for attempting to eat at a white-owned restaurant. He was one of the student leaders of the Civic Interest Progress student group, which led desegregation efforts against Baileys Cafeteria, the White Pantry and swimming pools. During August 1964, he protested the appearance of Governor Wallace at the Southern Governors Conference at the Greenbrier in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia. This preceded that August 28, 1963 March on Washington. He and other African American leaders pressured the cities of Huntington and Clarksburg, West Virginia to form local human rights commissions. He led the SNCC affiliate in Huntington, West Virginia.

In addition, Mr. Carter was elected president of the Huntington Branch, NAACP 1988-1992 and 1996-2000. In 1980, he formed the only Black Political Action Committee (PAC) in West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky.

His contributions to the community include service on the Urban Renewal Authority Board, the Ebenezer Medical Outreach, Inc. Board

and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Symposium.

Currently, he serves on the Marshall University Multicultural Affairs Committee. In 1999, he was recognized by the Herald Dispatch as one of the 50 most impactful leaders in the Huntington, West Virginia Tri-State area in the 20th Century.

George Earle Chamberlain, Jr.

George Earle Chamberlain, Jr. graduated from Garnet High School in Charleston, WV in 1938 and then earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Education at Hampton University in 1943. From 1943-1946, he served in the United States Army, Quartermaster Corps, in New Guinea, the Philippine Islands and Japan. In 1946-1947, he attended the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Then from 1947-1964, he was engaged in several endeavors operating his own business, the Chamberlain Transfer Company, working for the United States Post Office, serving as Business Manager at Lakin State Hospital and then as In-take Officer for the WV Department of Employment Security.

In 1971, he was employed by the United States Department of Defense as an Equal Opportunity Specialist for areas in Virginia and West Virginia. Then in 1978, the Office of Federal Contracts and Compliance in the United States Department of Labor hired him as a Compliance officer, moved him to Pittsburgh and added Pennsylvania to his territory. Mr. Chamberlain retired from the Department of Labor in May 1992, and returned to Charleston, WV to live.

In the midst of the on-going Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s West Virginia like other states, as a result of pressure, passed legislation establishing a State Human Rights Commission to address the needs of people who suffered discrimination in practically every area of life. Hired by this Commission as Field Service Director in 1964, Chamberlain's job was to coordinate activities of the State Human Rights Commission with county commissions and with commissions in various cities including Fairmont, Charleston, Logan, Huntington,

Weirton, Clarksburg, Beckley, Morgantown, Parkersburg and Wheeling. He apprised them of federal and state laws that protected civil and human rights and helped them in their efforts to adopt and implement local civil rights policies and to define the breadth and depth of their leadership responsibilities.

Mr. Chamberlain was a conduit for information and a n effective speaker who was able to bring people together to share ideas on how conditions could be changed and how it act on those new ideas for the betterment of all. He used a combination of persuasion, diplomacy and coalitions to achieve good results at the time when the law did not give the WV Human Rights Commission real power or strength. It could persuade, promote, and encourage but what was needed was an enforceable law.

Government officials, state and local human rights commissions, churches, synagogues, labor union officials, organizations and individuals too numerous to name joined their efforts to influence the legislature to provide subpoena power for the WV Human Rights Commission. Chamberlain, who had been promoted to Assistant Director of the State Commission, was among that dedicated group of State Human Rights Commission on the very last day of the 1967 legislative session. Subpoena powers enabled the Commission in its investigations of complaints alleging discrimination to secure and examine essential records, to hold hearings and to determine what benefits to provide complainants if discrimination were proven.

Carrie Chance

Mrs. Carrie Chance is a native West Virginian, who has spent her career in public service. During the 1960s she was active in sit-ins and efforts to integrate the restaurants and dining places in Charleston and Huntington, WV. She has held numerous positions in Charleston city government. For example, she has served as the staff assistant/ coordinator for federal and state programs, the federal and state program grants administrator, relocation officer for the Charleston

Renewal Authority and assistant personnel director. She completed her high school education at Charleston High School and attended West Virginia State College and the University of Tokyo. Among her many community activities are the Charleston NAACP, D.A.R.E. Board of Directors, City of Charleston Credit Union Board of Directors, the Kanawha Charleston Neighborhood Congress, Business and Professional Women's Organization, Westside Uplift Project and the Riverview Baptist Church Usher Board. Her political affiliations include the City of Charleston's Republican Executive Committee. In addition, she served on Governor Underwood's 1996-1997 Transition Team.

Betty Jane Cleckley

Betty Jane Cleckley, a graduate of the former Douglass High School, Huntington, West Virginia, received her Bachelor of Science degree from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, a Master of Social Science degree from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, a Ph.D. degree from Brandeis University in Waltham, Massachusetts, and a post doctoral certificate in Higher Education Management from Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts. She is active in civic and professional organizations, and has served on national and state boards such as the Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Services (DACOWITS) and the State of West Virginia Human Rights Commission. Currently, she serves on the Martin Luther King, Jr. State of West Virginia Holiday Commission, the Board of Directors of the Unlimited Future, Inc. (UFI), Cabell Huntington Hospital Foundation, and the Center for Aging and Health Care in West Virginia, Inc. (CAH). She was presented The Governors Living the Dream Award January, 1998 by Cecil Underwood, Governor of West Virginia; The W.E.B. DuBois Higher Education Award November, 2000 by the National Alliance of Black School Educators (NABSE); she is a life member of the National Association

for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP); and a long time dedicated member of the American Public Health Association (APHA) and The National Association of Social Workers (NASW); The Betty Jane Cleckley Minority Research Award, established by the American Public Health Association, recognizes research on minority health issues particularly among the elderly.

The Reverend Homer H. Davis

The Reverend Homer H. Davis is a native West Virginian educated in Kanawha County public schools and was graduated from West Virginia State College. In 1964 he completed the requirements for full membership in the Washington Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and was ordained Elder on June 14 of the same year. Rev. Davis was instrumental in integrating the former Rock Lake Pool as well as other public accommodations in Charleston. From 1971 through 1979 he was under Special Appointment beyond the church with the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce. During his tenure with E.D.A. in Huntington, WV; Atlanta GA and Washington, D.C., he held managerial positions in Administration and Civil Rights. In 1974, he was promoted to the position of Deputy Director, Office of Civil Rights in the national office. He is a charter member of the National Center for Human Relations Board of Directors at West Virginia State College. He is the recipient of the Governors 1998 Martin Luther King, Jr. LIVING THE DREAM AWARD for Human and Civil Rights. From 1994 through 2002, he has served as President of Charleston Branch 3226 of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Thirty-three years of organizational leadership have included: President, Kanawha Valley Council of Human Relations; President Charleston, WV Branch NAACP; Grand Master, MWPH Grand Lodge of West Virginia F&AM; President, Conference of Grand Masters of the World, Prince Hall affiliation; Chairperson, Cabell-Huntington Human Relations Council; Martin

**Luther King, Jr. WV Holiday Commission; Chairperson/Director,
Ohio County Community Services and Mayors Blue Ribbon Panes on
Diversity, City of Charleston.**

Elizabeth Harden Gilmore

Civil rights leader Elizabeth Harden Gilmore lived and worked in this house from 1947 until her death in 1986. She pioneered efforts to integrate her state's schools, housing, and public accommodations and to pass civil rights legislation enforcing such integration. Her home, constructed by 1900, is a handsome, two-and-a-half story, brick Classical Revival style residence, with a columned portico. In the early 1950s before the Brown v. Board of Education decision mandating school desegregation, Gilmore formed a women's club which opened Charleston's first integrated day care center. At about the same time, she succeeded in getting her black Girl Scout troop admitted to Camp Anne Bailey near the mountain town of Lewisburg. After co-founding the local chapter of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in 1958, she led CORE in a successful 1 -year-long sit-in campaign at a local department store called The Diamond. In the 1960s Gilmore served on the Kanawha Valley Council of Human Relations, where she participated in forums on racial differences and where she helped black renters, displaced by a new interstate highway, find housing. Her successful push to amend the 1961 state civil rights law won her a seat on the powerful higher-education Board of Regents. Gilmore was the first African American to receive such an honor. She stayed on the Board from 1969 to the late 1970s serving one term as vice-president and one term as president. Gilmore's tireless commitment to civil and human rights didn't end there. She was also involved with the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and community education and welfare committees. "She was always there," says her friend Betty Hamilton. "Her commitment was ongoing and steadfast."

The Reverend Dr. Paul J. Gilmer, Sr

Charleston native, Re. Dr. Paul J. Gilmer, Sr., involved himself in nonviolent

Civil Rights work beginning in the late 1940s. At that time he and Marvin Mills directed by their pastor, the late Rev. James Austin, of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Charleston, tried to secure tickets to Holiday on Ice at the Charleston Municipal Auditorium. Each time they were denied tickets, they returned to the end of the line and tried again. Finally they asked a fair skinned African American, Skip Courtney, to buy several tickets for them. At the next City Council meeting, following a secret debate, the auditorium doors were opened to all citizens. When Lawyer William Lonesome was recruiting individuals for State Police positions, Rev. Gilmer applied but was rejected because of an eye problem. A loyal member of the NAACP, Rev. Gilmer became an executive board member of the local branch in 1966 and served until his illness in 1991. Rev. Gilmer was active in the branch activities under Attorney Willard Brown. When the branch called a meeting to organize a march to integrate Barlow Skating Rink on Virginia Street, West; Gilmer responded and participated in the march. As president of the Charleston Ministerial Association (1966-67 and 1970-75) Rev. Gilmer along with Attorney Willard Brown and others, organized a march from the Donnally Street playground to City Hall to petition City Council for an Open Housing Law. During Rev. Ronald English's first year with the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance, founder/president Rev. Gilmer asked the Alliance to show support for the predominantly Black garbage workers who had been fired for wanting to become unionized. After negotiations failed, Gilmer called on the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance, the Charleston Business and Professional Mens Club, and the NAACP to show the injustice of the situation by planning a march. Rev. Gilmer cooperated with NAACP President Bernard Hawkins to form a coalition of the NAACP, the Business and Professional Men's Club, the Black Ministerial Alliance and the Triangle Improvement Council to protest the exclusion of Blacks from swimming in the Rock

Lake Pool. In support of the Triangle Improvement Council, led by Bill Preston, Henry Haynes and Johnnie Mae Cash; Rev. Gilmer called a meeting at Shiloh Baptist Church and invited federal, state and city officials. The meeting was concerned with seeking representation on the committees and commissions for a master plan for redevelopment of the triangle area because there was no plan for relocation of the persons to be displaced by Urban Renewal. Rev. Paul J. Gilmer is pastor of First Baptist Church of Vandalia, Charleston, former pastor of the historic African Zion Baptist Church, Malden, retired Executive Director of OIC of Charleston and retired Assistant Fire Chief, Charleston Fire Department.

Henry Hale

Henry Hale is a native of McDowell County, West Virginia and educated in the public schools there. He attended Anawalt Junior High School and Gary High School. He is retired from public service having worked for the United States Postal Service and OSHA. For many years he was instrumental in sit-ins and demonstrations in Charleston, WV during the 1960s. His untiring efforts resulted in the integration of public facilities in Charleston, WV. He was active in the Charleston NAACP and continues to maintain his membership in this organization. In addition, he supports the Covenant House through volunteer services and his church, First Baptist on Shrewsbury Street.

Bernard Francis Hawkins

Bernard Francis Hawkins, a trailblazer and pacesetter in civil rights in the state of West Virginia, has resided most of his life in South Charleston, WV where through his persistence and courage he worked to eradicate segregation, racism and discrimination. During the 1960s he led protests against the segregated Rock Lake Pool and worked to integrate Sunset Memorial Park in the 1970s. He was born in Sewell, Fayette County, West Virginia. He was educated in Fayette County Schools where he attended Simmons High School for two years and graduated from DuBois High School in Mt. Hope, WV. He also attended West Virginia State College. He was hired at Union Carbide where he

worked more than thirty years as supervisor of the carpenters at the Institute Plant. He was known for his outstanding work in the area of civil and human rights as evidenced by his work for equality and freedom from discrimination. He helped countless persons to acquire jobs at Union Carbide and at other businesses in the Kanawha Valley. In the education arena, He also worked tirelessly through his work in resolving employment concerns and student concerns with the Kanawha

County Board of Education. Upon his retirement, Mr. Hawkins became a lobbyist through the Political Action Committee of the WV Conference of Branches of the NAACP and worked for the passage of the multicultural education bill, the Martin Luther King State Holiday Bill, and other bills that benefited minorities, the underprivileged, and the under-represented citizens in the state of West Virginia. He served as president of the board of the O.I.C. of Charleston for five years and was awarded the National Path Finders Award, which was presented by the O.I.C.s of America for this distinguished term of leadership. The citation spoke of his effectiveness as board president and recognition as

an astute fundraiser. Through the years, Mr. Hawkins has received many awards which include the Living the Dream Award for Sharing of Self which was presented on January 19, 1987 by the WV Charleston Neighborhood Congress; Charleston Branch award for service and dedication in 1993; the City of South Charleston Service Award in May, 1997; and the Martin Luther King Jr. Courage Award presented on January 18, 1998 by Ebenezer Baptist Church.

Attorney Herbert H. Henderson

Herbert Henderson aptly has been referred to as Mr. Civil Rights of West Virginia. During the twenty years that he served as President of the West Virginia Conferences of the NAACP, he was instrumental in supervising school desegregation and public accommodation civil rights

cases in southern West Virginia. One of his important accomplishments was the NAACP lawsuits against the West Virginia Department of Public Safety that facilitated the hiring of minorities and women as state troopers. In addition, Mr. Henderson has served as lead counsel in several landmark civil rights cases including West Virginia Human Rights Commission v. United Transportation Union, 167 W.Va. 282, 280 S.E. 2d 653 (1981). He has a B.S. degree in Business Administration from West Virginia State College and a Juris Doctor degree from George Washington University School of Law. Attorney Henderson is the Senior partner with the law firm of Henderson, Henderson and Staples. Attorney Henderson served a State President of NAACP from 1966 to 1986. Further, he served as interim General Counsel for the NAACP National Headquarters in 1984 and again in 1989 and 1990. He is the recipient of the Robert Ming Award (By NAACP Board of Directors in 1985); Justitia Officium Award (Highest Honor of the WV University College of Law) May, 1989; T.G. Nutter award by the WV Conference of Branches of the NAACP; Living Dream Award for Civil Rights from WV Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission; National Bar Association 1998 Hall of Fame and a WV Bar Foundation Fellow

Paul J. Kaufman

Paul J. and Rose Jean Kaufman, husband and wife, human rights collaborators, were born and raised in Charleston, West Virginia. Paul Kaufman (b: 1920) was a lawyer, State Senator, defender of the environment, teacher, author and pioneer in the fields of labor, civil rights and tax reform. As a State Senator he was the author of the bill establishing the West Virginia Human Rights Commission and the bill successfully repealing West Virginia's death penalty. Paul Kaufman was a member of the Advisory Committee of the U. S. Commission Civil Rights at the time of his death.

Rose Jean Kaufman

Rose Jean Kaufman (b: 1928) was a social worker, former Board

Member of the Womens Health Center, the Mattie V. Lee Home and one of the earliest organizers of the hospice program in the Kanawha Valley. She was a labor organizer in higher education for the West Virginia Education Association and a committed integrationist. Civil Rights was her passion and she was in the forefront of West Virginias civil rights movement for twenty-five years. Paul, Rose Jean and son, Steven, were killed by a drunk driver on December 28, 1980. Surviving were two sons, (now two sons, two daughters-in-law and three granddaughters).

Shirley N. Paige

Shirley N. Paige retired in 1999 after providing the Ormet Corporation of Hannibal, Ohio with 20 years of dedicated service. Prior to her work with Ormet, she was employed in a variety of positions including: Executive Director of the Call A Teen Program; Driver for the Florence Critton Home for Unwed Mothers; Machine Operator with the Wonder Bakery in Wheeling, West Virginia; Ward Clerk in the Ohio Valley General Hospital of Wheeling, West Virginia; Day Care Supervisor and Social Worker with the Headstart program wider the Northern West Virginia Community Action Agency; and as a Beautician with the Shirley Beauty Shop in Wheeling, West Virginia. In 1987, she earned an Associates Degree in Social Sciences from West Virginia Northern College. She also holds a professional cosmetology license.

Emerson Reed

(Picture not available)

Emerson Reed is a native of Cabin Creek, Kanawha County, West Virginia. Mr. Reed was educated in Kanawha County schools having graduated from Charleston High School and later attended West Virginia University in Morgantown, West Virginia, Alameda College in Alameda California and Heald College in San Francisco, CA. Mr. Reed was a forerunner in the Tent City protest in 1969, led by MOTOBU (Mobilization for Total Black Unity) for which Mr. Reed

was the director. With numerous rallies, protests and marches to stop urban renewal from replacing the Triangle District, the Tent City movement lasted approximately two years. MOTOBU was not going to allow the city to take property by eminent domain and in protest put up tents in the area where the urban renewal was to begin. Other than leading this powerful group, Mr. Reed was also involved in community activities such as Pride, Inc. and AMCM, Inc., as an IT consultant and All-Aid International, Inc., as a member of its Board of Directors. Mr. Reed is retired from E.I. DuPont.

Helaine Rotgin

Helaine Rotgin, a devoted family matriarch, a friend, a mentor, a community activist in both human and civil rights, and one, who possesses a sincere and peaceful spirit that attracts no strangers, remains an action oriented member of the Charleston Community.

Ms. Rotgin has participated in a number of Civil Rights activities and has obtained numerous awards. She actively served as a member of the House of Delegates from 1977-78 and became affectionately referred to as the Mother of Recycling.

Ms. Rotgin has so many significant stories to share, which she does so eloquently. Recently, Reverend Homer Davis mentioned that to celebrate the success of Civil Rights in West Virginia, and not include Helaine would be a travesty.

Ms. Rotgin is a member and served as a member of various clubs and organizations including, the Kanawha Valley Council for Human Relations, which later turned out to be the forerunner of the Inner Faith Council, Quota Club, American Association of University Women, Coalition for Clean Elections, and a host of other organizations. She is presently a member of the Charleston Job Corps Community Relations Council, West Virginia Inner Faith Center for Public Policy, West Virginia Climate Change Campaign, Kanawha Scholars, National Council of Jewish Women and Light of the People.

Reverend Dr. Dean K. Thompson

Dean K. Thompson is pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Charleston, West Virginia. His previous ministerial experiences have included pastorates in Pasadena, California, Austin, Texas, and Montgomery, West Virginia, and an internship with the East Harlem Protestant Parish, New York. Thompson was reared in Huntington, West Virginia, and he served as Governor of Boys State and Senator to Boys Nation in 1960. He graduated from Marshall University, 1965. He received three degrees from Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia, including a Ph.D. in church history in 1974. He has served as an adjunct teacher for seminaries in San Francisco, Austin and Richmond; and he is the author of books and articles on history, ministry and leadership. His book in progress is his Chautauqua Lectures on the prophetic pilgrimages of Mohandas Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Pearl S. Buck, Reinhold Niebuhr and Martin Luther King Jr. Since 1965 Thompson has spoken, written, taught, worked and demonstrated against the local, national and international scourges of poverty, racism, discrimination, violence and war. His biblical/theological argument against the death penalty has appeared in news publications across the United States. In both of his West Virginia pastorates, Thompsons human and civil rights commitments have focused especially on housing and on bridge-building among different races, faith communities, and advocacy groups.

Clayborn Tillman

Clayborn Tillman was born in Victoria, Texas and moved to West Virginia when he married native West Virginian Alberta Brown. He is retired from the United States Postal Service after 28 years of service as a mail carrier. He also served in the United States Army for five years. During his many years of service to the NAACP Charleston Branch, he was instrumental in providing leadership that resulted in an increase in membership. He also participated in numerous district conferences. As a result, the NAACP in Charleston continues to have a thriving membership. He is also active in his Mason Lodge Washington

NO. 4, A&FM. He has been a member of First Baptist Church of Charleston for 50 years.

Mr. Tillman is a native of Bloomington, Victoria County, Texas. While stationed in the U S Army during WWII he met and married a Charleston native. After attaining the rank of Sergeant First Class he was honorably discharged. Since then he has made his home in Charleston, WV. Shortly after moving to Charleston, he joined First Baptist Church. He was an Usher and was elected president of the Usher Board. Under his leadership the Usher Board has raised and contributed substantially to the building fund, many building improvements and many church activities. One of the many activities of the Usher board was the installation of the handicap ramp, which made the building accessible to persons with handicaps and also brought the church into compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act. The Usher Board raised over \$15,000 to fund this project. Initially the Usher Board raised funds by catering dinners at the church. Eventually the demand for his home made bread out-paced the demand for dinners and a roll ministry evolved. Hundred of thousands of rolls have been baked in the First Baptist Church kitchen, sold throughout the state and shipped to many areas of this country. Through this project, the Board has also furnished the church kitchen with top-quality cooking and baking facilities. For more than 50 years he has served on the Board of Deacons. He has been instrumental in maintaining the Sunday School Breakfast Program for youth. He serves as the chef and often spends his own money to purchase needed food. He has always taken a keen interest in his community. As President of his neighborhood improvement association he petitioned City Council for funds for sewers, recreational needs and paved streets in the Wertz Avenue community. Through his efforts an overpass was constructed which prevented the entrance to Wertz Avenue from being blocked by the interstate highway and railroad. During the early seventies he chaired the Inter City Council of Neighborhoods, an organization that sought improvements in minority and low-income

neighborhoods throughout the city. Working with a now defunct civil rights organization, UNION, he helped to establish the Charleston Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) that was founded by the late Dr. Leon Sullivan. He served on the Board of Directors for over twenty years. He has been an active member and served on the executive board of the NAACP. He has sponsored and assisted a variety of youth activities including the NAACP ACT-SO. As a member of the Charleston Planning Commission, he helped to develop the Downtown Renaissance Plan and the Charleston Town Center. He has also been a member of the Charleston Human Rights Commission, an organization that ensures that citizens of Charleston are treated fairly with out regard to race color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability and familial status in housing, employment and public accommodations. He is a member of Prince Hall Masons, Salaam Temple #83 and served as Potentate of that organization. Mr. Tillman was employed by the US Postal Service for over 30 years. Through the postal unions he worked for improved rights and working conditions for postal employees. He has been married to Alberta Brown Tillman for 58 years. He and his wife have two daughters, Joyce Whitley of Detroit Michigan, and Carolyn El Amin of Charleston, three grand daughters, and two great grand daughters. In his leisure he enjoys, treating friends and families to his homemade culinary delicacies, growing roses, and taking pictures.

James A. Tolbert, Jr.

Mr. James Tolbert is a native of Charles Town, West Virginia. After graduating from Page Jackson High School in 1950, Mr. Tolbert earned a Bachelor of Science in Zoology from West Virginia State College. Mr. Tolbert was active in many civil rights activities and has received numerous awards for his contribution to the Civil Rights Movement. In 1963, Mr. Tolbert participated in the famous March on Washington. Since 1986, he has served as state president of the West Virginia Chapter of the NAACP. He presided over the Jefferson

County Branch from 1968-1974. Among his notable affiliations and awards, Mr. Tolbert is active in both the community and fraternal arenas. He was Past Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of West Virginia, Free and Accepted Masons, Inc. 1983-84; Past Master, Star Lodge #1, F & AM, Charles Town, WV; Past Recorder, Nile Temple #27 (Shriners), Martinsburg, WV; Grand Inspector General, (33rd Degree), United Supreme Council, Prince Hall Affiliation, Washington, D.C.; Member, Deborah Chapter #38, Order of the Eastern Star, Charles Town, WV and an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. His community, Mr. Tolbert organized the Charles Town Recreation League in 1964. He has also held positions on the Harpers Ferry Job Corps Community Relations Committee, the Jefferson Memorial Hospital Board of Directors, Marshall-Holly-Mason American Legion Post #102, Martinsburg, WV and was chairperson, Board of Directors, G.W. Carver Institute AIDS Education Project. Mr. Tolbert has also been the recipient of several service awards such as The T.G. Nutter Award, WV NAACP, 1976; The Living the Dream Award, WV Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission for Human and Civil Rights, 1988; Outstanding Career Award-Office of Personnel and Labor Relations, Veterans Administration, VA Central Office, Washington, D.C., 1998 and two time recipient of the Dr. Benjamin L. Hooks Award, NAACP Midwest Region III State President of the Year, 1991 and 2002.

Nellie Walker

Ms. Nellie Walker's career has spanned nearly four decades of service to West Virginia State College, its alumni and students as Assistant Registrar. She was born in Red Sulphur Springs, WV, and attended Garnet High School in Charleston, WV. Throughout her service to West Virginia State College, Ms. Walker actively participated in numerous sit-ins and demonstrations designed to integrate the department stores and public recreational facilities in the Kanawha Valley. From 1973 through 1983, she was instrumental in helping more

than fifty law enforcement officers in Charleston received degrees in criminal justice from the college. Walker has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority since 1963 and past advisor for Alpha Delta Chapter, member of College Alumni Club, Community Relations Board, Charleston Job Corps, Selective Service Board, WV Registrars Association, American Association of College Registrars and Admissions Officers, Kanawha Alumni Chapter and Alpha Kappa Mu Honorary Society. The special bond between Ms. Walker and West Virginia State College can best be summed up from an interview with a member of the college newspaper, for forty years Ms. Nellie Walker's presence at West Virginia State College has been dedicated to service, and she is an inspiration to many. It does not take one long to realize how much Ms. Walker cares for individuals and to feel the love she has for her Alma Mater, She is truly a Yellow Jacket.

Ellis Ray Williams

Ellis Ray Williams was educated in McDowell County. He graduated from Bluefield State College (cume laude) in 1946 and attended West Virginia University and Virginia Polytechnic University. He worked in secondary education for 41 years, 20 as a classroom teacher and 21 as a secondary principal. He served as an adjunct instructor in Bluefield State College for 10 years. Attorney Herbert Henderson has said that Ellis Ray Williams was the catalyst for civil rights in Southern West Virginia.

During his many years of service to the NAACP, Mr. Williams served as a member of the West Virginia State Conference of Branches of NAACP Finance Committee and Education Committee.

In 1987, he was recognized as providing outstanding leadership as president of the McDowell Branch of the NAACP. In 1990, he received the T.G. Nutter Award for Outstanding Achievements and Christian Service to Humanity in the field of Human Rights. During his tenure with the State Conference, he has chaired the Education Committee. A president emeritus of the McDowell County Branch of the NAACP, he

is a life member and golden heritage life member of the organization. In 1997, he received the McDowell County Branch of NAACP Appreciation Award for Dedicated Service to the National, State and Local Bodies of NAACP and the West Virginia Conference Branches Award for Outstanding Dedication and Unrelenting Contribution to the Cause of Freedom.

His community service includes a gubernatorial appointment to the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Commission, a Board Member of the Tug Valley Health Clinic, a member of the Kimball Memorial Building Restoration Committee and a member of the Welch area Chamber of Commerce. He is a deacon at St. James Missionary Baptist Church where he is a certified Christian educator.

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Ivin B. Lee

Ivin B. Lee has had a long and outstanding career in the field of law enforcement, criminal justice, human and civil rights. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the

West Virginia Human Rights Commission. She was initially appointed to this position by

Governor Cecil Underwood and reappointed by Governor Bob Wise. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Deputy Director for Corrections of the West Virginia

Division of Juvenile Services. She has received numerous gubernatorial appointments,

namely, an appointment to the Governor's Law Enforcement Training Subcommittee and

the Governor's Health Care Advisory Council. Recently she was appointed to serve on the

Supreme Court's Taskforce to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice

System.

Mrs. Lee was the first female police chief for the City of Dunbar, West Virginia and

the first African American female to lead a City Police Department in the State of West Virginia. Prior to assuming the leadership role as chief of Police, she was a member of the Charleston Police Department for 21 years where she held the ranks of corporal and sergeant. She is best remembered as the Department's public relations spokesperson. She was the face and voice of the Charleston Police Department for many years. Many news reporters and journalists remember the conscientious and professional way in which she handled the press. She was well respected and the community at large knew and loved her in this role.

Ivin Lee is a native of Kanawha County. She attended Charleston public schools and graduated from Garnet High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from West Virginia State College and has received specialized training in many facets of the law. She is a graduate of the State Police Academy, basic training program. Her public service affiliations are numerous. She is a member of the West Virginia Black Law Enforcement United (WV BLEU); the Fraternal Order of Police-Capitol City Lodge; West Virginia Women's Club of Dunbar; the West Virginia Chiefs Of Police Association; the Kanawha -Charleston Neighborhood Congress and the NAACP. She is the recipient of numerous award and honors: African American Women of Distinction, West Virginia Women's Commission, June 23, 2002; YWCA Woman of Achievement in Government, February 1, 1998; West Virginia Trial Lawyers Outstanding Law Enforcement Award, June 1997; NAACP Woman of the Decade, 1986-1996; Appalachian Women of West Virginia, Smithsonian Institute, 1996; and Charleston Woman's Improvement League, Inc.-100 Year Anniversary Community Service Award.

Mrs. Lee is the mother of five children; Carlene, Carlett, Carla, Carl and Carlton.

Dr. Elayne Crozier Abnathy

Dr. Elayne Crozier Abnathy was the fourth of seven children born to the late

Britton and Barbara Davis Crozier. At the time that Dr. Abnathy was brought up, schools were segregated and she and her siblings traveled across town to complete their junior and senior high school education. She graduated with honors from Garnet High School in 1942.

In 1956, Dr. Abnathy graduated magna cum laude from West Virginia State College. Following graduation, she taught in the public school system in Cleveland, Ohio.

After returning to West Virginia, Dr. Abnathy taught in Kanawha County Schools and continued her own education at West Virginia and Marshall Universities. In 1962, she

received her Masters Degree from Marshall University.

Dr. Abnathy was a devoted member of CORE and participated in numerous sit-ins and demonstrations in Charleston during the sixties. She actually participated in the sitins

at the Diamond Department Store, which ultimately resulted in African-Americans being able to shop and eat there.

In 1964, she was elected as one of many students in the nation to attend a summer institute at Illinois State University.

Dr. Abnathy was employed as a Reading Clinician at the Kanawha County Reading Clinic. After three years in that position, she was offered a dual position at West Virginia

State College as an instructor in the Department of Education and director of The Reading Clinic.

In 1976, Dr. Abnathy received a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Union Graduate School at Yellow Springs, Ohio. In 1994, she received The Kanawha County International

Reading Association Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service in the field of reading.

Dr. Abnathy holds memberships in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma, Literacy Volunteers of America, Literacy Volunteers of

Kanawha County, Women Praying for the Peach Initiative and MAACK (Maximizing Achievement for African American Children in Kanawha County Schools). She is also a

member of the First Baptist Church of Charleston.

Dr. Elayne Abnathy is the wife of George Abnathy and the mother of their two children, Thomas Abnathy and Carol Elayne Abnathy.

Mildred Mitchell-Bateman

Dr. Mildred Mitchell-Bateman is a native of Brunswick, Georgia, the daughter of a minister and registered nurse. She attended Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North

Carolina, and graduated from Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina.

She received an M.D. from Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Dr. Bateman was recruited as a staff physician at Lakin State Hospital, at that time the black hospital for the mentally ill in West Virginia. After a year with Lakin, Dr. Bateman returned to Philadelphia to practice General Medicine with the goal of specializing in Psychiatry. Her experience at Lakin revealed the need for professional

attention for persons with mental illness.

Three years later, the Superintendent invited Dr. Bateman returned to Lakin because of insufficient medical staff. After a year, the Superintendent helped Dr. Bateman

to obtain a fellowship and residency at the Menniger School of Psychiatry in Topeka,

Kansas. Upon completion of this training, she returned to Lakin in August, 1955 as Clinical Director. She was later promoted to superintendent of the hospital. In 1960, Dr.

Bateman was named Supervisor of Professional Services for the State Department of

Mental Health. In 1962, Governor Wallace "Wally" Baron named her director of the Department of Mental Health. She became the first African-American woman to be named

to a high ranking office in West Virginia.

Dr. Bateman is an advocate for mentally ill patients in West Virginia. She developed a program entitled "Breaking the Disability Cycle." Dr. Bateman advocated

placing mentally ill patients at facilities near their homes and taking advantage of the

federal assistance available to develop community mental health centers. Her program

gave hope to patients that were previously labeled as untreatable. She is famous for her statement “No one has the right to decide that patients aren’t going to get any better.” In 1973, Dr. Bateman became the first African-American to serve as vice-president of the American Psychiatric Association. In 1977 she became one of four psychiatrists on the President’s Commission on Mental Health. This Commission was responsible for the Mental Health Systems Act, passed in 1980. In 1977, Dr. Bateman became the first chair of the Psychiatric Department of Marshall University’s new Medical School. When Dr. Bateman stepped down as chair of the Department, she became a part of the effort to work for accreditation of Huntington State Hospital. When Dr. Roy Edwards retired, Dr. Bateman succeeded him as Clinical Director at Huntington. Thus she came full circle, back to the public psychiatric hospital, but with one major difference—helping to prepare medical students to become advocates for high quality treatment for persons with mental illness. On October 2, 1999, Huntington Hospital was celebrating one hundred years of operation when Governor Cecil Underwood read a proclamation changing the hospital’s name to the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital. Dr. Bateman retired in February, 2000. She still sees patients ½ day a week in the University Psychiatric outpatient clinic and she still presides over an occasional teaching case conference with medical students.

Hollie James Brown

Hollie James Brown was born in Dakota, West Virginia to Jesse Brown, a coal miner, and his wife Alice Ruth Brown. He attended public schools in Kanawha County and graduated from East Bank High School. In 1960, he joined the Army. After three

years, he returned to West Virginia and worked in the coal mines and at a hospital. He also attended West Virginia State College where he majored in political science. Mr. Brown was instrumental in the Garbage Strike of 1972 against the City of Charleston. While working in the incinerator department, Mr. Brown strived for changes in the working conditions that the mostly minority workers were enduring. Garbage bags were not used and the workers were forced to carry heavy garbage cans. The workers had no grievance procedure and the pay was low. The strike lasted ten months during which time workers walked off the job. The strike resulted in requiring Charleston residents to use garbage bags; the creation of a grievance procedure; and, better pay. In 1974, some white parents protested books written by African-American authors in the Kanawha County School System. Mr. Brown marched in protest against that protest. He spoke to the County Board of Education regarding this issue. He felt that African-American children were being alienated and that this issue needed to be addressed. Mr. Brown's motto is "If you try, there's a possibility you will win, if you don't try at all, defeat is looking you in the face." He has worked for the United States Postal Service for twenty-seven years. He and his wife Gloria had five children, two of whom are deceased. He attends Mt. Zion United Holiness Church in St. Albans. He is a member of the NAACP and a contributor to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He also contributes to the United Negro College Fund, the Kanawha County Schools Shoe Program and Feed the Children.

Madrith Chambers

In 1954, Madrith Chambers graduated from Stratton High School in Beckley. She went on to graduate from Bluefield State College with a B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration and an A.S. in Law Enforcement. Ms. Chambers previously held the position of 2nd Vice President of the Raleigh County Branch of the NAACP; she served for 9 years as Chairwoman for the City of Beckley Human Rights Commission, and was a member of the Beckley Community

Housing Resource Board, and a Chair for the Mayors Committee on Disability Accessibility.

Ms. Chambers was instrumental in initiating Community Policing to the City of Beckley. As a result, there are three police precincts. She has constantly focused on the recruitment and hiring of minority police officers. The Beckley Police Department had two black officers; they now have seven.

Ms. Chambers has taken the initiative to coordinate and facilitate training from a pro-active approach on behalf of elected officials for the City of Beckley in "Undoing Racism," which is spearheaded by the National League of Cities, Washington, D.C., to promote racial justice. The project has created an umbrella of community unity in Beckley. Participating organizations and agencies are representative of fair lending, health

care, criminal justice, human rights, education, fair housing, churches and jobs.

Ms. Chamber's love for children motivated her to organize the annual City of Beckley "Kid's Classic Festival;" now in its 11th year. The purpose of this event was to

develop and promote family unity between parents and children. Over 500 parents and

children attend this back to school event in September of each year.

Ms. Chambers has served City of Beckley in the capacity of Councilwoman for the past 12 years. She is currently a member of the Community Health Systems Board of

Directors, Heart of God Ministries, and the Raleigh County Branch of the NAACP.

She is

the mother of five children, Stephanie, Gregory, Patrick, Jennifer and Sharri and the

grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of two.

Reverend David C. Chappell (Posthumously)

Reverend David C. Chappell was born on January 16, 1922, to the Reverend Settie B. Chappell and Beatrice Hendricks Chappell of Vulcan, West Virginia. He joined the

African Methodist Episcopal Church at an early age. After many years of Christian experience, he was called into the ministry. He began serving as pastor of Bethel AME

Church in 1973.

Reverend Chappell was especially known for his successful work in prison ministry.

He was highly respected in the community for his ability to counsel. He was a spiritual

father to a number of young men and women in the Third Episcopal District.

Reverend Chappell participated in civil rights marches throughout the southern part of the United States. He organized and led a group that marched with Dr. Martin

Luther King, Jr. in Washington D.C.

Reverend Chappell was very active in labor management affairs. At the time of his retirement, he was field coordinator for the AFL-CIO Appalachian Council. He served in

advisor capacity for many organizations in the community. He also served on many boards

and committees as a respected leader of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

He and his wife Sara were the parents of one daughter, Carol Edwards and the grandparents of two grandsons, Eric and Timothy Edwards. Reverend Chappell passed

away on October 30, 1989.

Retired Sergeant Edward Clark, Jr.

Edward Clark, Sr. is a legend at the City of Charleston Police Department. He set the standard for African American police officers and the standard is high.

Sergeant Clark

joined the Force in 1956, a time when African American officers assigned to beats in predominately white areas of town, were not allowed to eat in or use the public restrooms

in these restaurants. African American police officers were usually assigned to the paddy

wagon and "Triangle District" where most African Americans lived. Furthermore, African American officers could not join the Fraternal Order of Police. These officers

could protect and serve, but, could not exercise the rights guaranteed them under the

United States Constitution.

It takes strength of character, duty and a strong sense of right and wrong to break the barriers of racial discrimination in a setting where one is expected to enforce the law

while the City itself is violating the law.

Using the legal system, Sergeant Clark filed a lawsuit against the City of Charleston Police Department that resulted in, after a 16 year battle, African American officers'

admission to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) in 1973. He is a member of the FOP and

played basketball on the Police Officers team. He sued the Mayor, Police Chief, and the

City of Charleston Police Civil Service Commission, won and subsequently, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

During his tenure on the Force, Sergeant Clark mentored many African American officers and continued to protest against unfair treatment by the Department. He spearheaded policy changes that ended discrimination in promotions and duty assignments. Sgt. Clark received commendation letters that salute him for defusing racial

tensions in the riot filled 60's. He was a good officer; tough but fair. He is committed to

justice and believes in the importance of family. Often, he reminds youth to honor their

parents.

After his retirement from the City of Charleston Police Department, Sergeant Clark became the Chief of Campus Police at West Virginia State College. He later retired in

1986.

Sgt. Clark once said that he although he was not happy with everything in his life, he was very much satisfied. The battles he fought, he knew were good. In the police department, he overcame a lot of obstacles and that made him a stronger and better

person. His life started with the people he came in contact with as a kid. Sgt. Clark says

that people can make or break you, and the people...made me.

Sergeant Clark was born on June 2, 1925 in Charleston, West Virginia on 7th Avenue next to Patrick Street. His grandfather was a Holiness Preacher. His parents were

Edward and Madge Clark and his father cooked for George Gas at the 24 Summers Street

Lunch. He is a graduate of Garnett High School. One of the defining factors in Sgt. Clark's

life was when he went to work for Emmett Bowen, who sold meat all over town. Another major revelation came to Sgt. Clark when he joined the Army and traveled to England and Scotland and realized that racism was not a common feeling around the world. He was married for many years to Barbara Clark, a professor at West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia. She is now deceased. He had two sons by a previous marriage, one of whom is now deceased.

Rabbi Samuel Cooper

There are those persons who will leave a legacy of love, respect, dignity, and a sincere affection for his fellow man. Rabbi Cooper, who served the B'nai Jacob Congregation of Charleston for 40 years, is one such person. Born in Toronto, Canada to Joseph and Alta Cooper, he assumed his studies at the renowned Talmudical Academy in New York at the tender age of twelve. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the College of the City of New York and his ordination as Rabbi at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He came to Charleston at the age of 22 years on temporary assignment and so impressed the congregation that he was invited back to assume a permanent position and stayed 40 years. During his many years in Charleston, West Virginia, he served on the Human Rights Commission; the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Improvement; the Charleston Job Corps Relations Council; and the Social Studies Advisory Curriculum for the State Department of Education. Also, he served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross and the National Council of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee. He likes to think that his most noteworthy effort occurred in 1950 when he was summoned by one of the American Jewish Congress to intercede on behalf of the Jewish displaced persons to stay their departure from this country back to their European

homes of origin. So successful was he in this endeavor that the Congress in a most praiseworthy article wrote, "We know you were not motivated by any desire for commendation, but we wish we had an award to bestow upon you for the service rendered

over and beyond the call of duty."

But, he is likewise remembered for his support of civil rights in the Charleston area.

In 1967, the Charleston Gazette recognized him as one of the four outstanding West Virginians of the year. Morris Harvey College conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity

degree upon him.

He and wife, Rebbetzin have three sons.

Howard Jefferson Crump

Howard Jefferson Crump was born on April 24, 1915 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, one of the most rigidly racially segregated places in West Virginia. Mr.

Crump has spent his life actively promoting racial equality. He lived through almost the

entire twentieth century. The only place he could attend high school was the Bolling School

in Lewisburg, nine miles from his home. Greenbrier County would not provide a school

bus, so Mr. Crump and other black students walked the nine miles to Lewisburg to go to

Bolling. As the Great Depression hit, he had to drop out of high school in 1929 to join his

father's business, J. F. Crump & Sons Hauling. He worked in his father's business and,

when work was available, worked on the New Deal program, Works Progress Administration (WPA). In 1932, Mr. Crump began working part time at The Greenbrier

Resort. He worked at The Greenbrier for 52 years. His poor eyesight caused him to be

rejected by the U. S. Army during World War II, so he worked at Ashford General Hospital, in the converted Greenbrier hotel.

The Greenbrier Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was organized in 1954. Mr. Crump served as president from 1955 until

1979. May 1954 saw the beginnings of the 1960s civil rights movement with the U.S. Supreme Court decision, Brown v. Board of Education, that overturned "separate but equal." In November 1954, at the request of attorney T. G. Nutter, Thurgood Marshall, then General Counsel NAACP Legal Defense Fund, came to speak at First Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs. Greenbrier County schools were racially segregated. Attorneys Nutter and Williard Brown, chair of the state NAACP legal redress committee, argued in Federal Court under Judge Moore in Lewisburg that Brown v. Board of Education required Greenbrier County to desegregate its public schools. They won. White Sulphur Springs' white students rioted when black students enrolled. Mr. Crump shuttled between his job at The Greenbrier and downtown White Sulphur Springs to help black people get their children into the school and to keep them safe. Mr. Crump and the Greenbrier Branch helped people in neighboring counties of Monroe County and Pocahontas County. He helped get bus driver job in Monroe; helped settle discrimination cases where black people would have lost without his and the NAACP's representation; and helped negotiate Greenbrier area school desegregation. During the turbulent days of the 1960s, Howard Crump and others in The Greenbrier's labor unions and the Greenbrier Branch NAACP helped people in other states. When sharecroppers were put out of their homes and set up a tent city in Hayward and Fayette Counties, Tennessee, they took food to them. When the Memphis, Tennessee, garbage collectors went on strike with the slogan, "I Am a Man," Mr. Crump failed to get someone from Charleston to help, so he and his groups took food and other supplies. They collected money from Greenbrier churches and canned goods. He was in Memphis the

week in 1968 when Dr. King was assassinated, and had stayed at the Lorraine Motel just days before Dr. King was shot on the Lorraine's balcony. Mr. Crump continues to promote the goals of civil rights.

Roger Forman

Roger Forman was born and raised in New Rochelle, New York, but he has always felt that

he was meant to live in West Virginia. He has spent much of his life focusing on the civil rights movement.

As a child, he helped to prepare and sell chicken dinners to fund school desegregation cases. In 1964, civil rights activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and

Michael Schwerner were murdered in Mississippi. The mother of Mickey Schwerner was a

teacher at the junior high that Mr. Forman attended. He and his classmates committed

their energies to fighting for civil rights and raising money for freedom riders.

After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1970, Mr. Forman attended Antioch School of Law. In law school, he worked at the civil rights division of the attorney

general's office and participated in two southern school desegregation cases which went to trial.

Roger Forman is married to Arla Ralston. He is the father of two sons, Cyrus Forman, a 2002 graduate of New York University and Isaac Forman, a sophomore at University of Vermont.

Robert Jackson Guerrant

Robert Guerrant was born in 1923 in the coal community of Winding Gulf, West Virginia. In 1943, he became one of the first African-Americans to join the United States

Marine Corp. He went directly overseas to the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific. After

spending close to three years in the military, he returned to Winding Gulf and applied to

West Virginia State College, but his father became disabled and he had to go to work full

time in the coal mines to care for his immediate family. After working in the mines for 25

years, he developed black lung and was let go.

Mr. Guerrant was an advocate for rights of children in public schools. He became interested in desegregation. His goal was to make schools more open to black students who

were attending white schools. He traveled between New York, Boston, Washington D.C.

and West Virginia to gather and develop information on the similarities between inner city

schools and rural area schools. He supervised VISTA (Volunteers in Service To America)

volunteers in the Raleigh County area dealing with rural issues such as road, water, housing, education and transportation issues.

Robert Guerrant applied to go to Beckley Junior college and was initially turned down because of his race. He was subsequently accepted and there he studied psychology

and social problems. He went on to attend the University of Pittsburgh and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1971, he received his master's degree in education from Harvard Graduate School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Mr. Guerrant was the Director of the James Jackson Putnam Children's Center in Boston Massachusetts and the Executive Director of the City-Wide Improvement Council

in Charleston.

He is a member of the United Mine Workers of America local 1946, he has served on the Committee on Rural Transportation in Washington, D.C., the Committee for Support of Public Schools in Washington, D.C., the transportation System Committee in

Raleigh County and was the organizer of Spate, a community watchdog newspaper. He

was a member of the Parents Board, Title I, E.S.E.A., the chairman of the Headstart Advisory Committee in Raleigh County, a daycare and child development consultant and

chairman of the Coalition for Day Care Services. He is presently a member of the National

Association for Community Development and a member of the West Virginia Welfare

Advisory Committee, Area 17.

Robert and his wife Marybelle are the parents of Maxine, Carson "Slim", Cynthia,

Linda, Paula, Barbara, Robert Jr., Terry, Mary, Byron, Bryant, Anthony, Diane and Jennifer Guerrant. Nine of their children are college graduates. They currently reside in Charleston.

Betty Agsten Hamilton

Betty Agsten Hamilton grew up in and around Charleston, West Virginia and was the older of two children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Agsten. She graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School and Sullins Jr. Women's College, in Bristol, Virginia where she studied piano and was President of the student body. She graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Public School Music. Mrs. Hamilton has touched many lives through her dedication to the advancement of civil rights from the 1950's through today. Early on, she lobbied and marched for civil rights and for the passage of Human Rights Act. She sat in at the Diamond lunch counter in order to facilitate integration in Charleston in the 1950's. Ms. Hamilton was the President of the Kanawha Valley Council on Human Rights; Co-founder of Panel of American Women; a volunteer at the day care center at Coal Branch Heights; part of a group that tried to locate housing for people living in the Triangle District who were displaced by the interstate; and a member of the National Bi-Racial Bi-Centennial Commission.

Starting in the 1980's, Ms. Hamilton was the recipient of the Living the Dream Award for Courage from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission; honorary National Chairperson of National Mental Health Association; and an internationally recognized speaker on mental health. She has been honored by numerous groups across Canada and the United States (and by Canadian Mental Health Association) for advocacy. Mrs. Hamilton also received an award from Common Cause, which was a movement founded in 1970 propelled by the lobbying activities of its members with an agenda to include pressing for civil rights, ethics, and open meeting laws.

Ms. Hamilton appeared in the media hundreds of times; was a twenty year member of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission; was on the State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; was on a Special Committee to investigate health care at Alderson Federal Prison Camp for Women; appeared on Phil Donahue twice, once to talk about mental health; and once in support of books in the Kanawha County Textbook Controversy. She was also a member of the Selection Committee to recommend books to the Kanawha County School Board during the textbook controversy. Betty Hamilton was also on the National Board for the Depressive/Manic Depressive Association and the National Board for "NARSAD", the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia &

Depression.

The Honorable Gail Marie Jackson Ferguson

Gail Marie Jackson Ferguson was born in New York, New York. She attended Resurrection Elementary School and Cathedral High School. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hunter College in Political Science. She graduated from Hunter College in three years during which time she was on the Dean's List. While at Hunter, she studied abroad in Africa at Togo, Nigeria, Ghana and Dahomey now known as Benin. After graduating from Hunter College, Judge Ferguson attended and graduated from Georgetown University Law School in 1979. While in law school, she clerked for Crowell & Moring.

Prior to joining the West Virginia Human Rights Commission as an administrative law judge in 1987, Judge Ferguson served as General Counsel to the Commission and an assistant attorney general for the state of West Virginia. She practiced law at Kaufman & Ratliff in Charleston, West Virginia.

Judge Ferguson is remembered for her participation in many landmark cases that help to clarify human rights and civil rights laws in West Virginia. As an administrative law judge for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, she is responsible for the issuance of many landmark decisions all relating to disability race and sex discrimination. She issued the decision in Kathy Varney v. Frank's Shoe Store in which she held that discrimination based upon pregnancy constitutes illegal sex discrimination under the West Virginia Human Rights Act. This decision became a landmark case. Her decision was upheld by the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and is cited at 365 S.E.2d 251 (W. Va. 1986).

She is married to Warren Ferguson, a native West Virginian and is the mother of three daughters and grandmother of two.

Allen Edward Lee

Mr. Allen Edward Lee was born in 1921 in Clarksburg West Virginia. One of three children, he attended segregated schools in Clarksburg and graduated from

Kelly Miller High School in 1939. After finishing high school, he joined the U.S. Army and served in World War II in the South Pacific. In 1947 Allen returned to Clarksburg. He tried to use his veteran status to get a job at the local veterans' hospital, but, was unsuccessful. Eventually, he went to work for Sears & Roebuck Department Store.

After working at Sears for about ten years Mr. Lee left Clarksburg for New York City. He began working at Childs Restaurant, a very popular eatery at the time near Grand Central Station, where he was allowed to work but not eat.

Subsequently, he worked in the garment industry where he became involved with the International Ladies Garment Union. Serving in several offices in the union the last being the local union President, Mr. Lee was involved at the grass roots level of the sixties civil rights movement. As local Captain, Mr. Lee was in charge of several railroad cars going to the March on Washington. The local Union office was used as a local meeting place as he was able to meet with many of the civil rights leader James Farmer, Roy Wilkins, Burien Ruston and many more. After retirement in 1991 he returned to West Virginia. A devoted husband Mr. Lee cared for his wife until her death.

Mr. Lee is involved in many organizations, such as the local N.A.A.C.P. where he still serves as president. He organized the West Virginia Black Heritage Festival now in its fourteenth year. He serves as the Chairman of the Board of Directors, works with adult illiteracy, Habitat for America, and the Kelly Miller Alumni Association. He is a deacon at Mt Zion Miss. Baptist Church.

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus (Posthumously)

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus was born in 1923 to Hallet and Lillian Foster. Three years after graduating from Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts, she married Stanley Loewenstein, a philanthropist and successful, socially conscious business leader.

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus became an active member of the Kanawha Valley Council on Human Relations. Her activism in the civil rights struggle began during the time when the triangle district in Charleston, West Virginia was being torn apart to make way for industrial development, displacing small businesses and

lower income families, largely black, who could not find housing.

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus is remembered for her passionate devotion to those causes concerned with the rights of women and children. She served on the Juvenile Justice Committee, an organization working on behalf of troubled youths. She was determined to see that these young people received fair treatment. She later became a fervent supporter of the Women's Health Center, which, among many services, guarantees women the "right to choose."

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus participated in the march against discrimination from Capitol Street to Rock Lake pool. A network called UNION (United Neighborhood Interest Organization Network) organized the march. The network included religious congregations, unions, fraternal organizations and individuals. C.T. Vivian, deputy to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., led the march.

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus was a member of the congregation of Temple Israel and served on the board of the Charleston Section of the National Council of

Jewish Women. She and her first husband Stanley were patrons of the arts. Jean and Stanley Lowenstein were the parents of three children. After Stanley Lowenstein's death, she married a friend from her youth, Jeffrey Lazarus. Jean F. Lowenstein Lazarus passed away on December 9, 2003 at the age of 79.

Lucille Meadows

Lucille Meadows was a Fayette County school teacher for over 30 years. In 1976, she was voted one of the top ten Persons of the Year in Fayette County. She was a member of the N.E.A. Congressional Contact Team, and she organized the Fayette County Black Caucus, which sponsors the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Luncheon.

Ms. Meadows worked with the NAACP since her teenage years and served as a Chairperson of the Upper Fayette County NAACP Political Action Committee and member of the WV Conference of NAACP Political Action Committee. She lobbied for the King Holiday Bill dealing with Human and Civil Rights and she super headed the drive in her community to have Main Street in her area named King Avenue in Memory of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

In 1982, Ms. Meadows was chosen by the N.E.A. as one of two individuals which would represent the N.E.A. at King Week in Atlanta, GA, she was presented the Mary L. Williams Memorial Award by the WVEA for outstanding contributions in the eradication of racial inequities in the education profession, and she received the Washington Carver Award. This award was presented by the Department of Culture and History to the West Virginian who exemplified in the spirit of service of Camp Washington Carver.

In 1983, Ms. Meadows received the Martin Luther King, "Living the Dream Award" presented by the WV King Holiday Commission for the advocacy on nonviolence.

Ms. Meadows was recognized by the Fayetteville Women's Club in 1985, for her support of education. She received the Appreciation for Humanitarian Service in Southern WV presented by St. Matthews A.M.E. Church of Beckley, WV in 1986.

In 1988, she received the T.G. Nutter Award for outstanding service and humanity.

Ms. Meadows had several appointments by Senator Jay D. Rockefeller, such as, eight years of the WV Women's Advisory Commission, eight years on the WV State Journal Vocational Education Advisor Committee, and two years on the Governors Judicial Committee. In 1990, she was appointed to the House of Delegates by Governor Gaston Caperton, who also appointed her to the WV Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission and the Teachers Compensation Task Force.

Ms. Meadows was the mother of one daughter, Benita Luanne Austin, and two grandchildren, Jeri Monique, and Jerome Wayne Austin. Ms. Meadows passed

away in 1997.

Reverend Moses Newsome (Posthumously)

Always a man of great vision, Reverend Moses Newsome through his dedicated ministry, service to all, and leadership, worked tirelessly within the community for human and civil rights in limitless ways in Charleston, the State of West Virginia and the Nation.

As a leader and civil rights advocate, Reverend Newsome fought and was instrumental in securing fair housing for the citizens of Charleston. Always interested in employment opportunities and job training for African Americans, he co-founded the Charleston Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) where he served as Board Chairman.

He was president of the West Virginia State Baptist Convention, the West Virginia Council of Churches, the West Virginia Congress of Christian Education, the Charleston Ministerial Association and the West Virginia Philosophical Society. In addition, he was a member of the Governor's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped; the West Virginia Human Rights Commission; and the Charleston Police Civil Service Commission.

His philosophy was that all people could realize their potential if they were uplifted and given a chance. To this end he used the resources of his personal relationships by bringing to Charleston such individuals as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King; Reverend Ralph Abernathy; Mahalia Jackson; Roy Wilkins; Reverend Adam Clayton Powell; Corretta Scott King and many others. As a close associate of Dr. King, he took a leadership role in the civil rights movement which included sit-ins at public eating establishments and leading marches for racial justice in Charleston and other cities.

Reverend Newsome was born in Ahoskie, North Carolina, November 15, 1914. He attended public schools in Ahoskie. He received his B.A. and B.D. degrees from Shaw University in Raleigh North Carolina. He was also awarded another B.D. and S.T.M. degrees from the Graduate School of Theology at Oberlin College. in Ohio. In 1941, at the age of 26, he was called to the pastorate of First Baptist Church. He married Ruth Bass of Raleigh, North Carolina in 1942. To this union were born four children.

While pastor at First Baptist Church, he was the builder of the current edifice located at Shrewsbury and Lewis Streets in Charleston. His vision for the church was beyond his years and time. In addition to being a place of worship, his desire was to build a community center for all people. He saw it as an opportunity to make the church the center of the lives of its members. He succeeded in accomplishing this goal.

His sphere of influence extended nationally and internationally as a board member of the National Baptist Convention, U. S. A., Inc. In 1970, he represented the West Virginia Council of Churches at the World Baptist Alliance in Tokyo, Japan.

Reverend Newsome lived an exemplary life and will forever be remembered in West Virginia as a great man, a visionary leader and a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Virgil A. Peterson (Posthumously)

Dr. Peterson served on the Board of the ACLU and the NAACP in Morgantown for many years. He received the Roger Baldwin Founders Award on April 7, 2000 from the Morgantown ACLU.

He was a professor at West Virginia University from 1966 to 1997. From 1967 to 1979, Dr. Peterson was a faculty advisor to a student organization called the Student Action for Appalachian Progress which tutored disadvantaged children in Monongalia County. From 1989 to 1995, Dr. Peterson conducted numerous workshops in conflict resolution as a way of helping people achieve civil rights through peaceful means.

Dr. Sophia Peterson

Dr. Sophia Peterson also served as a member of the ACLU and the NAACP.

She has worked diligently in the field of women and civil rights.

Soon after she received a position in the Department of Political Science in 1966, she protested the location the student honorary dinner at a restaurant that did

not admit African Americans to her department chairman. Although the dinner location was not changed, this would not be the first time she would protest the double standard of racism in Morgantown.

In 1972, as President of the West Virginia University chapter of the American Association of University Professors, she wrote a study concerning discrimination against women faculty at the University.

Lucille Pianfetti

When Lucille Pianfetti came to West Virginia in 1940 as a bride, she learned that women could not serve on juries in this state. Immediately, Lucille Pianfetti joined the West Virginia League of Women Voters to see what she could do about this. The bill she supported died several times in committee but finally in 1966 with the help of Senator Paul J. Kaufman, the bill was passed.

Lucille Pianfetti was President of the Kanawha Valley Council on Human Relations and one of its projects was finding housing for the poor families who were being displaced by Urban Renewal. The small group made its voice heard in the community.

Lucille Pianfetti has been a part of civil rights projects for fifty years. She worked closely with Carl Glatt, the then head of the Human Rights Commission, in 1967 to bring to Charleston Mrs. Esther Brown, who had formed the Panel of American Women. Their goal was to educate people about the effect of discrimination on their personal lives. She was also a member of the Child Study League with 400 members who learned to be effective parents and served as President in the late forties.

She has been a member of the Unitarian Fellowship since its inception in 1953. She is a resident of Cross Lanes, West Virginia.

Charles Emmett Price (Posthumously)

Charles Emmett Price was born in Fairmont, West Virginia, on April 30, 1920 to Delia Ann and Charles Emmett Price. He attended Dunbar High School and continued his education at West Virginia State College, graduating in 1941 with a major in math and physical science. After graduating, he moved to Baltimore, Maryland where he taught school for two years. He was drafted in the Navy, where he served for three years as an aviation metal smith.

In 1949, Mr. Price became the first African-American to receive a law degree from West Virginia University. In 1975, he was honored as WVU College of Law Alumnus of the Year. He practiced law for 41 years, beginning his career in Logan, West Virginia and retiring from his private practice in Charleston in 1990.

In the 1970s, Mr. Price persuaded fellow members of the Mountain State Bar Association to help young, underprivileged and minority lawyers begin their careers. He was a lifelong member of the NAACP and a longtime civil rights activist.

He was a member of Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served with his time, talent and other resources. He was also affiliated with Humphreys Memorial United Methodist Church. He also served his church in a larger capacity as West Virginia Conference President of United Methodist Men. He and his wife Christine are the parents of three children; Karen Williams of Charleston; Lois Price of Roswell, Georgia; and, Charles L. Price of Columbus, Ohio. Charles Emmett Price passed away in 1991 at the age of 70.

Josephine Morris Rayford (Posthumously)

Josephine Morris Rayford grew up in Pennsylvania. She was the youngest daughter of the Reverend Joseph Edward and Emma Gilkerson Morris. After completing a 3 year commercial teacher training course a year early, she began her teaching career at the minority-only Garnet High School in Charleston in 1924. During her 35 years of teaching in Kanawha County schools, she was well known for inspiring her students in a fun and fair atmosphere. Her students included Tony Brown and Leon Sullivan. She was named "Outstanding Business Education Teacher" by Bluefield State College seven times. She was the faculty sponsor of the school newspaper "The Eye," which won First Place in state competition. After voluntarily retiring, she continued to teach adult education at the State Police and Charleston Police Department. She was called upon to teach at West Virginia State College from 1963 to 1970. In 1971 she was recommended for "Outstanding Educator in America." Mrs. Rayford also continued her own education throughout her lifetime, receiving degrees from West Virginia State College, Ohio State University and University of Dayton. She actively supported Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and participated in marches, meetings and discussions. She protested against the injustices of discrimination. Mrs. Rayford was the first African American affiliated with the Kanawha County Business Education Association, serving of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Rayford was a member of many organizations and served on the State and County Curriculum Revision Committee. She was named Alumni of the Year by the West Virginia State College Alumni Association. Mrs. Rayford's work with Meals on Wheels got her named "Hometown Hero" by the television WSAZ. She was a member of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church and a Sunday school teacher. She was recognized as a "Valiant Woman" by the national body of Church Women United. She was a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and a member of the Charleston -Institute Alumnae Chapter. Josephine Morris Rayford shared her life with her husband of 41 years, George B. Rayford, who died in 1983. In 1993 at the age of 89, she was honored by the Henry Highland Garnett Foundation for years of dedication and service. She passed away in December 2001.

George Rutherford

A true champion of civil rights in West Virginia, Mr. George Rutherford served as a member of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission for 19 years

and as its chair for 8 for those years. He has assisted many persons in filing complaints of discrimination at the state and federal level for more then 40 years. Mr. Rutherford has served as the President of the Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP since 1974. He is currently the longest serving NAACP president in West Virginia. He is the recipient of the Eighth T. G. Nutter Award, the highest award given by the West Virginia State NAACP for exceptional and outstanding service to the State and National NAACP. In 2000, he received the Roland Alexander Branch President of the Year in the Midwest Region III.

He filed a complainant against the Jefferson County Board of education with the Office of Civil Rights alleging that the Board had discriminated against African American students on the basis of race. He won that lawsuit. The U. S. Office on Civil Rights ordered the Jefferson County Board of Education to comply with federal civil rights laws.

During the past 12 years, Mr. Rutherford has been the driving force behind “Jefferson County NAACP African American Cultural and Heritage festival.” This is a three day festival where events and activities are held in Harpers Ferry, Shepardstown and Charles Town. The Festival’s parade is thought to be one of a few African American parades in West Virginia.

He is a founding member and treasurer of the Jefferson County Black History Preservation Society, an organization dedicated to publishing the history of the African American history of eastern West Virginia.

Mr. Rutherford was born in Charles Town, West Virginia. He graduated from Page-Jackson High School. In 1962, he received a Bachelor of Science degree and an Associate degree in Business from Shepherd College. In 1965, he received a Master of Science degree from Marshall University. Mr. Rutherford has pursued further studies at Storer College; American University; University of Pittsburgh. He has taken post-graduate courses at Northern Arizona University and Cornell University.

He is a member of several Masonic organizations. He has served as the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Most Worshipful Prince Hall Grand Lodge of WV, F&AM 1987-88. He is the Adjutant of Marshall-Holly-Mason American Legion Post #102, Charles Town.

Mr. Rutherford is married to Barbara Smith and they are the proud parents of seven children. They are members of Mt. Zion Methodist Church in Charles Town.

Steve Rutledge

One of the most widely known photographs of the “sit-in movement” shows

students seated at a Jackson, Mississippi's Woolworth's store lunch counter with a mob of white men squirting mustard, ketchup, and spray paint, pouring sugar on the students, and hitting them with glass ash trays and sugar jars. Within two weeks, over a thousand persons were imprisoned in Jackson for protesting racial segregation.

The photo was taken in the spring of 1963 and Steve Rutledge was there. He had transferred in January 1963 to Tougaloo Southern Christian College on the outskirts of Jackson. Steve was third white student to attend Tougaloo. In his senior year, fellow students elected him president of the student body. He and Joan Trumpauer, shown in the center of the famous photograph, were Tougaloo's first white college graduates. He worked tirelessly, mostly in Jackson but also in other Mississippi locations, with Medgar Evers, Executive Secretary of Mississippi NAACP.

Steve was involved with people who were martyred for their pursuit of civil rights. He himself was jailed three times.

June 11, 1963, was an active day in Mississippi civil rights. Steve led students wearing NAACP T-shirts to downtown Jackson to demonstrate. Many were arrested and joined almost 700 persons in jail. NAACP state director Medgar Evers returned home after midnight, exhausted after getting most of those arrested out of jail.. Stepping out of his car into his driveway, carrying a stack of those NAACP sweatshirts stenciled "Jim Crow Must Go" that Steve Rutledge had worn earlier that day, Evers was assassinated. Later the very next morning, Steve helped organize pickets with placards reading "One Man, One Vote" and "Freedom Now." Steve writes about Medgar Evers' funeral: "On a terribly hot day in June of 1963 a riot broke out in Jackson, Mississippi during the funeral procession for Medgar Evers . Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was in the march but his family feared for his safety and I was assigned the task of driving him to the airport and getting him there safely to protect his life. I did so and I'll always remember his words to me, 'Thank you, young man!'"

Another of Steve Rutledge's martyred Mississippi civil rights colleague Mickey Schwerner of the Congress of Racial Equality. Schwerner, 24, along with James Chaney, 20, and 21-year old Andrew Goodman "disappeared" and were found under an earthen dam. When he was in high school, Andrew Goodman had conducted first-hand research on poverty in West Virginia. Goodman had picketed Woolworth's in New York City in sympathy with southern Woolworth's sit-in protests, such as the one Steve Rutledge participated in in Jackson.

Steve Rutledge came to live in West Virginia in the early 1970s where he continues to work for the Civil Rights Movement's highest principles. Currently

helping low and moderate income people obtain affordable, decent housing through the Greenbrier County Housing Authority, he has worked as an investigator for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission and as a labor organizer for the AFSCME. He is a mainstay of the Greenbrier Martin Luther King Day Committee. He speaks of the day by saying, "For me, the holiday honoring the life and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the only one that was created in our lifetime to place equality, justice and peace at the top of our list of what is important. It is a day on, not off, because it gives each of us a chance to unite with one or more other persons to make something better - it could be our family, our school, our job, or our community."

Mary Snow

Mary Snow was born to the late Britton and Barbara Davis Crozier. In 1930, she graduated from Garnet High School. At the age of 19, she graduated from West Virginia State College with a Bachelor's Degree in English and French. She has also earned a Master's Degree in Elementary Education and Child Psychology. She has also studied at Virginia State College, West Virginia University, Marshall University and the University of Cardiff in Wales.

She was the first female elected editor of the West Virginia State College newspaper, the Yellow Jacket. Her education career evidences a multitude of significant records. These records include fifty-two years in the teaching and administrative fields in Kanawha County Schools (believed to be the longest tenure in the state's history.) In addition to that record, she was the first African-American exchange teacher from West Virginia sent to Great Britain. While there, she was selected as one of the ten most outstanding exchange teachers and was honored by being selected to have tea with Queen Mary, Queen Mother of Britain. Her educational leadership skills have been encompassed in various positions such as: president of the Board of Regents Block Grant Advisory Board; member of the Board of Advisors of West Virginia State College; Director of Kanawha County Schools Creative Expression Center; and, first black supervising principal of an integrated school in Kanawha County. She served as a principal for 35 years. Ms. Snow is a longtime commissioner on the Charleston Human Rights Commission. She is a Hall of Fame inductee in the Henry Highland Garnett Foundation and a board and newsletter editor. She is the President of the Charleston Women's Improvement Council and a member of several other organizations. She is the past president of three public service Greek Letter organizations: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; Delta Kappa Gamma Society; and, Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Phi.

Ms. Snow has been a recipient of the West Virginia Martin Luther King Giving of Self Award; a WV Women's Commission's Celebrate Women's Award in education and has been included in several editions of Who's Who.

The Honorable Nancy A. Starks (Posthumously)

Nancy Starks, former Kanawha County magistrate, was a longtime civil rights activist in Kanawha County. She attended de Sales High School. She received her bachelor's degree from West Virginia State College and a master's degree in social work from West Virginia University.

She was married to the late Benjamin Starks. Together they published the Beacon Digest, the premier African American newspaper with statewide distribution in West Virginia. The Beacon Digest keeps the African American community and informed of issues involving social and political change.

Mrs. Starks was a Kanawha County magistrate for 24 years. Kanawha County Circuit Judge James Stucky said he worked with Starks since 1978. He said that "she was always a caring and an excellent magistrate. She did the job magistrates are meant to do. She related to people on their own level and used the common sense she gained throughout her life.

She remained involved in community activists throughout her political life.

She was a longtime member of the Charleston Woman's Improvement League and the Charleston-Institute Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. During her years with the Sorority, she served as the chair of the chapter's Social Action Committee and was responsible for organizing many voter registration drives. She was a faithful member of St. Anthony Church, Charleston, West Virginia.

She is survived by her two daughters, Laura A. Starks and Stephanie Paul as well as two sons, Stephen, Benjamin and seven grandchildren and five greatgrandchildren.

The Honorable Booker T. Stephens

Judge Booker T. Stephens was first elected to the Circuit Court of McDowell County in November 1984. He assumed office on January 1, 1985 and has since been reelected in 1992 and 2000. He has served as Chief Judge since 1990.

In February, 1985, then Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard Neely appointed Judge Stephens to serve with a panel of four other judges, on the West Virginia Supreme Court to hear a case in which the then Supreme Court disqualified itself from hearing. As a result, Judge Stephens became the first African American judge in the history of the state to sit on the Supreme Court of Appeals. Since 1985, Judge Stephens has been designated to sit on the Supreme

Court of Appeals on nine separate occasions. He is a member of the prestigious Mass Litigation Panel which consists of six judges who hear all complex mass litigation in the State of West Virginia He is also a member of the Supreme Court's Taskforce on Self Representation and the Taskforce to Study perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia.

He was selected by the Honorable Bob Wise to receive the Governor's Living the Dream Award" on January 18, 2003 at the annual Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Celebration. This award is presented annually to a person who best represents the qualities and attributes of Dr. King by being an advocate of peace, sharing of self, human and civil rights and scholarship.

Judge Stephens of Welch, McDowell County, West Virginia was born on November 3, 1944 at Bluefield, West Virginia. He was reared at Warriormines, West Virginia. He is the son of the late Reverend Robert L. Stephens and the late Estella Stephens. He was educated at Excelsior High School and graduated in 1962. He graduated from West Virginia State College in Political Science and Spanish in 1966 and received his Juris Doctorate degree was from Howard University in 1972. He was selected as an Earl Warren Fellow. This distinguished award was sponsored by the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Inc. In 1973, he became involved in the practice of law and served as a cooperating attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund from 1973-1984.

Judge Stephens served in the United States Army from 1966-1968. He was inducted into the West Virginia State College Hall of Fame in October 2002. He is a member of the West Virginia Judicial Association, the West Virginia State Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He is a former member of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Trial Judges. He has served on the faculty of the National Judicial College in Reno, Nevada.

Judge Stephens served two terms in the West Virginia Legislature as a member of the House of Delegates, where in 1980 he became Chairman of the Standing Committee on Political Subdivisions. He takes great pride in being a cosponsor

and floor leader of the bill that made Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a state holiday in West Virginia.

He is a life member of the NAACP; a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; and, Prince Hall Mason F & A.M. 32nd Degree. Judge Stephens is married to the former Gloria Davis. They are the proud parents of two children.

Reverend Julian G. Sulgit, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Julian G. Sulgit, Jr., became immersed in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement when in his hometown of Chicago. Julian joined Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr., in marches to protest segregated and slum housing in the face of tens of thousands of hecklers who threw rocks, bottles, cherry bombs, and eggs, hitting Dr.

King and those marching with him.

In 1965, Chicago's black citizens attended racially segregated schools that received about a third the financial resources of white schools. They lived in racially defined ghettos in deplorable housing, and had little access to employment or economic opportunity. All hell broke loose when Dr. King moved into Chicago to begin the Chicago phase of the civil rights movement. Protest marches against housing discrimination led to riots. The Illinois National Guard went on riot duty. Young Julian Sulgit, a deeply spiritual high school student and college student, was active in social justice efforts. In high school and while completing a B.S. in Philosophy at Loyola University, Julian worked as student coordinator of Young Christian Students and in the Pilsen Neighborhood Community Credit Union. He volunteered with the East Garfield Park Community Organization and trained at the Urban Training Center for Christian Mission. When Dr. King came to Chicago, Julian participated in the open housing marches led by Dr. King and Rev. Jesse Jackson. He continued working in Chicago with the Catholic Worker Movement, where he helped hundreds of Mexican immigrants find jobs. As a seminary student in Indianapolis, he participated in and helped organize protest marches.

Julian Sulgit continued to try to accomplish the civil rights movement's highest ideals throughout his life and work in the pastoral ministry. His commitment to the diversity and spiritual life of the church is demonstrated in his substantial ecumenical experience with Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Christian, Baptist, and Muslim religions. After completing a M.Div. at Christian Theological Seminary in 1969, he and his wife, West Virginian Patricia A. Jarvis, taught English and Bible for three years at Jaiama Secondary School, Private Bag-Koidu Town, Sierra Leone, West Africa. They returned to West Virginia in the early 1970s where Dr. Sulgit served as Director of the Charleston District Outreach Ministries. He was a founding Board member of Covenant House and served on the board of Manna Meal. As Glenville State College's campus pastor, he organized housing and relief for flood victims. He helped Thomson United Methodist Church in Wheeling tithe to churches in need. At Trinity United Methodist Church in Bluefield, which he co-pastored with his wife, the Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Jarvis, he initiated services for at-risk pregnant women and a safe Friday night gathering place for teens.

Dr. Sulgit and Dr. Jarvis moved to co-pastor Lewisburg United Methodist

Church in 1997. In Lewisburg, Dr. Sulgit was a key person in successful Greenbrier Martin Luther King, Jr. Day community celebrations, include marches from Greenbrier County courthouse to his church, where several hundred people gathered to celebrate Dr. King and the continuation of Dr. King's dream. Now in semiretirement, he is pastoring Beech Hill in Mason County.

Julian Sulgit has carried with him a physical reminder of his civil rights movement activism. In 1965, while helping prepare a meal for Dr. King and open housing protest marchers, he cut a tendon that permanently limited mobility in his thumb. It is appropriate that Governor Bob Wise make the Rev. Dr. Julian G. Sulgit, Jr., a permanent part of West Virginia's civil rights movement history by giving him the 2004 Governor's Civil Rights Award.

Leon Howard Sullivan

Reverend Leon Howard Sullivan, was born, and raised in Charleston, West Virginia. He attended public schools in Charleston and graduated from Garnet High School. Upon graduation he received a football and basketball scholarship to West Virginia State College in 1939. After losing his scholarship due to an injury, Leon Sullivan labored in a steel mill and served as a part-time minister while finishing his college education at West Virginia State College, in Institute, West Virginia.

Reverend Adam Clayton Powell persuaded Reverend Sullivan to move to New York City to attend Union Theological Seminary where he earned a degree in theology and served as Reverend Powell's assistant minister at the Abyssinian Baptist Church. Later, Reverend Sullivan earned a degree in sociology from Columbia University.

In 1950, Reverend Sullivan became the pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia where he organized an economic boycott that opened jobs to 3000 African Americans in 1961. Later, Reverend Sullivan organized the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (O.I.C.) in 1964, which provided training to disadvantaged

African American youths. At one time, more than 75 centers throughout the United States and 33 centers in 18 countries. Also, he and the members of his church formed the Zion Investment Associates, which eventually led to the creation of Progress Aerospace Enterprises, a business that manufactured parts for the aerospace program and created many jobs for the unemployed.

Reverend Leon Sullivan joined the General Motors Board of Directors, during the 1970's thus becoming the first African-American to serve on a major corporate board. Reverend Sullivan served on the board of General Motors for over 20 years.

In 1977, Reverend Leon Sullivan redeveloped the “Sullivan Principles,” a code of conduct for human rights and equal economic opportunities for corporations operating in South Africa. These Principles are credited to have been one of the most influential and effective efforts that dismantled apartheid in South Africa. Later Reverend Sullivan expanded these Principles to human rights and economic development for all communities with the creation of the “Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility.” The basis of the work of Reverend Sullivan was built on the principle of “self-help” to provide the tools to the people to allow themselves to overcome the barriers of poverty. In 1999, the “Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility” were issued at the United Nations to call for multinational companies to be responsible for the advancement of human rights and economic social justice. These principles have become the international standard for businesses that operate throughout the world.

In 1988, Reverend Sullivan retired and moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where he continued to focus his energies on global concerns of human rights and economic justices until his death in 2001. He was a giant of a man who often spoke lovingly about the hills of West Virginia.

**[West Virginia Human Rights Commission](#)
2004**

[2005](#)

[Thursday, February 24, 2005](#)

PROCLAMATION

by Governor Joe Manchin III

Whereas, the equality of all members of our society was recognized by our founding fathers and enshrined in our Declaration of Independence as a cornerstone upon whom to build our American Democracy; and,

Whereas, equal rights and opportunities for all citizens is fundamental in the State of West Virginia; denial of such rights strikes at the very foundation of our democracy; and,

Whereas, the struggle to attain the American ideal of equality has been maintained through out our history and continues today; and,

Whereas, hate and tolerance must be battled in every sector of our society by citizens, institution, and government, with every person having an important role to play; and,

Whereas, key components to the removal of road blocks to equality are dialogue, collaboration and attentive listening to different perspectives; and,

Whereas, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission works cooperatively with government agencies, community and civic organizations and representatives of minority groups to promote programs and campaigns devoted to the achievement of tolerance, understanding and equal protection of the law;

Now, Therefore, be it resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do

In Witness Whereof, I have here unto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Twenty-eighth day of January, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Five and in the One Hundred Forty-second year of the State ereby proclaim *February 24, 2005*, as:

Civil Rights Day

in West Virginia.

2005

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Thursday, February 24, 2005 12 Noon

Charleston Job Corps Center Charleston, West Virginia

Attorney (Posthumously) starting in 1942. j(was unconstitutional.

Willard L. Brown Willard Brown was born in Boston, Massachusetts and came to Charleston, West Virginia in 1913. He was a 1929 graduate of Garnet High School, held a bachelor of arts degree from West Virginia State College (now University), and earned a bachelor of law degree and a master of law degree from Boston University. He was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Masonic and Elks Lodges, and the Charleston Business and Professional Men's Club. He was married to the former Juanita Jackson of Lewisburg, West Virginia for 41 years. Mr. Brown was the first African American attorney to sit as a judge in a court of record in West Virginia. His sixteen years of service included many accomplishments with opportunities to influence decisions concerning African Americans in West Virginia. He was President of the Charleston Branch NAACP from 1950 to 1966, and served as legal advisor to that organization. On August 24, 1944 at the NAACP's request, the Capitol Theatre opened its doors to Negroes. A Charleston Gazette editorial in January 1961, cited Mr. Brown for taking the lead in a series of conferences with the Charleston Restaurant Association which resulted in the opening of 41 downtown restaurants to the Black community. An injunction filed by A. H. Brown (Mr. Brown's father), and sponsored by the NAACP, resulted in a ruling by Federal Judge Moore that Negroes could eat in the local airport facilities operated by Sky Chef, Inc. and that refusing to serve them Mr. Brown claimed among his friends, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The two were speakers at a Mississippi Conference of NAACP branches in 1957. Mr. Roy Wilkins, National NAACP Executive Director, was a guest speaker, in 1967, at a testimonial banquet honoring Mr. Brown and Miss Mary L. Williams for their service to the local NAACP. Mr. Brown was a founder of the Charleston Human Rights Commission, and served on the committee organizing the march for open housing in Charleston. He participated in obtaining the right for Blacks to attend Municipal Auditorium events. Mr. Brown served eight years on the Charleston City Council after winning election as a councilman in 1947. He was the only Black member of the mayor's Human Relations Committee and the Legal Redress Committee from 1957-61. Mr. Brown and Mr. T.G. Nutter served as attorneys in most civil rights cases filed in the State back to 1935. In 1961, Mr. Brown conducted an employment survey to obtain and extend employment opportunities for Negroes in the Charleston area. Mr. Brown was named a special judge in Intermediate Court in 1967 when 26 persons were charged with voter fraud.

The Honorable Herman G. Canady, Jr.

Born in Kanawha County, West Virginia, Judge Herman G. Canady is a lifelong resident. He is married to Barbara L. Canady, and they have three daughters.

At an early age, Judge Canady began paving the way for those who would follow. In 1954, he was the first African American student at Charleston High School when he attended the summer session during his eleventh grade year. He graduated from State High School in Institute, West Virginia. He later attended Northwestern University where he received a bachelor of arts degree. He then graduated from West Virginia University College of Law, where he earned his J. D. degree. Judge Canady was the only African American enrolled at the law school during his three years of study, and was the second African American to graduate.

Appointed in March 1982 to the position of Circuit Court Judge of Kanawha County, by then Governor Jay Rockefeller, Judge Canady was the first African American to serve in this position. He was subsequently elected to this position in 1982, 1984, 1992, and 2000. During his tenure as a circuit court judge, he was appointed, more than once, to sit as a special justice of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. In 1989, he was elected Chief Judge by his peers, and served in that position again in 1998. He received the "Fairest Judge" award from the West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association for 1985-1986. In 2001, he was elected President of the West Virginia Judicial Association and previously, he had been elected Secretary/Treasurer. In 2002, he retired, but still remains active as a well respected mediator, and senior status judge.

Prior to his tenure on the Circuit Court of Kanawha County, Judge Canady first worked for The Legal Aid Society of Charleston representing low income clients. He was the Society's first African American lawyer. He then worked as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Kanawha County for about seven years. As a lawyer, Judge Canady practiced before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals, 4th Circuit.

Judge Canady has served on the Board of Directors of Opportunities Industrialization Center (O. I. C.), Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Charleston, The West Virginia Society for the Blind and Severely Disabled. He is a lifelong member of the NAACP.

Judge Canady is known as a fair, principled jurist who treats all persons respectfully. He has served with grace and great distinction. He is, above all else, a gentleman, a man of strength and solid character, whose accomplishments have been exemplary, and whose "firsts" have paved the way for many generations to come.

Attorney Harry Jheopart Capehart (Posthumously) Institutions/ Public Buildings, and Education. issue. Mr. Capehart was born in Charleston, West Virginia, on May 2, 1881. His father, Joseph Capehart, was a merchant; his mother was Miss Maggie Woodyard. His parents were emancipated slaves from North Carolina, who were given farm land in what is now Logan County. Mr. Capehart attended public schools in West Virginia and graduated from the School of Law at Howard University, located in Washington, D.C., where he received his LL.B Degree in 1913. He later became a member of the Board of Trustees at Howard. Mr. Capehart began practicing law in Keystone, West Virginia where he was elected to the city council, and also served as Assessor before moving to Welch. In 1918, he was elected to the West Virginia State Legislature and re-elected in 1920. He was an active working member of that body. He was appointed to various important committees, including: Taxation and Finance, Claims and Grievances, Humane He introduced, and steered through to its final passage what is popularly know as the "Capehart Anti-

Lynch Law,” the most progressive piece of legislation that has been enacted on the racial It defines “mob” or “riotous assemblage,” as a collection of individuals (five or more in number) assembled for the unlawful purpose of violence to a person or property in violation of the law, or for the purpose of exercising correctional or regulative powers over any person or persons by violence without lawful authority. The legislation clearly defines every term which might leave a loophole for the offender. It makes participation, in a mob or riotous assemblage, which results in the death of anyone, murder, punishable with a fine and imprisonment. In cases of lynching, where the person lynched was taken from the state or county, by municipal officer, the county shall be subject to forfeiture of money for the dependents or estate of the deceased and action may be brought in any state court. Another piece of racial legislation, for which Mr. Capehart was respon-sible, was a bill to prevent the exhibition of pictures which tend to humiliate or degrade the race. Approximately 75 years ago a group of Black Attorneys met in Southern West Virginia to create a legal association that became known as the Mountain State Bar Association. Included in the early membership was Harry J. Capehart of Welch. On November 28, 1917, Mr. Capehart married Anna Livingstone Hurley, daughter of War-ner and Marie Hurley of Washington D.C. they were the parents of two sons, Harry Capehart Jr. (attorney), and Arthur Froe Capehart (educator) (both deceased). Mrs. Capehart was a educator. Mr. Capehart died in 1954. until 1960. in 1964. (now University) in 1966 in recognition of his desegregation work. **(Posthumously)** Mr. Chilton was born in Kingston, New York and moved to Charleston, West Virginia at an early age where he attended public schools. He later served in the United States Army and Army Air Corps and was a 1950 graduate of Yale University. Mr. Chilton had a life-long interest in news-paper and politics and was the publisher of the Charleston Gazette from 1961 until the time of his death in 1987. In 1953, he won a seat in the West Virginia House of Delegates, where he served Mr. Chilton was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1960 and again Mr. Chilton was known as a publisher’s publisher. He was once quoted as saying, ”The hallmark of crusading journalism is sustained outrage.” During the Civil Rights Movement, he demanded equality through the use of the Gazette’s editorial page. Mr. Chilton was an advocate of racial integration of schools, hotels, restaurants, theatres, clubs, pools, and all other facilities. In the early 1950’s, before the Supreme Court ruling, Mr. Chilton enabled black high school athletes to compete in the Gazette Relays for the first time. Five years before his death, Mr. Chilton was selected for the Colby’s Elijah Parish Lovejoy Award for courage and integrity in journalism in 1982. He received an honorary Doctorate of Humanities Degree from West Virginia State College He was married to Elizabeth Chilton and had one daughter.

Mr. William E. ”Ned” Chilton

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Chilton

Mrs. Elizabeth Chilton was born in Williamson, West Virginia and attended Hollins College in Virginia, and Marjorie Webster College in Washington, D.C. She married Mr. William "Ned" Chilton in 1952 and joined the Gazette's public relations staff. Mrs. Chilton became Vice President of the newspaper after her husband's death in 1987, and President in 1991. She is an active member of the Southern Newspaper Publishers Association, the International Press Institute, and the Newspaper Association of America.

Mrs. Chilton serves on many local boards, including the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation, the West Virginia Humanities Council, and the Faculty Merit Scholarship Foundation. In 1997, she was given the John Marshall Medal for Civil Responsibility by Marshall University. She received an honorary Doctorate of Laws Degree from West Virginia State University in May 2004.

Mrs. Chilton and her husband spearheaded efforts to bring about probate reform through the abolition of the old commissioner of accounts systems, resisting subpoenas to reporters, and countersuing lawyers who represent clients who present frivolous liable petitions.

Mr. Gustavus Werber Cleckley **(Posthumously)**

Gustavus Werber Cleckley grew up in Huntington, West Virginia and was intent on combating racism, advancing social justice, and being a contributing member of his community. A graduate of Huntington's Frederick Douglas High School, following the 1954 Brown v. Board of Education landmark decision, he then decided to attend Marshall University and looked for opportunities to make his vision a reality. Mr. Cleckley served as President of the Huntington Chapter/NAACP, and as a member of the Civic Interest Progressive (CIP) organization, which focused on breaking down racial barriers in the Tri-State area. Mr. Cleckley also played a leading role in the founding of the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity at Marshall University, and also participated in the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington.

Mr. Cleckley was at the center of launching non-violent protests, during the turbulent years of social change in the 1960's, to desegregate places of public accommodation in Huntington, such as the Keith Albee Theatre, Bailey's Cafeteria, the White Pantry, and McCrory's lunch counter, among others.

Mr. Cleckley went on to serve his country during the Vietnam War era. While serving as a United States Army Medical Corpsman, he was wounded, and recognized for his heroism receiving the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart. The Cleckley Memorial Scholarship Fund, created at Marshall University by Franklin D, Cleckley and Betty Jane Cleckley, to help support high achieving undergraduate and graduate students of lower socio-economic backgrounds, is a tribute to the late Gustavus Werber Cleckley and his parents. He died in 1981. Today, many young people continue to be driven by his visionary spirit.

Mrs. Savannah R. Evans graduate school at Marshall University in Huntington, from 1966-1968. Born in Charleston, West Virginia on September 24, 1927, Mrs. Evans, mother of three, devoted many years toward advancements in the Correctional System. Her dedication to the organizations she was involved in, was well known. Mrs. Evans graduated from Garnet High School in 1949; she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology from West Virginia State College (now University) in 1961. She attended Best known for her work at the West Virginia

Department of Corrections in Charleston from 1968-1988, Mrs. Evans was a pioneer for the civil rights of the Department's African American employees as well as the African American youth she supervised as a probation officer. She sought to build relationships and eliminate racial barriers among the various groups she worked with. She served as a probation and parole officer in the Juvenile Division, Work-Release Center Supervisor, and Supervisor of Kanawha County Probation and Parole. Mrs. Evans truly made a difference in the West Virginia Correctional System that will extend for generations to come. Mrs. Evans is responsible for the creation of West Virginia's first work release program. She was the first African American woman, and only female, supervisor of an all-male prisoner facility, in the United States, known as the West Virginia Division of Corrections Work-Release Center. The concept of a work-release program is the same as that of a half-way house where prisoners, nearing parole, can undergo gradual adjustment before returning to society completely on their own. Mrs. Evans attended correctional conferences in Montreal, Canada regarding Half-way housing, and Work-Release programs, as well as, a five day transactional analysis class at a federal prison in Marion, Illinois. Mrs. Evans taught a class on work-release programs at the West Virginia State Police Academy, and also received instruction on Self Protection. Mrs. Evans was part of many associations, including: Southern States Correctional Association, International Half-way House Association, and the West Virginia Probation and Parole Association. She is a member of the St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church, in St. Albans, and a member of the College Alumnae Club of Kanawha County, West Virginia, Inc.

Ms. Faith Holsaert National Council of Christians and Jews (NCCJ) in Harlem and the Lower East Side. learned about Rights Movement. Faith S. Holsaert was born during WWII, to liberal Jewish parents, in New York City's Greenwich Village. She was raised in a two-mother family with her Jewish mother by birth, Eunice Holsaert and Charity Bailey, her mother by affection; who was African American. During high school, she worked on organizing the community's social and economic concerns through the Through NCCJ, Ms. Holsaert met leaders of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) which lead her to sit-in at a lunch counter and go to jail on the Eastern Shore of Maryland on Christmas Eve 1961. This sit-in set the stage for the sweeping Cambridge, Maryland Movement. This resulted in occupation of that region by federal troops for 18 months because of the violent resistance from white residents. This was followed by the burning of four black Southwest Georgia church sites of voter registration mass meetings. In the autumn of 1962, at the age of 19, Ms. Holsaert joined SNCC as a Field Secretary in Albany, Georgia. In the first mass jailing of the 1960's Movement, hundreds of Albany residents had been imprisoned in the previous winter during demonstrations. In addition to registering voters, joining mass meetings held in tents on the charred grounds of the burned churches, documenting rights violations, and filing complaints with state and federal authorities, Ms. Holsaert was an active participant in SNCC policy discussions. Toward the end of that year, she participated in the preparations of the March on

Washington of 1963. Ms. Holsaert then joined a mass march early that summer and spent a week in the Albany City Jail. Following her return to Barnard College, Ms. Holsaert worked in the New York City SNCC office, providing support during the summer of 1964. Hundreds of northern students went south that year to Atlantic City, where the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party openly challenged credentials of the all-white Mississippi Democratic Party in a dispute which had long-term implications for the National Democratic Party. It was in the context of the Southern Freedom Movement that Ms. Holsaert equality, dignity, and respect. She has carried out those ideals in everything she involves herself in, including opposing military interventions, supporting welfare rights and the rights of children to be healthy and safe, teaching public school, and writing fiction with social justice themes. She is working, with other women from the SNCC, on an anthology of women's experiences in the Civil

Reverend Dr. Idus Jones, Jr. Reverend Jones was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 18, 1927. In 1972, he received his B.A. in Sociology and Anthropology with a minor in Philosophy from Indiana University. While attending Indiana University, he was the proud recipient of the Apheus Bell Clark Award in 1971, and the M. Vashti Memorial Award in 1972. Reverend Jones received his Masters of Divinity at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 1975. In 1991, he received his Doctor of Ministry Degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, OH. He authored his autobiography entitled, *A Mighty Long Journey*. Reverend Jones is a retired United Methodist Minister from the West Virginia Annual Conference. Currently, he serves on the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency, and Corrections and Sub-Committee on Juvenile Justice and the Juvenile Crime Enforcement Coalition Team, West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services. He has spent many years working in youth prison ministries and is well known for his untiring commitment to incarcerated youth in West Virginia.

Mrs. Cora Francis Coleman Jones (Posthumously) of a daycare program and free medical clinic. Cora Francis Coleman began her life experiences on October 13, 1925, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as the daughter of the late George and Eugenia Coleman. Mrs. Jones, along with her husband Reverend Idus Jones, Jr., established mission projects abroad and in the United States. One such mission project, in 1984, was the

establishment of a quarter million dollar facility, Ebenezer Community Outreach Center, in Huntington, West Virginia. The center meets the needs of the Fairfield West community through the provisions She died on August 5, 2001.

The Honorable A. James Manchin (Posthumously) He as: bill was never reported out of Committee. and served from 1985 to 1989. Columbus (4th degree). Mr. A. James Manchin was born April 7, 1927, in Farmington, West Virginia, and was the son of Joseph, Sr., and Kathleen Roscoe Manchin. He received an A.B degree in political science and sociology, a M.A. degree in education from West Virginia University. He was a citizenship teacher and athletic coach in West Virginia and he proudly served in the United States Navy. married Stephanie Machel, and had 3 children: Patricia Lee, Mark Anthony, and Rosanna. Mr. Manchin was elected to the House of Delegates in 1948, 1998, 2000, and 2002. During his tenure in the West Virginia Legislature, he was a member of several committees such Government Organization, Roads and Transportation, and Veteran Affairs (Vice Chair). He supported and sponsored progressive legislation designed to promote equal rights and opportunities for all West Virginians. For example, on February 9, 1949, he introduced House Bill 205, which provided equal rights in places of public accommodation and amusement and prescribed damages and penalties for violations. This bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, however, the Mr. Manchin worked for the Farmers Home Administration from 1961 to 1972 and was the State Director for REAP from 1973 to 1976. Mr. Manchin also worked for the TEDDI Program. He was elected Secretary of State and served from 1977 to 1985. Then, he was elected State Treasurer Among the many organizations he was a member of, some are: LOOM, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), American Legion, Keep America Beautiful, and Go-Cats, Inc. He was a senate member of the Silver Haired Legislature for four years and was a member of the Knights of Mr. A. James Manchin died November 3, 2003. Chemistry from the University of Chicago in June, 1955. Chemistry and retired on June 30, 1994. of three children.

Dr. Virgil E. Matthews Virgil E. Matthews, the son of Virgil and Izetta Ware Matthews, was born in LaFayette, Alabama on October 5, 1928. He attended the segregated school in LaFayette, Chambers County, Alabama. He graduated from DuSable High School in Chicago in June, 1947 as class valedictorian. Dr. Matthews earned a B.S. in Chemistry with honors, in June

1951, from the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana and the S.M. degree in Chemistry from the University of Chicago in August, 1952. He was awarded a Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company fellowship for 1952-1953, and a National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis fellowship for 1953-1955. He received a Ph.D. in Mr. Matthews accepted employment with the Carbide and Carbon Chemicals Company, a division of Union Carbide Corporation as a research chemist and moved to Charleston in November, 1954. He was the first African American chemist to be employed by Carbide at South Charleston and worked there for 32 years, retiring as a Development Scientist on December 30, 1986. He taught night Chemistry classes part-time at West Virginia State College (now University) from 1955-1963 and 1964-1970. After he retired from Union Carbide, he was appointed a full-time Professor of Chemistry at West Virginia State College (now University), served as chair of the Department of While Vice-President of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP, Dr. Matthews worked with the late E. L. James Sr., the late Atty. Willard Brown, the late State Senator Paul Kaufman, and Democratic Governor Hulett Smith for the passage of House Bill No. 821 on March 1, 1967 prohibiting discrimination in employment and public accommodations and giving enforcement powers to the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. With the assistance of the late Attorney Paul Kaufman, he and his wife became the first Negro family to purchase a house on Carroll Road, Highland Hills section of South Hills in 1965 and be accepted as members of the private, all-white South Hills Swim Club in 1970. He was involved in the efforts by C.O.R.E., the NAACP and the Triangle Improvement Council and others to fight to keep the residents' homes, most of which were owner-occupied single family houses in what became known as the Triangle District. He became the first African American elected to a Council-at-Large seat in Charleston being re-elected 1971, 1975, and 1979. He married Shirley Elizabeth McFatrige. They are the parents **(Posthumously)** them are the Industrial School for Colored Boys and an Industrial Home for Colored Girls. subsequently was elected as the
27th

Attorney Thomas G. Nutter Thomas Gillis Nutter, attorney at law, legislator, and business man, is a native of the state of Maryland, having been born at Princess Anne, Somerset County on June 15, 1876. His paternal grandparents were Virginia & Caleb Nutter, and his maternal grandparents were Peter & Julia Henry. Mr. Nutter entered the law department of Howard University, Washington, D. C., for his law course, earning the LL. B degree in 1899. He taught for two years after completion of his course and was principal of the school at Fairmont, Maryland. He was admitted to the bar in 1903 and relocated to Charleston, West Virginia, and was, for six years, Assistant Land Clerk in the office of the State Auditor of West Virginia. Mr. Nutter practiced in state and federal courts. He was attorney for the Midland Brick and Cement Company, the S. W. Starks Improvement Company, and also handled the legal business of the Peoples Exchange Bank. The moving spirit in organizing the Mutual Savings and Loan Company of Charleston, which, at the time,

was owned and operated by African American people, Mr. Nutter served as the Secretary Treasurer. Mr. Nutter was a member of the State Colored Bar Association of which he was, at one time, Secretary. He served in the West Virginia Legislature and was assigned to the judiciary committee. He is author of a number of important measures of a general nature as well as several bills affecting African Americans; among Mr. Nutter was also recognized as an authority on taxation and had a rather conspicuous part in helping to frame tax measures. Endorsed by labor organizations, Mr. Nutter had the support of many Democrats. A prominent figure in the Republican Party of the State, Mr. Nutter attended the National Republican Convention which nominated William Howard Taft as it's nominee, who President of The United States. He was a President of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP and was Chairman of the Legal Committee. He raised \$22,000.00 for the Mattie V. Lee Industrial Home for Colored Girls. He also did a great amount of work in the interest of the Y.M.C.A. On December 18, 1920, Mr. Nutter married Miss Sadie M. Meriwether of Washington, D.C. Mrs. Nutter was educated at Howard University and was, before her marriage, an accomplished teacher. Taken from a biography in Archives of the West Virginia Division of Culture and History

Reverend Dr. David Louis Smith

(Posthumously)

Reverend David Louis Smith was born on June 9, 1925, in Raleigh County, West Virginia. He was the son of Charles W. and Eva A. Calloway Smith. He attended public school at East Park Elementary, and Stratton High School in Beckley, West Virginia. After serving three years in the United States Marine Corps, he was honorably discharged, and was awarded the President's Unit Citation. While working in the coal mines of Cranberry, West Virginia, the call and purpose of his life was made clear, and there was no doubt, that God had called him to preach the Gospel. He made the necessary adjustments, with a growing family, to attend Bible College. He attended Zion Bible College in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Reverend Smith served as President of the McDowell and Raleigh County Branch of the NAACP guiding the organization through crucial civil rights struggles. He was instrumental in the desegregation of Raleigh County Schools, and the Beckley Telephone Company. His sense of justice led him to many protests and sit-ins in West Virginia, and other areas of the country. He participated in the March on Washington - "The Tent City" bearing witness to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Speech - "I Have A Dream".

Reverend Smith's accomplishments extend even further as he served as President for the McDowell County Federal Credit Union, Board Member of the Council of the Southern Mountains, a member of the Keystone City Council, and many other civic and christian organizations. For 26 years, he conducted the Spiritual Hour Broadcast on the WELC Radio Station in Welch.

Reverend Smith served as an itinerant minister in Raleigh and Tams, West Virginia for seven years. He was called to pastor at Mt. Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in Keystone, in 1966, and was serving his 27th year as pastor, at the time of his death. He served as Moderator of the Flat Top Baptist Association and Recording Secretary for the West Virginia Baptist State Convention. He served as Chairman of the Stewardship Committee, and on the State Team for the West Virginia Baptist State Convention at Hill Top. downtown. sit."

Mrs. Blanche Wade Mrs. Blanche Wade, was born on April 24, 1901, and has lived more than a century, nearly all in West Virginia. Mrs. Wade spent her youth in a coal camp in London, West Virginia where schools were racially segregated. She experienced racial harassment, in the form of violent acts, from white children within the community. Mrs. Wade dropped out of school in the eighth grade and became a live-in domestic ser-vant in Charleston. She was forced to ride in the rear of the segregated street cars while traveling In spite of racial segregation, Mrs. Wade

successfully co-owned and operated a beauty salon located in “The Block” where St. Mark’s United Methodist Church now stands. She specialized in “Marcel Waves,” for black and white customers. She went in the back door of a white beauty salon, after hours, to learn how to do “Marcel Waves.” During the 1960’s, Mrs. Wade, who was in her 60’s at the time, joined in the boycotts of “ten cents stores” and the Diamond Department Store. She marched, picketed, and participated in sit-ins with others in protest of racial discrimination. In a Charleston Gazette article, Mrs. Wade stated, “I would buy something at The Diamond, and then they would not let us eat. I would turn in what I’d bought and make them give my money back. I froze my account. We would sit on the stools and they wouldn’t give us food, but we would sit there so other people couldn’t come and For her sacrificial protest during the Civil Rights Movement, Governor Bob Wise presented Mrs. Blanche Wade with the Distinguished West Virginian Award.

Mr. Richard G. Walker

Mr. Richard G. Walker was born in 1934 in Red Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, to the late Charles W. and Ernestine L. Walker. The oldest of four children, he graduated from Garnet High School and attended West Virginia State College(now University). While attending the College, Mr. Walker obtained employment with the Kroger Warehouse Distribution Center, where he remained for forty-one years.

An advocate for civil rights for many years, Mr. Walker participated in marches, to protest segregation and other forms of discrimination, with his mother and younger sisters. He became immersed in the Civil Rights Movement and began studying the life and writings of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Mr. Walker is well-known in the Charleston community for his powerful rendition of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s speeches, which he delivers at churches and multiple public events, including Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Holiday Celebration. Mr. Walker ignited the legacy of these renditions in many young people, including his granddaughter who has recited at some of the same places that her grandfather has spoken.

Mr. Walker recalls the days at Kroger, when he ate lunch shortly after arriving at work, because African Americans were not privileged to the regularly scheduled lunch period. Mr. Walker maintained a profound, but humble, spirit gaining the respect of his managers and co-workers. Eventually the lunch hour was readjusted to include all employees.

For the past thirty-eight years, Mr Walker has been an active member of the Washington Lodge #4 F&AM, Inc., where he has held the esteemed positions of Worshipful Master and served as Grand Master of the State of West Virginia. Mr. Walker is married to Adrian Farris, formerly of Huntington, and is the father of two children and five grandchildren. and equality is known throughout the campus, state, and nation. Mississippi. () arrested for trespassing in an act of civil disobedience. Reconciliation.

Dr. John Warner, Jr. A department chair and professor of sociology and anthropology at West Virginia Wesleyan College in Buckhannon, Dr. John Warner, Jr.'s commitment to the Civil Rights Movement, equity Dr. Warner's involvement in the Civil Rights Movement began soon after his enrollment in the School of Theology at Boston University in 1958. He joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation, America's oldest interfaith peace group, in 1959. Then,

the following years of 1962-1964, he served as the Boston Field Worker for the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). The Boston FOR sent Dr. Warner, as their representative, to the March on Washington in August of 1963, the day Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his, "I have a dream" speech. While serving a Methodist church in Livermore Falls, Maine, in 1964, Dr. Warner received an invitation from the National Council of Churches to serve the Mississippi Summer Project as a chaplain. He served as a chaplain and civil rights worker to the young Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee workers in Laurel, Dr. Warner completed his Ph.D. at Boston University in 1967, and began teaching at the College of Emporia in Kansas in 1967. In the Spring of 1970, he interviewed with West Virginia Wesleyan College WVWC and was hired, moving back to Buckhannon, West Virginia that summer. During his tenure at the college, Dr. Warner has taught the courses; American Minorities for 35 years, and Global Minorities for the past 8 years. He challenged a sorority's national chapter because that campus' sorority prevented an African American woman from pledging. Later he fought with the campus Kappa Alpha Order to prevent members from wearing the confederate uniform, and displaying the confederate flag. In 1985, Dr. Warner, and campus chaplain, Jerry Wood, took a group of students to Washington D. C. to protest in front of the South African embassy. The group was Dr. Warner's impact extends beyond his work on campus through his essays in the Charleston Gazette, which addresses racial and ethnic problems in both, America, and globally. Several of Dr. Warner's columns have addressed Brown v. Board of Education and his work is widely recognized. This recognition has lead to his election as a member of the National Council of the Fellowship of West Virginia is fortunate to have Dr. John Warner for his unwavering stands for justice, equality, peace, understanding, and his dedication to educate on these issues.

Mr. William L. Williams, Jr.

William L. Williams, Jr., was born in Bessemer, Alabama on January 2, 1927. He was the first son, and second child, in a family of seven (7) born to his parents, William L. and Maud Williams. When he was nine months old his family moved to Omar, West Virginia, where his father worked in the coal mines. He attended Bluefield State College, on an athletic scholarship where he played football (hence the name "Tank"). After taking time off to serve in the United States Army Air Corps, during World War II, he returned to Bluefield State College and earned a Bachelor Degree, and was the first African American to earn a Masters Degree in Guidance & Counseling at West Virginia University in 1951.

Mr. Williams began teaching at Aracoma High School in 1951, and in 1959 he was transferred to Logan High School as an instructor and guidance counselor. When African American students were moved from all-black Aracoma High School to an all-white Logan County High School, Mr. Williams was there to help ease their transition. In 1966, he was named Director of the Logan County Schools Guidance Department. In 1972, he became the Assistant Superintendent of Logan County Schools.

Mr. Williams was a member of President Lyndon B. Johnson's committee on Employment of the Handicapped, in 1966. In 1974, he became President of the Logan Kiwanis Club. He was the only African American member of a historically white civic club in Southern West Virginia. In 2000 he was honored by the Kiwanis International Foundation as a George F. Hixson Fellow, one of the Foundation's highest honors.

In 1991, Mr. Williams was appointed, by then Governor Caperton, to serve on the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. He has since been reappointed by former Governors Underwood and Wise. He has served with distinction for 13 years where he currently sits as Vice Chair.

Mr. Williams was enshrined in the Aracoma High School Hall of Fame, for his outstanding contributions to the athletic program. In 2004, the NAACP Chapter #3231 (Logan-Boone Branch) recognized Mr. Williams for extraordinary service and dedication to the principles and ideas of this organization, through leadership, community and church service, and setting a shining example of what can happen through education and determination. He is also a Director of Bank One, in Logan, and was inducted into the West Virginia University Emeritus Club in 2004.

Mr. Williams retired from the Logan County school system in 1987, and has been a small business owner, as well as an entrepreneur. He resides in Omar with his wife Edith, and remains active in his church and community. He and his wife have two daughters, Judy and Michelle, and one grandson, Alex.

** **

The Reverend Dr. F. Emerson Wood

Reverend F. Emerson Wood, was born in Herndon, West Virginia on May 6, 1928. He received his degree in theology & counseling from Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, and was awarded a Doctorate of Divinity Degree from West Virginia Wesleyan College, in Buckhannon. Reverend Wood served 43 years as an ordained clergy in the United Methodist Church. The last 18 years of active ministry were served as Senior Pastor at Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, Huntington, West Virginia, where he retired in June 1996. His ministry in the United Methodist

Church gave him the opportunity to serve faith communities across West Virginia. He marched with civil rights advocates in Selma, Alabama in He organized and served as the President of the Human Rights Commission in Wheeling. Nationally, he served on the General Commission of Religion and Race of the United Methodist Church and, as a member of that Commission, chaired the Annual Conference Review Committee Reverend Wood was a member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission for four years, serving on the "Living the Dream" Awards Committee and the Ecumenical Service of Commemoration and Celebration. A highlight of Reverend Wood's professional career occurred, January 2003, when he was presented the Governor's Martin Luther King, Jr. "Living The Dream" Advocate of Peace Award. In January of 1997, Reverend Wood was appointed Executive Director of Mission West Virginia, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation whose purpose is to serve West Virginian's in need. By forming partnerships with governmental agencies, corporations, foundations, faith communities, and community organizations, priority initiatives were established in Welfare to Work, Computer Literacy, Adoption, and Foster Care Programs. Reverend Wood retired from this position on January 1, 2002 and serves as Consultant to the Corporation. Reverend Wood served on the Governor's Council on Literacy, Health West Virginia Coalition, Nutrition Partnership for the Millennium, West Virginia Caring Foundation for Children, Family Connection, West Virginia Commission for National and Community Service, West Virginia Comprehensive Cancer Control Coalition, Colin Powell's America's Promise, and as co-chair of the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources Reverend Wood has been a member of the Huntington, West Virginia Rotary Club since 1978, serving as president 1983-84, and honored as a Paul Harris Fellow in 1990. He served in the United States Navy during World War II and the Korean Conflict. He and his wife, BJ, are the parents of four children, and have five grandchildren.

**We wish to acknowledge all the sponsors who have joined together
to make this day possible:**

**State of West Virginia, Office of the Governor West Virginia State
University Charleston Job Corps Center Appalachian Power
Company Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday
Commission West Virginia Human Rights Commission**

2006 *The 2006 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees*

Carole “Cookie” Glasser

Kent S. Hall

**Della Louise Brown Taylor
Hardman, Ph.D.
(Posthumously)**

Ken Hechler, Ph.D.

Mildred Ruth T. Holt

Mentola Joyce Jackson

**The Reverend Doctor Patricia
Ann Jarvis, D.Min.**

**The Reverend Doctor
David A. Kates
(Posthumously)**

Attorney J. Franklin Long

Anna L. McCright

Edward L. Peeks

**The Honorable
Larry V. Starcher**

Clarence Wanzer

2007

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Thursday, February 22, 2007

11:30 A.M.

Charleston Job Corps Center

Charleston, West Virginia

R. CHARLES R. BYRD

POSTHUMOUSLY

Immediately following the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, Dr. Charles Byrd was active in helping integrate West Virginia State College to facilitate “equal protection principles” across the board. He was one of the civil rights leaders in higher education in West Virginia in the 1950s and 1960s.

A graduate of Hampton University, Dr. Charles Byrd earned a B.S. degree in Technology Education. He received his master’s degree from New York University, and his Doctorate in Communications from Syracuse University.

Dr. Charles Byrd worked at West Virginia State College (now University) for fifty years. The majority of his fifty years in education were spent at West Virginia State College. Dr. Byrd was also an employee with the West Virginia State Department of Education for several years.

He was an active member in community and civic organizations including: The Charleston Lion’s Club, of which he was President. He later served as the first African American District Governor of West Virginia. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of Goodwill Industries, the Kanawha County- Charleston Area Animal Shelter, the Nitro City Planning Commission, the West Virginia Public Broadcasting Authority, and was the Chairmen of the Nitro Fire Civil Service Commission. He was a member of Upsilon Boule of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, and a lifetime member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. In 1999, Dr. Byrd was introduced into the West Virginia State College “W-Club” Hall of Fame.

Dr. Charles R. Byrd, who passed away on September 9, 2004, and his wife Charlene have devoted their entire adult lives to civil rights thru their work in education. At a time in our history when integration was new, they helped move our segregated society toward integration

long before it became “acceptable” to do so. Their efforts greatly affected the pace of integration in the Kanawha County public school system.

ANNA EVANS GILMER

Anna Evans Gilmer, a Charleston, WV native and historian, has been documenting histories for her family, church, community and state for 30 years. In segregated schools, Boyd Junior, Garnet High and Bluefield State College, she learned that the pen is mightier than the sword. From 1967 until 1973, Mrs. Gilmer was the first black female to teach at Sissonville Senior High School, a white school, which had only one black student. Her passion for recording history began when she made a Family Reunion Booklet of photos, beginning in the first decade of the 1900’s, to share the photos with the extended family. These photos were part of a Black History Exhibit at the WV Cultural Center. Later, the WV Division of Culture and History gave the photos a permanent spot on the State’s web site.

Mrs. Gilmer was an active member of a Statewide Planning Committee of the Alliance for the Collection, Preservation and Dissemination of WV Black History. She was an advisor in the preservation of the historic African Zion Baptist Church, Malden, and its archives. As a member of a special committee for the WV Women’s Commission, she researched and wrote some of the entries in the Commission’s 2002 book, a sampling of WV’s African American Women of Distinction.

Mrs. Gilmer’s news stories have been in the **WV Beacon Digest** since 1978. A book, **Black Past**, which she co-authored with the late photographer, James D. Randall in 1989, compiled many of these stories.

Her awards and honors include: Living the Dream Award for Scholarship, a History Hero Award by the WV Cultural Center, Garnet Foundation Hall of Fame Award and a Celebrate

Women Award by the WV Women’s Commission as an Unsung Hero.

Anna Evans Gilmer and her late husband of 58 years, Rev. Dr. Paul J. Gilmer, built a legacy of faith and achievement. Their children are: Paul, Jr.; Rodney “Rocky;” Vikki; Charles and Janet.

THE HONORABLE MICHAEL KELLY

Judge Kelly is a native of Homestead, Pennsylvania. He graduated from West Virginia University and received his law degree from Pitt University.

Judge Kelly began his legal career in West Virginia working in Mingo County in 1976 with Appalachian Research and Development Fund (APPALRED) covering a wide range of civil matters. Also, he was the Interim Executive Director, at the Legal Aid Society of Charleston.

He was the Assistant Administrative Director in the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in charge of statewide administration of the Magistrate Courts, judicial education for magistrates and investigation of complaints from 1981-1983. He was the first Executive Director, Juvenile Justice Committee of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

While Deputy Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the West Virginia Attorney General's Office, Judge Kelly was the chief litigator for administrative, trial court and appellate cases involving the West Virginia Human Rights Commission and alleged violations of the West Virginia Human Rights Act from 1989 through 1991.

From April 1991 to October 1999, Mr. Kelly was in a private practice specializing in employment and civil rights law, rights of the disabled and education law. He was the primary attorney in hundreds of civil rights cases in state circuit courts, the U.S. District Court and before administrative bodies, with extensive trial and appellate experience. He was appointed

an administrative law judge pro tempore by the West Virginia Human Rights Commission.

Judge Kelly is currently a Family Circuit Judge in the Eleventh Family Court Circuit for Kanawha County. He was Chief Judge in the Eleventh Family Circuit in 2002 and 2006.

During his tenure as the Chief Judge, he implemented a formal Bench/Bar Committee for the Circuit and a separate Citizens Advisory Council to assist in addressing community issues relevant to Family Court.

RASHIDA KHAKOO, M.D.

For many years Dr. Khakoo has worked for the advancement of women. She is a graduate of Makerere University Medical School, Kampala, Uganda 1964-1969, and Azania Secondary School, Dar es Salaam, Cambridge University, Higher School Certificate, January 1962-November 1963. Among her many honors is the WVU Foundation Outstanding Teacher Award 1995 and 1996. As Chair of the Faculty Development Advisory Committee as well as Assistant Vice President of Health Sciences and Faculty Development, Dr. Khakoo creates an environment that is conducive to the growth and advancement of women at the Health Sciences Center. As the mentor to many young medical students as well as junior faculty members, she helped them navigate through academia. Dr. Khakoo's impact as a role model is evident by the fact that she has been nominated and awarded year after year for her outstanding teaching. She is seen as a role model for men and women alike with regards to teaching excellence and her passion to encourage others to be accomplished educators.

Dr. Khakoo has worked tirelessly as the United States Chairman of the Aga Khan Foundation National Committee which provides oversight for the programs in health education in developing countries such as in Asia and East Africa. The Aga Khan Foundation is a non-denominational, international development agency established in 1967, by his Highness Aga Khan. Its mission is to develop and promote creative solutions to problems that impede social development, primarily in Asia and East Africa. Created as a private, non-profit foundation under Swiss law, the Foundation has branches and independent affiliates in 15 countries. It is a modern vehicle for traditional philanthropy in the Ismaili Muslim community under the leadership of the Aga Khan.

For almost six years Khakoo has worked tirelessly for the mission of the Faculty Development Program to assist faculty, students and staff recognize their potential. When one thinks of outstanding leadership at the West Virginia University Health Sciences Center one thinks of Rashida Khakoo.

JOHN E. LYNCH, JR.

POSTHUMOUSLY

John E. Lynch, Jr., was a conciliator for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission

and was formally recognized by the Commission for his contribution in reducing the backlog of cases at the Commission. He is credited with reducing the backlog considerably during the time he worked as a conciliator.

Mr. Lynch was a native West Virginian was born in Harewood. He attended Du-Bois High School in Mt. Hope. He graduated in 1937, and four years later received a degree in education from West Virginia State College.

After college, Mr. Lynch was a teacher in Wirt County; until 1943 when he joined the Navy. From 1947 to 1961, he was self-employed. In 1961, he was appointed Parole Officer and Director of Juvenile Field Services for the State Department of Corrections; until 1968 when he came to the West Virginia Human Rights Commission s a Field Representative. Also in 1968, he was appointed to the Governor's Committee on Crime, Delinquency and Corrections.

His community involvement began in 1945 when he became an active member of the NAACP. He was also a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi, the Congress of Racial Equality, the Masonic Lodge and Levi First Baptist Church.

He and his wife, Margaret, were been married for 35 years, have one daughter and grandchildren.

THE HONORABLE CHARLENE MARSHALL

In 1998, Delegate Marshall was elected to represent the 44th District. She is currently serving in her 4th term in the West Virginia House of Delegates. She served on the West Virginia Human Rights Commission for eight years and was Commission Chair for five of those years.

Delegate Marshall grew up in the coal-mining town of Osage, and is a life-long resident of Monongalia County. She is a graduate of the public school system, and grew up during the era of segregated schools. Her father, step-father and a grandfather all died in mining accidents. In 1963, she was the first African-American woman to be hired at Sterling Faucet, where she worked for 15 years, and served as recording secretary for Steelworkers Local 6214, the first African-American female in that union local and its only African-American woman officer. She worked actively to break down segregation in hotels and restaurants. She also served as recording secretary and director for Volunteers in Politics (VIP) for the Monongalia-Preston Labor Council. She was a member of the Morgantown Human Rights Committee and chair of that organization in the 1980s.

In April 1991, Delegate Marshall was elected to the Morgantown City Council, the first, and to date the only African-American to serve on that body. She was elected Mayor in July 1991. The first African-American woman Mayor in West Virginia, she served in that position for seven years, to date the longest-serving Mayor in Morgantown history. Delegate Marshall received the West Virginia Mayor of the Year Award in 1994. She retired as staff from West Virginia University in 1997. During her employment there, she served on both the Social Justice Council and the President's Visiting Committee for Social Justice. She serves on many boards, such as the Valley Health Care System, the West Virginia School of Nursing Advisory Board, and the Health Sciences and Technology Local Governing Board. She is a past president of the Morgantown chapter of the NAACP, and a former member of the Mt. Laurel Chapter of the American Red Cross.

She is a recipient of the Exceptional Service in the Public Interest Award from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and received the 1992 Martin Luther King, Jr. Award from

West Virginia University. Delegate Marshall attended Bluefield State College. She is married to Rogers Marshall. They have three children and four grandchildren.

ATTORNEY JAMES B. "JIM" MCINTYRE POSTHUMOUSLY

Few lives in Charleston were left untouched by the life and legacy of James B. McIntyre.

Born in South Charleston to Donald M. and Kathalene G. McIntyre, Attorney McIntyre was raised in Marmet. A graduate of Morris Harvey College, where he met his future wife Virginia, he attended law school at the George Washington University School of Law before returning to Charleston to begin his legal career. After a stint at the Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney's office, he entered private practice in the early 1960s and practiced law until his retirement last year.

A champion of legal rights for the poor, Attorney McIntyre led the effort to establish the first legal aid service in West Virginia. He and his wife Virginia were moving forces behind several major issues of the 1960s, particularly in the field of civil rights. Attorney McIntyre served on the state advisory committee for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and lent his voice and energy to local civil rights efforts during the 1960s and 1970s.

Attorney McIntyre ran for mayor of Charleston in 1963, narrowly losing to John Shanklin. He was instrumental in the campaign of his law partner Jim Sprouse for governor in 1968.

He and his wife Virginia were also ardent defenders of animal rights. Attorney McIntyre served on the board of the Kanawha/ Charleston Humane Association and was instrumental in efforts to curb cruelty to animals.

Attorney McIntyre was preceded in his death by his wife Virginia. He died on December 13, 2006 at the age of seventy seven. He survived by one daughter, Molly and her husband, Mike Jordan; daughter, Libby and her husband, Mark Chatfield; son, Jim, Jr. and his wife, Mary; son John; grandchildren, Michael, Kate, Clare, Sarah, Ben; and greatgrandchildren, Maddy and Ella.

MARY WILLENE HAIRSTON MOORE

Mary Willene Hairston Moore was born in Williamson, West Virginia. She is the eldest of seven children, six girls and one boy, born to Zada Stowe Hairston and the late Elbert P. F. Hairston.

Mrs. Moore attended Liberty Grade School through the third grade. She transferred in 1957, during the "integration movement," to East Williamson Grade School. She attended Williamson High School graduating in 1966. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Berea College, Berea, KY in 1971; and her Master of Arts degree from Eastern Kentucky University in 1975. She has post-graduate credits from both Marshall University and West Virginia University. Her certification is in Music Education, Pre-Kindergarten through twelfth grade.

Mrs. Moore is a thirty-five (35) year veteran of education in Mingo County, WV. She has taught at a variety of schools, such as: Main Building Grade, West End Grade, Chattaroy Grade, Nolan Grade, and Williamson Elementary, all of which, through the process of school consolidation eventually became known as Riverside Elementary. Mrs.

Moore currently teaches at Riverside and Williamson Middle School.

Mrs. Moore is a long-time member of the WVEA and a member of the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). She was among those music educators who were recognized in 2006 by the WVMEA for more than twenty-five (25) years of dedicated service as a music educator in the state of WV. In February 1996, he received the Distinguished West Virginian Award from Governor Gaston Caperton.

She is an active member of the Williamson Branch NAACP, having first joined as a youth. In 2006, she was recognized by the Branch with a plaque for services rendered as chairman of the local NAACP Program Committee. She is the president of the Huntington Chapter of LINKS, Inc.

Mrs. Moore lives in Williamson with her husband, Henry Ray Moore. They have three children, Patrick O'Brian, Henry and Sarah Elizabeth-Marie.

ROBERT L. "BOB" MORRIS POSTHUMOUSLY

Governor Gaston Caperton appointed Mr. Robert L. "Bob" Morris to the West Virginia Human Rights Commission where he served on the Commission as a member until 2001. He served as chairperson of the Commission from 1993 until 2001. In February 1996, he received the Distinguished West Virginian Award from Governor Gaston Caperton.

Mr. Morris graduated from Hampden Sydney College in 1957 and from Morris Harvey College in 1964. From 1957 through 1973, he was employed with Columbia Gas System in Charleston. In 1973, Mr. Morris served as the vice president for personnel services for the Charleston Area Medical Center in Charleston until 1985.

He served three years as president of the Community Relations Council for the Charleston Job Corps Center for Women. He served as president of the Kanawha Valley Chapter, American Society for Training and Development and the West Virginia Hospital Personnel Directors Association.

From 1985 until 1990, he was director of external affairs at the Davis Memorial Hospital in Elkins. In 1991, Mr. Morris established the Elkins Business Consultants, Inc. serving as president until his retirement. In this position, he served as chief executive officer for Tucker County Emergency and Ambulatory Center in Parsons, and for Health Facilities, Incorporated. He also served as a board member of the Tucker County Chamber of Commerce and the Tucker County Ambulance Authority and president of the United Way of Tucker County. He was an active member of the Elkins Rotary Club and was awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship.

Born June 28, 1935, in Charleston, he is the son of the late James Elbert and Ethel Bonham Morris. On September 12, 1981, he married Carol Mullins Morris, who survives him in Elkins. Also surviving is one son, Robert Lee "Robbie" Morris, Jr.

DR. TAYLOR J. PERRY, JR.

Dr. Perry was a Commissioner of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission from 1993 to 1999 and the Commission's Vice President from 1998-1999. Although he was raised in Cincinnati Ohio, most of his career has been spent in West Virginia in the area of education with his community efforts devoted to civil rights. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from West Virginia State University, a Master of Arts and

Doctorate in Guidance and Counseling from West Virginia University in 1974 and 1975 respectively.

Dr. Perry served two terms as President of the Berkeley Branch of the NAACP, and is currently on the membership, voter education and education committees. Because of his active role in voter education, in 2004 the Berkeley Branch of the NAACP provided voter registration at federal agencies. In 1988, Dr. Perry coordinated the visit of Rev. Jesse Jackson, Presidential Candidate, to Berkeley County. During the same year, Dr. Perry initiated and implemented a diversity program to attract minority teachers to Berkeley County.

He has facilitated workshops for the Martinsburg City Police Department on multiculturalism and sensitivity training. Dr. Perry has been the primary person called upon by the Board of Education to assist with sensitive issues involving minority students discipline, performance, and personal problems.

Dr. Perry received the Governor's Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Award for his continued service to the community. He serves on the Shepard University Diversity and Equality Committee. He was a founder and charter member of the WV Counselors Association's Multi-cultural Committee. He is a member of the West Virginia State University Hall of Fame. Dr. Perry has served as a member of the WV Promise Scholarship Board, member and President of the Shepard College Board of Advisors. He retired from Berkeley County Board of Education in 2000, and now serves as the school system's Interim Diversity Coordinator and as the Eastern Panhandle Regional Coordinator of the WV Achievement Project.

JOSEPH CROMWELL PETERS POSTHUMOUSLY

Joseph C. Peters is a graduate of Aracoma High School, West Virginia State College (University) and the University of Wisconsin.

His remarkable career in West Virginia State government includes Assistant Clerk of the House Finance Committee, State Commissioner of Finance and Administration and Vice-President for Finance at Marshall University for eleven years and Division Director of the State Tax Department. After retirement, he was appointed by Governor Caperton, to the State College System Board of Directors, serving two terms as chair. In February 1996, he received the Distinguished West Virginian Award from Governor Gaston Caperton and again from Governor Joe Manchin in 2005. Mr. Peters found time for 27 years to officiate high school, college football and basketball. He was one of the first African-Americans to become a member of the West Virginia Football and Basketball Association. His many honors included the Kappa Alpha Psi, Past Polemarch Award, and Induction into the West Virginia State College Sports Hall of Fame; a Citation from The National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, upon a recommendation by Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr. He also received the West Virginia State University Alumnus of the Year Award, and the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Community Service Award. Dr. Jerry Beasley established the Joseph C. Peters Scholarship Fund in his honor at Concord University.

He received recognition in *Credit Union Executives*. In that edition of the magazine, the president of Nationwide Credit Union in Columbus, OH, with 158 million in assets, wrote, "My first job was in the late 60s. I had the privilege of working for a brilliant

man, [Joseph Peters, then director of finance, at Marshall University, Huntington, WV] He used to tell me that I'd experience the same kind of difficulty getting into the business world as a woman as he did as a black man, and when you get out of school, your going to have to start at the bottom. Don't consider any job too small, and no matter what they ask you to do, be the best employee they never had."

BISHOP DONALD L. PITTS

Bishop Donald L. Pitts graduated from Wheeling High School, Wheeling, West Virginia. He received a Bachelor of Science Degree from Bluefield State College in 1965, a Jurist Doctor from North Carolina Central University in 1969, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Biblical Studies from North Carolina College of Theology in 2004. He was honorably discharged from the United States Navy in 1960. Bishop Pitts was ordained an Elder in the Church of God of the Apostolic Faith in 1972 and a Bishop in the Church of God of the Apostolic Faith in 1981.

He has been active in the field of civil and human rights in West Virginia for many years. He was an Appalachian Aide from 1961 to 1972 for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He worked with the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in CORE, from 1965-68. He served as a member of the West Virginia Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights from 1961 to 1968. Bishop Pitts served as President of the Raleigh County, West Virginia, Branch of the NAACP from 1997-98 during which time he organized its first newsletter. Also, he served as a member of the President's Visiting Committee on Black American Affairs at West Virginia University from 1986 to 1992. He was the first Black President of the Raleigh County Bar Association in 1996.

His many accomplishments in the field of civil rights include organizing the State of West Virginia's participation at the Chicago Conference on New Politics in 1962; playing a key role in the integration of the Wheeling Downs Skating Rink in 1963; helping to organize the movement that lead to the integration of movie theaters and restaurants in Bluefield, West Virginia; serving as one of the founders of the Bluefield State Chapter of the NAACP in 1962; traveling to West Africa to help establish churches and schools in Nigeria in 1976 and 1978; representing the NAACP in its suit against the West Virginia State Police in 1975; representing the Haitian boat people incarcerated in Federal Institutions in West Virginia and Florida; and leading the movement that resulted in the reestablishment of the Upper Ohio Valley Chapter of the NAACP in 2005.

Bishop Pitts is a distinguished author, lecturer, speaker and faith-base consultant.

MARTHA "SWEET PEA" DUNLAP SANDERS POSTHUMOUSLY

Martha Alberta Dunlap Sanders was born Tuesday, November 6, 1934, the only child of Dr. Sampson Dunlap and Mrs. Janie B. Dunlap. She was affectionately known as "Sweet Pea."

After graduation from Garnet High School in 1951 and from West Virginia State College in 1955, Martha married James M. Sanders of Savannah, Georgia. She loved people and enjoyed a long, distinguished career as a social services professional and advocate for American Civil Liberties; first, with the John F. Kennedy Center and the Junior League in Charleston; later, with the West Virginia Department of Human Services and

finally was an investigator for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. She was a member of the First Baptist Church, the First Baptist Church of Vandalia Women's Bible Study, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and also a member and past President of the Charleston Women's Improvement League. Mrs. Sanders found warmth and humor in life's day-to-day struggles and was a great encouragement to many people from all walks of life. A philosophical lesson that she shared with many was, "Don't sweat the small stuff."

Mrs. Sanders is survived by her three children: James M. Sanders, Jr. (Christi); Lewis F. Sanders, and Pamela Sanders Ellis (Byron).

ATTORNEY CARTER ZERBE

Carter Zerbe graduated from Hampden Sydney College with a Bachelor of Science degree Political Science. He earned a Masters degree in Political Science and History from Marshall University and received his Juris Doctor degree from West Virginia University College of Law.

He spent several years working as an Assistant Attorney General in the Civil Rights Division of the West Virginia Attorney General's Office prosecuting discrimination cases under the West Virginia Human Rights Act.

He successfully argued several seminal civil rights cases before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and Federal District Court. He subsequently worked in the litigation unit of the West Virginia Legal Services Plan focusing on employment and environmental law. Since entering private practice, he has worked with the law firm of Hickock, Withers and Zerbe, and now as a solo practitioner limiting his practice to Social Security Disability and DUI defense.

With respect to Social Security Disability, he has represented thousands of claimants and has successfully pursued numerous claims in Federal Court. He is a former Chairman of the Social Security Committee of the State Bar, and a member of the National Organization of Social Security Claimant's Representative. He has been on the faculty of numerous Social Security seminars.

In connection with DUI's, he is one of the founders of the West Virginia Society for Criminal Justice, an organization devoted to DUI defense. He has attended numerous national DUI seminars in various parts of the country and has lectured at a number of DUI seminars. He is a certified instructor on standardized field sobriety testing. He has successfully defended numerous DUI cases in jury trials, administrative hearings and appeals.

Mr. Zerbe is also a member of the West Virginia State Bar and the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers.

2008

6th Annual

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Thursday, February 28, 2008

11:30 A.M.

Charleston Job Corps Center
Charleston, West Virginia

In the proceeding pages you will find pictures and biographical information on the Honorees of the Governor's 2008 West Virginia Civil Rights Day.

**FROM THE SEVENTEEN BLACK RAILROAD YARDMEN CASE:
CLARENCE O. BAUMGARDNER AND THOMAS H. MACK
RABBI HELEN BAR-YAACOV
WILLIAM ANTHONY "TONY" BROWN
THE CHARLESTON WOMEN'S IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE, INC.
JAMES E. GRIFFIN
JAMES ARTHUR JACKSON *
GERTRUDE DIANA CAMPBELL JACKSON *
CHARLES HOWELL JAMES, II *
THE HONORABLE A. ANDREW MACQUEEN, III
ATTORNEY JAMES E. PARKER
RICHARD H. PAYNE
THE WEST VIRGINIA TUSKEGEE AIRMEN
(BENJAMIN CLYDE PERKINS, JR. OF THE WV TUSKEGEE AIRMEN)
THE SILVER LEAF CLUB
QUEWANNCOII "QUE" CASANOVA STEPHENS, SR.
THE HONORABLE MARGARET L. WORKMAN
EUGENE K. YOUNG**

THE SEVENTEEN BLACK RAILROAD YARDMEN

**WENDELL ENGLISH, ET AL V. UNITED TRANSPORTATION UNION, LOCAL 655, AND
NORFOLK & WESTERN RAILROAD COMPANY**

The Complainants

Wendell English, Calbe Lily, Harold G. R. Hobson, P. H. Wilson, J. W. French, R. N. Witten, E. D. Campbell, M. Lilly, A. L. Palmer, C. O. Baumgardner, R. H. Scruggs, N. E. Baumgardner, G. A. Saunders, Jr., F. Trigg, Jr., H. T. Alexander; T. H. Mack; and W. B. Person

The Respondents

United Transportation Union, Local 655, Norfolk & Western Railroad Company

The Case

On February 24, 1971, seventeen African American yard brakemen filed a complaint with the West Virginia Human Rights Commission alleging that the Norfolk and Western Railroad Company, and United Transportation Union and its local No. 655 discriminated against them because of their race by placing them in a facially neutral seniority system that froze them in non-promotable job classifications. This resulted in later hired white employees being promoted before the complainants, given higher seniority and greater competitive-based privileges of employment. Norfolk and Western Railroad Company settled with the complainants. The Union did not. Although the Commission's hearing examiner found in favor of the seventeen black railroad

yardmen or former yardmen, Judge Smith of the Kanawha County Circuit Court, vacated the Commission's order. The Commission and the seventeen yardmen appealed to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. This Court held that a facially neutral seniority system that freezes employees into a status of prior discrimination violates the West Virginia Human Rights Act. In addition, this Court held that prior discriminatory practices perpetuated by facially neutral seniority systems were continuous violations of the West Virginia Human Rights Act. It is interesting to note that throughout this nine-year ordeal, the Union continued to subtract dues from the complainants' paychecks. The Union had begun subtracting dues from their wages in 1956. Because of these men and their tenacity, African Americans who were affected by this prior discrimination and who worked or were subsequently hired by Norfolk and Western Railroad Company and who were members of United Transportation Union, and Local 655 were finally placed on the same promotional lists as white employees. The injustices that had transpired for so many years were corrected.

Today, only three of the seventeen are still with us. They are Clarence O. Baumgardner, Thomas H. Mack, and Fenessee Trigg. The West Virginia Human Rights Commission honors these men. The Commission honors the remaining thirteen, posthumously. They are Wendell English, Calbe Lily, Harold G. R. Hobson, P. H. Wilson, J. W. French, R. N. Witten, E. D. Campbell, M. Lilly, A. L. Palmer, R. H. Scruggs, N. E. Baumgardner, G. A. Saunders, Jr., H. T. Alexander; and W. B. Person.

CLARENCE O. BAUMGARDNER

Clarence O. Baumgardner was born in Bluefield, West Virginia in 1925. He graduated from Genoa High School in Bluefield, West Virginia. He attended Bluefield State College for two years. When he left Bluefield State College, he began working for Norfolk and Western Railroad Company as a yard brakeman, the only position available to African Americans at the time. After he and the other complainants won before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, Baumgardner was promoted to yard conductor and car retarder operator. He is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he is a deacon and a member of the Trustee Board. He also directs the male chorus.

THOMAS H. MACK

Thomas H. Mack was born in Hiawatha, Mercer County to the parents of Luster and Della Mack. He is a graduate of Genoa High School and Bluefield State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Social Studies and Biology. During World War II, he served in the United States Army and was stationed in what is now present day Iran. He worked for Norfolk and Western Railroad Company for 35 years. He was a yard brakeman, the only position that African Americans could have at the time. After he and the other complainants won before the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, Mack was promoted to yard conductor and car retarder operator. He is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church where he is past chair of the Trustee Board, and chair of the Finance Committee. He is a York Rite Mason

33rd Degree. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He also serves as the Financial Secretary of the Bluefield State College National Alumni Association.

RABBI HELEN BAR-YAACOV

Rabbi Bar-Yaacov arrived in Charleston from the Croton-on-Hudson, NY area August 1, 2002. She said a nudge from Rabbi Koller, whom she has known for many years, brought her to West Virginia. When he was retiring he said, 'Why don't you apply to Charleston?' She applied, went through the interview process, and it turned out to be a good match.

Rabbi Bar-Yaacov holds dual citizenship in Israel and Australia. She and her sister, Frances, grew up in Melbourne. She immigrated to Israel in 1970, living on Kibbutz for 2 years before making Jerusalem her permanent home.

Rabbi Bar-Yaacov attended Liberal Yeshiva at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem. She earned a master's in Hebrew literature at Hebrew Union College Jewish Institute of Religion in New York where she was ordained in May 2002. She has been a teacher, tour guide, lecturer, and student rabbi. She holds an undergraduate degree in sociology and political science from Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. She has taught Jewish history at a college in Melbourne and served as guest lecturer of Judaism and Modern Israel in churches and synagogues in Australia, Canada, and the United States.

Since arriving in the Charleston area, Rabbi Bar-Yaacov has been a guest lecturer at numerous high schools and universities where she has spoken on issues of race, gender, sexual orientation, and Judaism.

Currently, Rabbi Bar-Yaacov serves as a permanent member on the clergy panel at Kanawha Valley Interfaith Council. In addition, she is on the clergy panel for volunteers at Kanawha Hospice Care, and the clergy panel of the Stop the Hate Rally. She is a member of the Board and the committee on the Communities of Faith Against Domestic Violence. She also is a member of CARLA (Charleston Area Religious Association) and the Women's Clergy Group in the Kanawha Valley.

WILLIAM ANTHONY "TONY" BROWN

Tony Brown has entered the history books — not only in the arena of civil rights and television, but also in the field of education. This icon is best known as the commentator of the PBS series *Tony Brown's Journal*, the longest-running series on PBS and the nation's oldest and leading African-American TV series. He has also distinguished himself as the best-selling author of three books and as a keynote speaker, commentator, syndicated columnist, film director and educator — which includes being a professor at four universities and the dean of the media program at two of them.

He was the first and founding dean, as well as professor, of the School of Communications at Howard University, where he established a highly distinguished academic and professional record. This unique accomplishment was recently enhanced by his 2004 appointment as professor and the first dean of the Scripps Howard School of Journalism and Communications at Hampton University.

Among many unique honors, this widely recognized out-of-the-box thinker was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences' prestigious Silver

Circle. With this honor, he joins such television icons as Walter Cronkite who “have made enduring contributions to the vitality of the television industry and set the highest standards of achievement for all to emulate.” Another outstanding acknowledgment of achievement was his selection by *Talkers*, the prestigious radio trade magazine, as one of the 100 most important radio talk show hosts in America.

Called “Television’s Civil Rights Crusader” in a cover story by *Black Enterprise* magazine, this self-help proponent coordinated a march in Detroit that featured Martin Luther King, Jr. and drew an estimated 500,000, perhaps the largest civil rights march in America. Tony Brown accepted the challenge at Hampton University in 2004 because he wanted to spend a part of his “fourth quarter” passing along his fund of knowledge and mentoring some of the best of the next generation of journalism.

THE CHARLESTON WOMEN’S IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE, INC.

The Charleston Woman’s Improvement League, established January 20, 1898, in Charleston, West Virginia is the oldest African-American women’s organization in the State of West Virginia. The League celebrated 110 years of service to Charleston in January 2008.

Blanche Jeffries Tyler, Mattie V. Lee, Fannie Cobb Carter, Nan Lou Stephenson, Mary L. Clark, Mary Kimbrough, Amy Hopkins, Sarah Bullard, and Rebecca Bullard founded the League.

Current members of the League continue to recognize and acknowledge the words of their founders: “A number of persons realizing the necessity of an organization for the advancement of true womanhood, and lifting women to a higher moral standard, desirous of acquiring and disseminating literary knowledge, and engaging in social services.”

Throughout its many years of community service, the league consistently contributed countless hours of service to the Charleston community by serving on committees and establishing programs to aid in the development of young women. In the late 1800s, The Polly Pig Tails program was developed. Through this program, League members mentored young black females in education and social graces. There was a revitalization of this program in 1990 and the program became known as “League Teens”. In keeping with the words of its founders, the League continues to award educational scholarships to college bound students.

The League has hosted and participated in numerous activities during their 110 years of service by participating in the “100 Black Women Awards”; community awareness projects; Black History Month programs; Style Show luncheon fundraisers; its annual Pokeno and games night fundraiser, Hospice House program; and Christmas programs. The League is a life member of the NAACP.

The Motto “Lifting as We Climb”, depicts what this organization has always been about. Women with a dream... Women of vision... Women of courage... Women of spirit... Women dedicated to the improvement of the community, the public good, and society.

JAMES E. GRIFFIN

James E. Griffin, a native of WV, was educated at the former Washington Irving High School in Clarksburg, He is one of six children born to the late Joseph and Gladys Griffin. Griffin attended Fairmont State College where he pursued a degree in Management

Development. At the age of 18, he served as President of the Harrison County NAACP and was cited as the youngest branch president in the country. He initiated and participated in the development of the Human Rights Commission in Clarksburg, where he served on the original board of directors.

Griffin was instrumental in receiving the initial award funds to open the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) in Fairmont, an organization that assist minorities and the economically disadvantaged in pursuing their GED, job training and employment opportunities. He is an active member of the Harrison County United Way, Fairmont State Board of Governor's, State President of the IBPOE of W, Board of Directors Black Heritage Festival, Harrison County NAACP, Board of Directors of the Sheltered Workshop and the Community Foundation of North Central WV.

Griffin recently retired from the UCAR Carbon Company, Inc. where he was employed for 40 years. In 1972, he was the first African American promoted to management, where he worked diligently to promote diversity within the organization.

A dedicated member of Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church, he has served over 20 years as Trustee and Sunday School teacher. Griffin married his high school sweetheart, Joyce Elder. They have one son, Sgt. Edward David, currently serving in the U.S. Army, stationed in El Paso, Texas, and grandparents of Matthew DeShawn and Elijah.

He thanks God for allowing him to be a vessel to do His will. He credits his mother for teaching him that there is a power greater than himself who loves him exactly as he is. Keeping his mother's advice in mind, he says that the key to life is "to be honest with

JAMES ARTHUR JACKSON (POSTHUMOUSLY)

A personal achievement citation from the West Virginia Bar Association called him a "student, athlete, thespian, devoted husband and father, public servant and lover of his fellow man."

This was James Arthur Jackson, WV State Law Librarian, who held his position for 64 years. He taught himself the system of cataloging and running a library. He built the State's Law Library from meager 9,000 volumes to over 250,000 by the time of his retirement. The library was up-to-date on all laws and statutes of all states in the union.

On the rare occasions when he experienced discrimination he had to maintain his professionalism. More often those he served faithfully recognized his expertise.

Mr. Jackson was a man of varied distinctions: he was the state's oldest public servant at the time of retirement; the only Black at the time in the United States to have held the position of State Supreme Court Law Librarian and listed in "Who's Who in the East."

The Loyalty Permanent Endowment Fund at WV University School of Law has a scholarship in Mr. Jackson's name. His sponsor was Attorney Robert Kay of Charleston, WV. This scholarship was established to further the education of students.

Mr. Jackson was born in Montgomery, WV and moved to Charleston, WV with his family at age 5. He was one of 3 members of the first class at Garnet High School and later entered WV Colored Institute, now WV State University. When he began his librarian profession, it was by 'accident.' He was studying physics and anatomy and was pursuing a medical career when he had an accident ice-skating. A reporter once asked him if he enjoyed his 64 years of legal research to which he replied, "It's a work that I enjoyed

more than any other.”

He was married to Gertrude D. Jackson for 64 years. From this union there were 5 children – James Arthur, Philip Ellsworth, Laura Matthews, Jane Lee and Barbara Ann. There are 6 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great grandchildren. The Jackson Family continues to serve humanity in a variety of professions.

GERTRUDE DIANA CAMPBELL JACKSON (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Gertrude D. Jackson, fondly known as “Buddy,” was born in Charleston, WV on February 9, 1895.

She graduated from Charleston Public Schools and then attended Storer College in Harpers Ferry, WV. Her college days were cut short when she married James Arthur Jackson on July 22, 1914. They were married 64 years and had five children, six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and five great-great grandchildren.

Jackson was a homemaker and always opened her home to many students at West Virginia State (College) University through the three years her daughters attended and subsequently graduated. She belonged to several organizations, one of which was Les Cherchere, a black women’s club. This group of ladies provided clothes, gifts, toys, candies and fruits to orphanages every Christmas in an event that was held at the Knights of Pythias Hall. She was also an active member of the Charleston Women’s Improvement League, Inc. until she and her husband moved to Denver, Colorado to be close to family. Gertrude Jackson exuded strength, kindness and a loving presence. All who knew her felt privileged for having met her.

CHARLES HOWELL JAMES II (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Charles Howell James II was born in Charleston on November 22, 1930. He graduated from West Virginia State College (WVSC) Elementary School and WVSC Teachers’ Training High School in Institute. After his sophomore year, he transferred to the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School of Finance and Commerce where he graduated in 1953, with honors, with a B.S. in Economics.

After serving as an Air Force lieutenant in Japan, James II joined the family business, which was founded in 1883. C.H. James II eventually served as president and CEO of James Produce Company and C.H. James & Co. until 1988, when his son, Charles H. “Chuck” James III, succeeded him. It is recognized as one of the oldest and largest black businesses in the nation. In 1992, James II became internal auditor at WVSC.

James II received many awards and honors, including a meeting with President Jimmy Carter with other Black Enterprise “BE 100” CEOs; The Wall Street Journal Dow Jones Award for Entrepreneurial Excellence; WV Minority Business Development Center’s Lifetime Achievement Award; The Hazo W. Carter Presidential Award for Business Acumen, WVSC; and the WVSU Foundation, Inc. Second Century Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Field of Business in WV.

James II served on many boards and commissions including: the Kanawha International Airport Authority (now Yeager Airport), Charleston Chamber of Commerce, United Fund of Kanawha Valley, Industrial Advisory Council, and Opportunities Industrialization Center Inc. of Charleston. He was finance committee chairman of the Martin Luther King, Jr. West

Virginia Holiday Commission and former chairman of the Board of Trustees of the First Baptist Church of Charleston. He was a member of the Upsilon Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and held life memberships in the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the NAACP. James II passed away in Charleston on September 15, 2007. His wife, Lucia Bacote James, son, Charles H. James III, three daughters, Sheila J. Pleasant, Stephanie D. James, M.D., and Sarah J. Irby and nine grandchildren survive him.

THE HONORABLE A. ANDREW MACQUEEN

Judge MacQueen was born in Morgantown, WV and raised in Dunbar, WV and Ohio. From 1970 to 2000, he served as a Circuit Judge for the Kanawha County Circuit Court during which time his colleagues elected him chief judge for a number of years. He is a graduate of Marshall University and WVU College of Law. Currently he is in private practice where he represents limited clients; provides mediation and arbitration services and expert services as well as consultation on matters of law.

From 2001 to 2002, he served as Senior Judge by appointment of the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. He was charged with the responsibility of oversight and trial of all pending asbestos related personal injury litigation in the state of West Virginia. He served as the first Chairman of the WV Mass Litigation Panel and drafted proposed rules of procedure for mass litigation pursuant to the direction of the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. He was re-appointed Chairman of the Mass Litigation Panel to implement the rules adopted and to establish operating procedures for the Panel and remained a member of the Mass Litigation Panel until his resignation in July 2002. Between 1980 and 2002, he presided over approximately 29,000 asbestos personal injury suits. He conducted four mass trials in the asbestos litigation, which resulted in the resolution of 22,000 cases.

MacQueen also served as a member of a special committee of the National Center for State Courts charged with the responsibility of providing proposed assistance to other state court judges in the management of mass litigation.

From 1974 to 1976, he was the personal law clerk to Chief Justice Thornton G. Berry and writ clerk for the WV Supreme Court of Appeals. He served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of West Virginia assigned to the WV Human Rights Commission from 1974-1976. In addition, from 1968-1970, Judge MacQueen served as staff counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Charleston, during which time he co-founded the WV Civil Liberty Union.

He is married to Susan MacQueen and they have one daughter, Jennifer and two sons David and Drew.

ATTORNEY JAMES E. PARKER

Attorney James E. Parker was born in Franklin, Kentucky. He graduated from Lincoln High School before continuing his education at Kentucky State University. In 1972 he earned his Doctor of Jurisprudence Degree from the University of Illinois College of Law. Since his membership to the West Virginia Bar in 1973, Parker has been widely known for his efforts in assisting miners, specifically African-American miners.

Parker represented miners in black lung, social security, disability, worker's compensation and related cases. He was responsible for establishing the first satellite offices for District #17 United Mine Workers of America. His duties included hiring minorities trained to work with the needs of minority and Appalachian miners, many of whom were

academically challenged and experienced difficulties in completing the required forms and understanding the overall eligibility requirements for obtaining government benefits to which they were entitled. Many of the miners had been wrongfully denied these benefits causing undo suffering to their surviving family members.

He was an active member of the Mountain State Bar Association, which was instrumental in securing scholarships and other forms of assistance for future minorities interested in attending law school at WVU. Many of the recipients of the awards have become prominent lawyers, advocating social justice in West Virginia.

Parker is a member of First Baptist Church and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Male Chorus. He participates in multiple organizations, including, but not limited to, the efforts of the local and state branches of the NAACP, Mountain State Bar Association, Black Male Coalition and Multi-fest. He is presently employed with the Charleston Job Corps Center as the Center Standards Manager and is responsible for the behavioral management of 400 at-risk youth seeking a second chance for academic growth and social development skills, leading toward ultimate gainful employment.

Mr. Parker is married to Cecelia A. Parker. They are the proud parents of two adult children, Sara and James.

RICHARD H. PAYNE

Richard H. Payne, Lead Equal Opportunity Specialist, an incumbent with 41 years Department experience, serves as the principal on-site Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity civil rights official.

Payne's responsibility in cooperation with the Director of the Pittsburgh Field Office is to continue to enforce the Fair Housing Act and other civil rights laws to reduce the level of housing discrimination. His duties also include promoting economic opportunity by providing technical assistance and conducting monitoring reviews of Public Housing Authorities and by reducing the number of aged Title VIII, and ensuring proper use of fair housing funds.

Payne was instrumental in the establishment of the WV Human Rights Commission, the Charleston Human Rights Commission, the Huntington Human Rights Commission and the Monroeville, Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. He is a Life Member and former president of the Charleston Branch of the NAACP and State of WV NAACP Youth Advisor and a co-founder and former president of UNION, a civil right organization consisting of 35 independent organizations under the umbrella of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference headed by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Payne is a graduate of West Virginia State College, now University, with graduate studies at West Virginia University, Indiana University of Bloomington, Indiana, and Marshall University of Huntington, WV.

Payne is the father of four daughters, all of whom have achieved advanced academic degrees. He is a proud grandfather of eight grandchildren.

THE TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

Under increased pressure from the NAACP and other organizations seeking to provide opportunities for African Americans in the armed forces, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, in 1940 ordered the War Department to commission an all Negro-flying unit, which

became known as the 99th Pursuit Squadron training. This venture was accomplished in partnership with Tuskegee Institute, Alabama. The first all-African American flying unit in the U.S. military, Tuskegee Airmen served during World War II. Then Captain Benjamin Oliver Davis, Jr., a West Point Academy graduate, commanded the Tuskegee Airmen's first graduating class. There were five men in the first class, two of which were graduates of West Virginia State College in Institute, and native West Virginians. They were commissioned second lieutenants, and received Army Air Corps silver pilot wings. At one point during training, Eleanor Roosevelt visited the Tuskegee Training Field and took a spin with program chief Charles Anderson. She admitted upon alighting from a Piper J-3 Cub Trainer, "I guess Negroes can fly."

The 99th Pursuit Squadron distinguished itself in Sicily, Italy, and later Germany. They flew 15,000 sorties on 1500 missions and were awarded two Presidential Unit Citations, 744 Air Medals, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, several Bronze and Silver Stars, and most recently a Congressional Gold Medal.

The "red tails" –so named from their aircraft paint jobs-damaged or destroyed 409 German aircraft on the ground and in the air and over 950 units of enemy ground transportation. They never lost a bomber to hostile fire. The 99th Pursuit Squadron They sank a German submarine using only their machine guns. The group lost 66 pilots in combat, and 32 were shot down and became prisoners of war.

After the war, these men returned home. Because of the bravery and dedication and intelligence, courage and skill, of African Americans who served in the United States Armed Forces during World War II, President Harry Truman, in 1948, enacted Executive Order Number 9981, which directed equality of treatment and opportunity in all of the United States Armed Forces. This order, in time, led to the end of racial segregation in the military forces.

THE WEST VIRGINIA TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

The following is a list of the Tuskegee Airmen who attended and/or graduated from West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University). This list includes those individuals who participated in the Tuskegee Airmen pilot training program or support operations.

WILLIAM R. ALSTON, pilot, Huntington, West Virginia

WILSON ALSTON

JOHN CARTER

LEMUEL R. CUSTIS, pilot, Hartford, Connecticut

L. D. DAVIS

CHARLES H. DEBOW, pilot, Indianapolis, Indiana

WILSON V. EAGLESON, pilot, Bloomington, Indiana

JEROME T. EDWARDS, pilot, Steubenville, Ohio

MARSHALL FIELDS

HOWARD C. GAMBLE, pilot, Charleston, West Virginia

GEORGE E. GRAY, pilot, Hemphill, West Virginia

LLOYD S. HATHCOCK, pilot, Dayton, Ohio

WILLIAM LEE "DUBIE" HILL, pilot, Huntington, West Virginia

LANGDON E. JOHNSON, pilot, Rand, West Virginia

RALPH JOHNSON

HUBERT L. JONES, pilot, Institute, West Virginia

JAMES M. KILLARD, JR., East Beckley, West Virginia

GEORGE H. KYDD, III, pilot, Charleston, West Virginia

CHARLES MINOR

BENJAMIN PERKINS, mechanic, Institute, West Virginia**

MEXICON O. PREWITT, pilot, East Beckley, West Virginia

GEORGE S. ROBERTS, pilot, Fairmont, West Virginia

ROBERT L. ROBINSON, pilot, Wilcoe, West Virginia

MIKE ROSS

EARL B. RUDISILL

HECTOR STRONG

FLOYD A. THOMPSON, pilot, London, West Virginia

JOHNSON C. WELLS, pilot, Buffalo, West Virginia

JOHN L. WHITEHEAD, JR., pilot, Lawrenceville, West Virginia

EDWARD W. WILSON, Freeman, West Virginia

THOMAS HARRIS MAYFIELD, East Shinnston, West Virginia*

*While he does not have a connection to West Virginia State College, Mayfield received a Tuskegee Gold Medal from President Bush.

** See next page for biographical information on Benjamin Perkins.

BENJAMIN CLYDE PERKINS, JR.

(POSTHUMOUSLY)

Benjamin Clyde Perkins was a veteran of World War II and a Tuskegee airman. In May 2005, Senator Jay Rockefeller honored him at the West Virginia State University Commencement with a United States Senate Resolution that recognized the accomplishments of the 99th Pursuit Squadron known as the Tuskegee Airmen. Perkins was a mechanic. He served in the North African, Sicily and Italy campaigns.

Perkins was the only child born of Benjamin C. Perkins, Sr. and Eva Minard Perkins. He was born in Ironton, Ohio December 15, 1917. He was raised in Institute, West Virginia and graduated from Garnet High School in Charleston, where he met his wife of 54 years Kathryn Parker. Together they had two sons, Benjamin III and Gregory; and two daughters, Rose and Lisa.

When Perkins returned to Charleston after the War, he and Stooly Watson opened Perkins and Watson Esso Station at the corner of Bradford and Washington Streets. After several years, he and Watson sold the business and Perkins began his career with the United States Postal Service. He remained with the United States Postal Service until his retirement.

Perkins was a member of First Baptist Church, Charleston, West Virginia. He was an avid sportsman who loved fishing, hunting and golfing.

EUGENE K. YOUNG

Eugene Kenneth Young readily admits that had it not been for the Tuskegee Airmen, he might not be here today. Young was an aerial gunner on one of the B-17s that flew into the heart of Germany during World War II and bombed Berlin, thus hastening an end to the war on the European front.

Born in Clendenin, West Virginia, he is a 1939 graduate of Clendenin High School. Young joined the Army Air Corps in 1942. After basic training, he attended gunner training in Las Vegas, Nevada. He graduated on September 7, 1943. Young became an aerial gunner on a B-17. The Tuskegee Airmen escorted the bombers into Berlin and in Young's words "saved our hides a lot of times." The bomber crews had a lot of respect

for the Tuskegee Airmen and often requested these flyers as their escorts. After the war, Young returned to Clendenin and eventually moved to Dunbar. He worked for Union Carbide and retired 24 years ago. He is a member of the Legion Post in St. Albans.

He is married to Shirley Young. The couple have two children - Judy and Jeff.

THE SILVER LEAF CLUB

For more than thirty-five years, the Silver Leaf Club existed in Morgantown, West Virginia. The club was part of the war effort when a group of African American women began to meet regularly for the purpose of “rolling bandages” for the American Red Cross during World War II.

After the War, the women turned their efforts toward community service. The club evolved into a community organization. Some of their activities included giving scholarships to young African American women who were on their way to college; volunteering at the local nursing home; delivering baskets to the sick and shut in; recognizing young African American women in the community for their achievements; sponsoring community picnics in the summer; and providing financial assistance to African American churches in the Morgantown area.

The Club’s signature event was the annual Mother’s Day Tea where as many as seventy mothers were honored for their contributions to their families and the community.

In addition to their community involvement, the club members were active with the NAACP and local city council politics.

The Club disbanded in the early eighties as members died and moved away.

QUEWANNCOI CASANOVA STEPHENS, SR.

Quewanncoii (“Que”) Stephens, Sr. was born in Washington, D.C. and was raised in Plant City, Florida. He attended Florida A & M University before leaving for active duty at the height of the Vietnam War. He served as an Army officer and platoon leader, where he was injured in the line of duty and received various military decorations including the Purple Heart.

Stephens returned to college in North Carolina to receive his B.S. in Education from Campbell College (now Campbell University). He went on to receive his Masters of Science of Education in Counseling and Human Resources from Boston University before he was named Assistant Professor of Military Science at Prairie View A & M University in Texas.

In 1984, Stephens transferred to West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University) as a Professor of Military Science. He also became a coach and photographer on the University’s football team.

Stephens retired from the military in 1989 and was appointed by Governor Gaston Caperton, as the Executive Director of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. He worked as Executive Director for the Commission for five years before being appointed to the WV Parole Board.

In July 2000, Stephens began work with the WV Division of Juvenile Services as the Quality Control Manager, After Care Supervisor and Treatment and Program Manager for 18 southern counties. He has been recognized as a member of the Leadership West Virginia Class of 1993 and as a person concerned about the human rights of citizens by various organizations throughout the state.

THE HONORABLE MARGARET L. WORKMAN

Margaret Workman has a permanent place in West Virginia state history as the first woman elected to the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals in 1988. She currently is engaged in the private practice of law in Charleston, and is a Charleston Human Rights Commissioner. Born in Charleston, WV, she attended Kanawha County public schools, and graduated from WVU. At a time when few women attended law school, she earned her law degree at the WVU College of Law. Her father was a coal miner and a firefighter whose ancestors were among the first settlers of Boone County. She was the first in her family to go to college, and she worked her way through college and law school.

After law school, Workman served as assistant counsel to the United States Senate Public Works Committee. She returned to WV to work as a law clerk to the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit. In 1976, she served as an advance person in the Carter Presidential Campaign, and later worked on the campaign staff of Senator Jay Rockefeller. Workman then opened her own law office in Charleston, and practiced there until her appointment by then Governor Jay Rockefeller to the Kanawha County Circuit Court in 1981. She ran for the unexpired term in 1982 and the full term in 1984.

She served on the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals for almost twelve years, becoming the Court's first female Chief Justice and developed a strong record of protection for abused and neglected children. Justice Frank Cleckley stated, "Generations of West Virginia children will benefit by Justice Workman's work on the Court."

Workman spearheaded the development of the Court Appointed Advocates for Children in WV and received the WV Prosecuting Attorneys Association Excellence in Criminal Justice Award for her work on behalf of child crime victims. She formed the Task Force on Gender Fairness in the Courts, the Task Force on the Future of the Judiciary.

Workman's numerous awards includes the West Virginia College of Law Justitia Officium Award for her contributions to the legal profession; and honorary degrees from the University of Charleston and WVSC. She is the mother of three college-age children and attends John's Episcopal Church in Charleston.

2007

Dr. Charles R. Byrd* Mary Willene Hairston Moore
Anna Evans Gilmer Robert L. "Bob" Morris*
The Hon. Mike Kelly Dr. Taylor J. Perry, Jr.
Rashida Khakoo, M.D. Joseph Cromwell Peters*
John E. Lynch, Jr.* Bishop Donald L. Pitts
The Hon. Charlene Marshall Martha "Sweet Pea" Dunlap Sanders*
James B. "Jim" McIntyre, Esq.* Carter Zerbe, Esq.

2006

Carole "Cookie" Glasser The Rev. Dr. David A. Kates*
Kent S. Hall J. Franklin Long, Esq.
Della Louise Brown Taylor Hardman, Ph.D.* Anna L. McCright
Ken Hechler, Ph.D. Edward L. Peeks
Mildred Ruth T. Holt The Hon. Larry V. Starcher
Mentola Joyce Jackson Clarence Wanzer
The Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Jarvis, D. Min.

2005

Willard L. Brown, Esq.* The Hon. A. James Manchin*
The Hon. Herman G. Canady, Jr. Dr. Virgil E. Matthews
Harry Jheopart Capehart, Esq.* Blanche Wade
Elizabeth E. Chilton Thomas G. Nutter, Esq.*
William E. "Ned" Chilton* The Rev. Dr. David Louise Smith*
Gustavus Werber Cleckley* Dr. John Warner, Jr.
Savannah R. Evans Richard G. Walker
Faith Holsaert William L. Williams, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Idus Jones, Jr. The Rev. Dr. F. Emerson Wood

Cora Francis Coleman Jones

2004

Dr. Elayne Croxier Abnathy Rev. Newsome*
Dr. Mildred Mitchell Bateman Josephine Rayford
Hollie James Brown Lucile Meadows*
Madrith Chamber Dr. Sophia Peterson*
Rev. David C. Chappell* Lucille Pianfetti
Sgt. Edward Clark, Jr. (Ret.) Charles E. Price*
Rabbi Samuel Cooper George Rutherford
Howard Samuel Crump Steve Rutledge
The Hon. Gail Ferguson Rev. Charles H. Smith
Roger Foreman, Esq. Mary Snow
Robert Jackson Guerrant The Hon. Nancy Starks*
Betty Agsten Hamilton Rev. Julian Sulgit, Jr.
Jean F. L. Lazarus* The Hon. Booker T. Stephens
Allen Edward Lee Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan

2003

Louise P. Anderson Herbert H. Henderson, Esq.
Rev. Richard Bowyer Paul J. Kaufman*
Joan C. Browning Rose Jean Kaufman*
Philip W. Carter, Jr. Shirley N. Paige
George E. Chamberlain, Jr. Emerson Reed
Carrie Chance Helain Rotgin
Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley Rev. Dr. Dean K. Thompson
Rev. Homer H. Davis Clayborn Tillman
Elizabeth H. Gilmore* James A. Tolbert, Jr.
Rev. Paul J. Gilmer, Sr. Nellie Walker
Henry Hale Ellis Ray Williams
Bernard Francis Hawkins* *honored posthumously

7th Annual

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Thursday, February 26, 2009

11:30 A.M.

West Virginia State University
James C. Wilson Student Union
Institute, West Virginia

In the proceeding pages you will find pictures and biographical information on the Honorees of the Governor's 2009 West Virginia Civil Rights Day.

William Anderson
Raymond Hammarth
Lenora E. Harmon
Gregory T. Hinton, J.D.
Bernice Johnson
James C. Karantonis
Mae Stallard

David Stewart
Margaret Taylor
Wendy Thomas
Russell Van Cleve*
Winifred W. "Winnie" White
Brian Williams*
Claude Williams
Thomas Zerbe, J..D.

*honored posthumously

WILLIAM ANDERSON

William Anderson is the son of the late John and Susan Anderson. He was born in Schuyler (Nelson County), Virginia, the only child in his family to graduate from both high school and college. He remains the only surviving member of his family.

Anderson, affectionately known as “Henry” to his family and “Bill” to close friends, grew up in Hinton, West Virginia. He graduated from Lincoln High School and Hampton Institute, (now Hampton University) with a diploma in Trowel Trades and a Bachelor of Science Degree, with honors, in Vocational Education with minors in Math, English and Industrial Arts. Anderson graduated from Marshall University with a Master’s Degree in Counseling and Guidance and a certificate in Administration and Supervision. He continued to further his studies at West Virginia University, University of Maryland and the University of Delaware.

Anderson moved to West Virginia in 1937 and immediately joined the Civil Rights movement. He became an active member of the NAACP and has held numerous positions in the organization. Anderson was instrumental in organizing a demonstration to allow African Americans, who were permitted to shop in the Diamond Department store, the right to also eat at the “white only” restaurant situated within the store. Following several demonstrations, and faced with the threat of losing the accounts of African American customers, the store conceded, and African Americans were able to dine in the local store’s restaurant. Anderson, along with many others identified multiple issues of discrimination in the city, and worked with community members to march against such matters. Rock Lake Pool, which did not permit African Americans to use their facilities, chose to close rather than integrate the pool at the demonstrators’ request.

Anderson worked with Carbide officials for a number of years to ensure the safety and security of individuals residing in Pinewood Park, West Dunbar, and Institute; communities with larger populations of African Americans. He remains an active member of the community organization People Concerned About MIC (methyl isocyanate), which sets guidelines and establishes parameters to protect the well being of the local community and its citizens.

Anderson also worked as a teacher at Garnet High School, where he used his Trowel Trades

education and related science classes to pass on his skills to younger generations. He also served as mentor, encouraging students to seek higher educational opportunities. Anderson traveled with students from West Virginia to Hampton University, in Virginia, to showcase their building skills and enhance their developmental growth. Many of these Garnet High School students became recipients of scholarships to Hampton Institute.

RAY HAMMARTH

Ray Hammarth has spent his entire professional career serving the public. In 1969 he received an Associate's degree in Social Sciences from Suffolk College in Selden, New York, before transferring to the State University of New York at Stony Brook for his Bachelor of Arts in History in 1971.

In 1967, he began work as a Social Worker for the Angel Guardian Home in Mineola, New York where he was responsible for a caseload of 30 clients ranging from infancy to early adulthood. Hammarth made monthly visits to foster homes and the homes of natural parents to determine eligibility for services and monitor the care of foster children.

In 1973, Hammarth moved to West Virginia where he began work for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. He worked as a field representative, investigator, supervisor, chief of investigations, and manager of the backlog unit. He coordinated field investigations, conducted statistical analyses on employers' practices, intervened and mediated community-police tension situations, and conducted fact-finding conferences. He also presented the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC's) Rapid Charge Processing system to Commissioners in June of 1979 in an effort to adopt national standards for processing cases on the state level. During this time he also worked on continuing his education, eventually earning a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in Institute, WV.

Hammarth moved to Texas in 1984 where he began work at the Texas Commission on Human Rights, using knowledge he had developed in West Virginia to further the Texas Commission. He has served the agency as investigator, unit supervisor and program supervisor. He has been with the agency for 25 years.

In an effort to further his education, Hammarth has pursued a pre-law education and matriculation at the Thomas Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan from May to September of 1999. He has participated federal and state training in Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) investigations and administration of compliance activities from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. He has also participated in fair housing training in Washington, D.C. and training in EEO law in Texas.

Hammarth has served as Consumer Arbitrator for the Better Business Bureau in Austin, Texas (1984-present), received certification in speed reading from Evelyn Wood Reading Dynamics in Washington, D.C. (June-September 1970), and served as a volunteer for the Central Islip State Hospital Volunteers (September-December 1969).

LENORA HARMON

Lenora E. Harmon was born to Irene and Leroy Carr on January 24, 1913 in Sun, West Virginia. She was the youngest of nine children, and the only surviving offspring. She later married Leroy Carr and the couple had three children. Following her divorce from Carr, she moved from Fayette County to Kanawha County. There she met and married Herbert Harmon, Sr., with whom she had another child. They moved to the south side of Charleston (the Vandalia section), where they raised their family.

Harmon's early childhood was plagued with illness and disabilities, affording her limited opportunity for education.

Despite these limitations, Harmon was a visionary, determined to carry every endeavor to fruition.

"Mama Jack," as she was affectionately known, was an active member of Vandalia Baptist Church and a Mount Olivet Missionary. Her faith and commitment to God was a driving force in her life and a catalyst to the community service she performed. She used her God-given talents, gifts, and provisions, in and outside of the church, to seek the advancement

of the others. She served on numerous committees and boards, constantly working to improve the quality of life for local citizens.

Harmon recognized areas of great need within her community and, in March of 1961, she held a meeting to voice her concerns. That meeting resulted in the formation of the Vandalia Civic Club. Among the club's many accomplishments, the club was responsible for the repair of various community homes, the distribution of Christmas baskets to the poor, and the sponsorship of several community youth for attendance at 4-H camp. With the support and backing of the civic club, she approached government leaders with the concerns of her community.

Harmon worked tirelessly on projects to revitalize her community and improve living conditions in the predominately black community in which she resided. She was instrumental in the installation of street lights, the securing of old Vandalia School as a recreation center for the community's children, and the accessibility of public transportation for the Vandalia community. She served on the board of the Opportunity Industrialization Commission (OIC) and participated in the planning and development of the Vandalia Terrace Apartments, serving as an active member of its housing board.

Lenora Harmon departed this life on November 3, 1998, after a long illness.

6

GREGORY T. HINTON, J.D.

Gregory T. Hinton graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in History, with a minor in Sociology, from Fairmont State University in 1978 before attending West Virginia University for his Doctorate of Jurisprudence.

He graduated in 1981 and obtained certification as a Certified Leadership Instructor in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1995.

Hinton has served as Job Developer and Executive

Director at North Central (WV) Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) in Fairmont. In 1983 he was elected the first African American mayor of a major city in West Virginia serving as Mayor of Fairmont. From 1977 to 1986 he served as City Council Member for the city of Fairmont.

In 1981 Hinton began his private legal practice in Fairmont, West Virginia, where he took on cases dealing with civil litigation and civil rights issues. He continues to work part-time in this capacity while maintaining a position as Business Law Professor at Fairmont State University. From 1993 to 1997, Hinton served as Coordinator of a Race, Class and Gender program at Fairmont State. The program recruits faculty to teach a diversity class for the college. His work with Fairmont State has allowed him the opportunity to advise and counsel Management majors and undeclared students, and to serve on several committees. Hinton also worked as Faculty Leader in 1996 for the Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars, conducting seminars on racial awareness and issues of race, class and gender in education. From 1996 to 1998 he was Liaison to the Washington Center for Fairmont State.

Hinton has received several state and national awards for excellence in leadership, teaching and academic advising. In 1985 he was named West Virginia Outstanding Black Attorney by the Black American Law Student Association and was appointed as special counsel to the Governor, investigating the State Penitentiary at Moundsville's prisoner uprising. In 1997 Hinton was named West Virginia Professor of the Year by the Faculty Merit Foundation of West Virginia. The Marion County Commission in Marion County declared April 10, 2002 Gregory T. Hinton Day.

Hinton has contributed to several publications including *Business Law and the Regulation of Business* (West Publishing), *Business Law and the Legal Environment, Comprehensive Volume* (South-Western College Publishing), and *Instructor's Resource Manual* (Wadsworth Publishing).

He currently serves as Deacon at Good Hope Baptist Church, a position he has held since 1974. Hinton continues to travel, speaking as presenter and panelist for diversity and academic seminars around the nation.

7

BERNICE JOHNSON

Bernice D. Johnson was born in Enfield, North Carolina, the oldest of three children, and the only daughter, to James H. and Leanna D. Harvey. She is the widow of the late Clarence C. Johnson. They have one child, Ann Elizabeth. Johnson graduated as Salutatorian from Eastman High School in Enfield and was accepted in the Nursing Program at Saint Agnes School of Nursing/St Augustine College, in Raleigh, North Carolina. She graduated second in her class in 1954. After receiving her Registered Nursing license, Johnson went to Boston Lying-In Hospital, now Women's Hospital, in Boston, Massachusetts, for advanced studies in Obstetrics Nursing. She enrolled in The Williamson Branch of Marshall University, and Eastern Kentucky University and received a Bachelor of Arts from West Virginia State College (now University) in 1988.

Johnson worked in the medical field at: Miners Hospital, Now Williamson Appalachian

Regional Hospital (Assistant Head Nurse Obstetrics); Williamson Memorial Hospital (Head Nurse Medical Floor); and Mingo County Head Start Program (Medical Coordinator/Director). She is currently employed by Mingo County Health Department and is Board Certified in Community Health by the American Nurses Credentialing Program. She spearheaded the “Wreath Hanging Ceremony” in Mingo County to raise awareness for breast cancer and early detection. She also works with West Virginia Immunization Network (WIN) to help improve immunization rates in children and adults.

Johnson is an active member of several local community service programs and organizations. She is president of the Missionary Society at Logan Street First Baptist Church, past president of The Huntington Chapter of Links, Incorporated, a member of the Tug Valley Arts Council, a member of Logan Mingo Mental Health Board of Directors, a past member of Williamson Appalachian Regional Hospital Board of Directors, a member of Region II Planning and Development Council (Huntington, WV), a member of the Family Resource Network, and a member of the West Virginia Public Health Association. She was a charter member for both the Tug Valley Recovery Shelter for women and children and the Tug Valley Blood Bank. She served two terms as secretary for the Williamson Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and currently serves as co-chairman of the program committee.

Johnson shows a great love for people and animals, and is devoted to optimizing every opportunity to promote good health by encouraging people to stay informed. She is a member of the US Humane Society. And locally supports the Save Our Strays (SOS) Organization. She takes blood pressure readings at local senior centers, prepares monthly health newsletters for her church keeping members informed of pertinent health news, and speaks on health issues to various groups by request. She is the recipient of the Nursing Excellence Award present by Williamson Memorial Hospital and remains committed to helping her community.

8

JAMES C. KARANTONIS

James C. Karantonis was born in Charleston, West Virginia in 1944. He was raised in Boone County until the age of six when the family moved to Weirton, West Virginia. When he was 12 years old, Karantonis moved to Dundalk, Maryland. He attended the University of Baltimore and Concord College in Princeton, West Virginia before being drafted on April 1, 1966. He served as a Psychiatric Specialist during his military career, at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C., and in Valley Forge Army Hospital in Pennsylvania. In 1969, after his military discharge, he returned to West Virginia where he attended Morris Harvey College (now University of Charleston), graduating in 1970. He was urged by a political science professor to apply for the Masters Degree program in Howard University for a degree in African American History.

Karantonis first experienced racism at Concord College and these events, coupled with inspiration after watching Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver a speech on TV, drove him to seek a path of civil rights justice in the search of Dr. King’s “just society.” From 1974 to 1979, Karantonis worked as Education Director for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, which he describes as “one of the happiest moments of my life.” During his tenure, he developed criteria for interviewing and employing the blind and produced one of the earliest guidelines for gender neutral employment in the country for employers and newspapers. He also produced a Guide to Pre-Employment Inquiries dealing with written application forms and the questions that could legally be asked during

interviews, helping employers comply with state statutes. During his time with the agency, the Commission developed affirmative action programs for the larger law enforcement departments throughout the state, resulting in the first African American police officers and the first female officer for the city. He spoke on the radio, appeared on TV, and spoke at local and state conferences discussing the prevention of unlawful discrimination.

Karantonis went on to work for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Community Relations Department, as project specialist. As the first staff person assigned to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission in an effort to plan the first national observance of the holiday, his work was both recognized and respected by Coretta Scott King, who named him the director of the Washington office. After his success with this event, Karantonis was appointed national coordinator for the Freedom Trail Project, educating students and the public on Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence and steps for creating social change. Karantonis calls it "a labor of love" as he distributed over 1 million brochures and 50 thousand posters with the principles and steps of nonviolent opposition and call for change.

Karantonis developed a seminar and training company entitled Human Relations Communications, Inc., where he presented seminars on inter-group relations and civil rights in education and conducted luncheons and banquets focusing on human relations and diversity. He served as commissioner for the Howard County, Maryland Human Rights Commission and currently serves as mediator for the Howard County Courts. He continues to travel and speak on civil rights issues. Karantonis feels a "great pleasure and humility" to be nominated for this award and says he feels fortunate to have chosen to pursue a career centered on civil rights justice "at a younger age for all the right reasons." He believes his work in civil rights has filled his life with meaning and satisfaction.

9

MAE STALLARD

Mae Stallard has been extensively involved in volunteer work in her church, school, and community for 50 years, fighting for the rights of the disabled and educating area students. She is a graduate of Belfry High School, and received an Associates Degree from Southern West Virginia Community College before transferring to Marshall University. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Marshall with a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and Social Studies and earned a Master's Degree. Stallard was a dental assistant for many years before becoming a teacher in the Mingo County School system. She was a teacher for the fourth grade at Williamson Elementary School and a teacher of West Virginia history and civics for the eighth grade at Williamson Junior High School. She retired from teaching in 1995, after 23 years in the field. Stallard has volunteered for several causes and served on several boards. She served as the first president of the Appalachian Regional Hospital Women's Auxiliary (1967-68) and the service chairman (1968-70). Stallard was member of the Board of Directors and served as secretary of the Mingo County Health Association (1966-69) and was president of the Mingo County Council of Exceptional Children (1970-75). She was a member of the Governor's Advisory Board to the Commission of Mental Retardation (1965-70), a West Virginia delegate to the President's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped (1967, 69, 71), and co-chairman of Area 9 Citizen's Committee on Mental Retardation (1965-70). She also served as chairman of the Promoting Individual Liberties and chairman of Public Policy, president of the Action in Mingo (A.I.M.) Community Service Group, and vice president and member of the Board of the Directors for the Logan-Mingo Mental Health Association. Stallard has helped to organize and conduct several service drives including the Bike-A-Thon for Cystic Fibrosis and the Bell Ringer Drive for Mental Health in 1983. She is a member of the West Virginia Baptist Education Society, Inc, a member of Kappa Delta Pi National Honor

Society, and a member of the Disabled American Veterans Auxiliary. Stallard established social studies fairs throughout the region and state. She was a member of the state committee to organize the first regional and state Social Studies Fair, organized the Mingo County Social Studies Fair, the Williamson Middle School Social Studies Fair, and has served on the Mingo County Social Studies Fair Committee since 1978. She continues to work with the state program as a judge. Stallard has also written and appeared in several publications. She compiled a booklet on the early history of Williamson, entitled "A Walking Tour of Williamson," which is still used for tours of the area. She is a writer of daily devotionals for the Williamson Daily News, the Union Gospel Press, and Warner Press. She has had poems published in *Treasured Poems of America* (summer 1997) and *American Poetry Anthology*. She is listed in *Outstanding West Virginians* (1969-70), *Two Thousand Women of Achievement* (1971), *Community Leaders of America* (1971, 72, 74), *International Who's Who in Community Service* (1973-74), *Notable Americans* (1981), and *Who's Who Among American Teachers* (1994, 1996), among other publications.

Stallard has received many community service awards. The West Virginia Superintendent of Schools, Henry Marockie, presented her with a "Golden Horseshoe" in 1995, and Mayor Sam Kapourales and Williamson City Council named September 17, 1998 "Mae Stallard Day." She received an honorary doctorate from Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College in 1995, received the "Distinguished Volunteer Award" by the US Department of Human Services, was named WSAZ TV's "Hometown Hero" in April 2002, and Williamson Daily News named her "Citizen of the Year" for 2008.

DAVID STEWART

From 1971 to 1982 David Stewart worked at several jobs in the motel, restaurant and catering industry. He retired due to disability. From 1990 to 1996, he became a part time lobbyist and consultant on disability issues. He conducted Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Compliance Surveys for The Foundation for Independent Living in Huntington, West Virginia, from 1995 to 1996. From 1996 to 2001 he was a Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights Program Advocate for West Virginia Advocates, Inc.

Stewart currently serves as the Project Director for Eastlake, Derry and Associates. His current position involves providing information and technical assistance on the ADA, The Fair Housing Act, the Rehabilitation Act, and other disability related laws, to people with disabilities, attorneys, members of state legislature, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, state and local government entities, and the general public. He also conducts training seminars and plans reviews and surveys on buildings and programs.

He is the coordinator for the West Virginia ADA Coalition, which is sponsored by a grant from the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research from the US Department of Education. The coalition provides education about the ADA through workshops, outreach, public displays and technical assistance. Stewart provides information and referrals on the ADA and other disability related laws as a Technical Assistance Specialist for the Disability and Business Technical Assistance Center (DBTAC): Mid-Atlantic ADA Center, through a contract with Eastlake, Derry and Associates.

As a member and Past Chairperson of the Fair Shake Network, Stewart monitors and advocates on local, state, and national legislation that affects civil rights, especially the rights of people with disabilities. He was appointed in 1995 by Governor Caperton to the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council, and reappointed in 1997 by Governor Underwood, and in 2000 by Governor Wise. Stewart served as Chairperson from 1996 to 1999 and 2000 to 2002. He was reappointed in 2005, by Governor Manchin, and currently serves as Vice Chairperson. Stewart was also appointed to Olmstead Task Force by Governor Underwood, where he currently serves as Chairperson of the Olmstead Committee. He also serves as Chairperson of the Hartley/Medley Project Advisory Committee, funded through a grant from the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Services. He is a member of the Medicaid Infrastructure Grant Leadership Team, funded by a grant administered by the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services; a member of the

West Virginia American Civil Liberties Union; and a member of the West Virginia American Civil Liberties Foundation

He received the 2002 John Lipscomb Supported Employment Advocacy Award from West Virginia APSE, the 2002 Advocacy Award from the National Association of Human Rights Workers, and the 2004 Advocacy Award from the National Council on Independent Living. He is currently a member of the West Virginia Independent Living Hall of Fame, after being inducted in 2004.

11

MARGARET TAYLOR

Margaret Taylor is a native of Goldsboro, North Carolina. She received certification as a Course Installer-I from the American Television and Communications Corporation in Denver, Colorado in 1983.

She moved to West Virginia, in 1968, and devoted herself to community service and advocacy. She received a degree in Accounting from West Virginia Career College of Charleston in 1985, and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work from West Virginia State College (now University) in 1987.

Taylor was recognized by the Charleston Job Corps Community Council in 1993, was named a Black History Honoree in 1994 by the Allen Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church, was recognized by the Charleston Woman's Improvement League in 1999, and received the Hazo W. Carter, Jr. Presidential Award from West Virginia State College (now University) in 2000. She has dedicated over two decades of her life as a servant to the community within several social service positions and by serving on various boards organized to improve and enhance the quality of life for citizens within the state of West Virginia. She is an active member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness.

Taylor was in the US Army and Army Reserves until her retirement in 2002. She currently serves as the director of Charleston's Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) Sojourner's Shelter for Homeless Women and Families, a position she has held since 1993. The YWCA is a national organization devoted to eliminating racism and empowering women. The Sojourner's Shelter provides emergency shelter and supportive services to homeless single women, women with children, men with custody of their children, and intact families. It offers a secure, healthy environment with crisis intervention, case management and counseling to help individuals achieve long-term self-sufficiency. The shelter provides children's programs for children in the shelter and the Job Education/Readiness Center for adults, which provide education and job-readiness training for any and all homeless individuals, regardless of their place of refuge, in an effort to prevent future homelessness.

12

WENDY THOMAS

As the eldest child and only girl born to James and Ada Dillard, Wendy Dillard Thomas was nurtured and influenced by the dedicated women of her family, whose commitment to community service inspired her as a child. As a teenager, Thomas volunteered with the

Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program, assisting the Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) by tutoring local children in her hometown of Williamson, West Virginia. After graduating from Marshall University, she joined Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, where she volunteers as church clerk, youth director, Sunday school teacher, Deaconess, and teacher of Wednesday adult Bible study class. Her dedication to youth led her to establish a community Black History Bowl emphasizing "Unity in the Community." The annual event, now in its 18th year, attracts youth from local schools, churches and community centers, and has become a highlight of Black History Month in Huntington.

In 1993 Thomas was appointed to the West Virginia Women's Commission and served as Chair from 1999 until 2008. In carrying out the goals of the Commission, Thomas worked passionately on women and family issues including pay equity, domestic violence, family leave, women and voting through the "When Women Vote Women Win" campaign, and job training to encourage employment in nontraditional jobs for women to increase self-sufficiency. Thomas has been a driving force in elevating the status of West Virginia women through her advocacy efforts to eliminate the educational, health and safety disparities while celebrating their accomplishments. As a result, she spearheaded research and publication of *West Virginia's African-American Women of Distinction*, which depicts the historical contributions of African American women to the state. Thomas also participated in the Women's Commission's trademark programs of Women's Day at the Legislature, Celebrate Women Awards, and statewide student essay contest. Thomas reflects that the Commission's support and lobbying efforts in equalizing the girls' and boys' basketball seasons was one of the most controversial, yet personally satisfying, efforts during her time on the commission. The action allowed high school girls to be scouted for college scholarships in basketball in the same manner as the boys.

Thomas continues her advocacy efforts for women and families as Vice Chair of the Huntington Housing Authority, member of the national program committee for The Links, Inc., and member of the League of Women Voters. She served as past Director of Programs for the Central Area of The Links, Inc., where she coordinated programming implementation in twelve states. Thomas is a member of Delta Sigma Theta, through which she established a community heart health awareness program, now partnered with the American Heart Association's "Go Red For Women." She is a member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, a former Trustee of the Huntington Museum of Art, and a former Board Member of the American Red Cross. Thomas was named the 2006 Teacher Lecturer for Marshall University and received the National Association of Negro Business & Professional Women's Club Volunteer Award and Marshall University Outstanding Black Alumni Award. She was recognized as the 2003 Woman of the Year in Community Involvement by the Full Gospel Assembly, the 2006 Woman of Faith by Antioch Baptist Church, and was the first recipient of the "Pete Goodson Community Service Award" by the Huntington Black Pastors Association. She was also named a Kentucky Colonel in 2008.

Thomas works as a teacher of special needs children with the Cabell County school system. She is married to Bennie Thomas, a retired administrator with Cabell County Schools, and is the proud mother of two sons, Aaron and Richard, and four grandchildren, Nick, Camryn, Brooklyn and Erin.

13

RUSSELL VAN CLEVE

Russell Van Cleve was born in Wilkinsburg, a small town in Pennsylvania's Allegheny County about six miles from Pittsburgh, in 1919. He attended local schools and, following graduation from Wilkinsburg High School, attended the University of Michigan where he received his Master's Degree in Chemical Engineering. He began his professional career at Union Carbide in 1941 and remained with them 42 years, until his retirement in 1983.

Van Cleve married Frances Jenkins in 1943 and they had four children: Margaret, Russell, Barbara, and John. He was an active member of the Baptist Temple in Charleston and served faithfully as a teacher and choir member for 50 years. He was also second viola chair for the Charleston Symphony for 30 years.

In 1963, Van Cleve was transferred to New Jersey at a time when “open housing” was a strong issue. He worked with the leaders of his church to set up a march for a change in the law which would allow anyone to purchase a home in any location, a law that was subsequently passed. In 1965, he was transferred back to Charleston where he attended weekly city council meetings in order to ascertain the attitudes of individual council members about human rights issues. The city council was beginning to deal with the new concept of open housing, and was presented a proposal for an open housing law. The proposal was discussed and ultimately voted down. The morning after this defeat, council members seemed remorseful about the denial of this basic human right and Van Cleve, with other members of the community, worked to get the bill reintroduced. In a few weeks, the proposal was reconsidered by council and passed with a majority of votes.

Van Cleve and Senator Paul Kaufman became friends through shared discussions concerning the needs of the underrepresented in Kanawha County. This shared passion bound the two together, and Senator Kaufman suggested Van Cleve become a member of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. He was appointed as the Commission’s Chair in 1972, and remained in this position for several years. His time as a Commissioner ended in 1989.

After a lifetime of service to others, Russell Van Cleve died at the age of 75 in February 1994. His widow, Frances, has remained in Charleston and currently lives in a retirement community.

WINIFRED WHITE

Winifred W. White, affectionately known as “Winnie” among family and friends, is a native of Rochester, New York. She is the daughter and second child of seven children born to the late George and Claudia Watson. A graduate of Madison High School and the Rochester General Hospital School of Nursing, White worked in the field of nursing in New York, Washington, D.C., and Nova Scotia, Canada.

White moved to West Virginia in 1998, where she immediately connected with members of the Baha’i Faith. As a young child, White knew her name “Winifred,” which means peace in German, represented the vision she would promote throughout her life. The Baha’i Faith is the longest serving nongovernmental organization in the United Nations. It began in 1863, the same year that West Virginia became a State and slavery was abolished. As a member of the Baha’i Faith, White has become a model of the ability to collectively bring together people of various faiths. Along with her husband, she hosted an annual Intercalary Day celebration at their

home to initiate an informal dialogue among people of different religions and races. It is believed that Race Unity, which is now promoted throughout the United Nations, grew from this annual event. White currently serves as President of the Kanawha Valley Interfaith Council.

White continues to promote race unity throughout the United States, Canada, Africa, and other countries. As a retired nurse, she is also interested in health related issues relevant to under-privileged youth.

White has been married for the past twenty-three years to Laurence White. They are the proud parents of six children and seven grandchildren.

15

BRIAN WILLIAMS

Brian Derwin Williams was born in Charleston, West Virginia's triangle district on October 13, 1954 to Stella Mae Williams. It was his mother's enduring spirit and love for God that laid the foundation for his unique life of service. As a boy, Williams joined an all African American drill team, headed by the late Robert Easley, where he would learn to walk straight and always hold his head high.

Growing up during the early days of the civil rights movement provided Williams with a first-hand account of the determination, hard work, and sacrifice required in the struggle for equality and justice. It also provided him with different platforms to express his passion for equality through marches, protests, and sit-ins.

Never one to let his environment dictate his thinking, but rather his thinking dictate his actions, Williams' determination soon led him to Morgantown, where he attended West Virginia University. He obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Sociology, with minors in Business Management, Organizational Psychology, and Speech Communication. He went on to further his education and received a Master's Degree in Medical Sociology. After completing his graduate program, Williams returned to Charleston where he started a family and continued to share his unique gifts with all those whom he came in contact with.

Williams' employment and various affiliations included, yet were not limited to, the following: Community Relations/Spokesperson for the Kanawha County Sheriff's Department; Professor at the West Virginia Institute of Technology; Adjunct Professor at the University of Charleston, Department of Social Sciences; Management/Labor Consultant for Marshall University; work for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission; Personnel Director for the City of Charleston; Executive Director at the Charleston Civil Service Commission; Executive Director at the Charleston Human Relations; and Housing Manager and Health Consultant for John's Hopkins University.

Brian Williams was called home to be with the Lord on April 2, 2006, at the age of 51. His loyalty, thoughtfulness, and hard work proved him to be a trailblazer in the field of civil rights and social equality. His faith in God never wavered, and his love for his fellow man, regardless of race or creed, shined forth to the end.

At the time of his passing, Brian was a faithful member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Male Chorus. His favorite song was "If Anybody Ask You Who I Am, Tell Them I Am Redeemed."

CLAUDE WILLIAMS

Claude Williams is one of the most well known and respected figures of the local community for his lifetime of work in Logan County. He is respected by elected officials including Congressman Nick Rahall, Sen. Jay Rockefeller, and many other leaders in politics and civil rights in both Charleston and Washington. Williams was born in Logan on January 21, 1937. He attended Holden Grade School and the Aracoma High School. As a young man in the 1950's he moved north, where he became involved in the civil rights movement and fair labor struggles of the 1960's. Twenty-six years later he returned to his home town, where he made his mark in both civil rights and the local historical scene with an emphasis on preserving the history and heritage of African-American culture in Appalachia. Williams has been active with the Aracoma High School Historical Society; the Logan County Minority Open Forum; the Museum in the Park Board of Directors at Chief Logan Park; the local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and many other community organizations including the Easter Seal Society for Crippled Children and Adults. He is active in the faith based community and has organized projects at local churches that recognize and promote the civil rights struggle. He is an ordained Deacon, choir member, Sunday school teacher, and Trustee Board member of his church. He has worked on community projects such as the Museum at Chief Logan State Park, getting playgrounds and bridges built in the community of Cora, and working on various community betterment programs throughout Logan, including litter clean-up campaigns. Williams has received numerous awards for his lifetime of work and dedication to the community and local history. He has been called upon to lecture at the local community college and as a special guest speaker for various civic clubs and organizations. He has also been the focal guiding point for the Aracoma High School Historical Society, honoring the last black school in Logan County, and has fought for the renovation and preservation of the property. Through his efforts, the school has become a part of local life, where events are hosted and summer youth sports programs are held. Among his many awards and credits, Williams: was inducted into the WV All Black Sports and Academics Hall of Fame in 2008 for lifetime achievement; received "Greatest of the Great Historian" award from the Aracoma High School Historical Society; was recognized for his guest column in the Logan Banner about civil rights and history by Sen. Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy in 2005; received the Layman of the Year award in 2004 from the Layman's Auxiliary of the WV Baptist State Convention; was recognized by the St. Phillip Missionary Baptist Church in 1993 for "Dedicated, faithful service to the Brotherhood," by Pastor Charles Johnson, III; was honored by the Communities Cooperative, Inc. for aid in humanitarian programs from 1994 to 1995; awarded a Certificate of Commendation by the West Virginia Human Rights Commission for distinguished service in the promotion of a human rights ethic; inducted into the Cora Summer League Hall of Fame in July of 1996 ; received the 1998 Earl Ray Tomblin Community Service Award for his "quiet and consistent work" on behalf of all residents in Logan County; was recognized by Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Rosa Parks by having his name placed on the Wall of Tolerance in 2003; and was spotlighted in numerous feature articles in the Logan Banner, and other newspapers, for his role in promoting civil rights and preserving black history by various authors including Jerry Godby, Melody Kinser, J. D. Charles, Macel Cyfers, Jack McNeely.

17

THOMAS ZERBE

Thomas Zerbe grew up in the 1950's in the small town of

Nitro, West Virginia. He reflects that his family was acquainted with the only black family in town and their child, Nadine Jones. Several times the father, De Otis Jones, would give Zerbe a ride to school in his black pickup truck. "But, like a lot of white elementary students growing up in white towns," Zerbe said, "I didn't know discrimination against blacks existed. I never even noticed that Nadine wasn't in school with us." In 1955, Zerbe's school was integrated and Nadine became the only black student. Soon, Zerbe discovered that many of his white friends were harboring racist hate against blacks. The discrimination by two of his formerly "closest friends" sparked Zerbe's understanding for the need for change. His opinion was later strengthened when he saw a news photograph in *LIFE* magazine of black marchers being attacked by dogs and water hoses.

In 1967 Zerbe marched in an open housing demonstration in Charleston. Later he picketed the D.C. home of Senator Robert C. Byrd who, at the time, was against federal civil rights legislation. Zerbe says that Byrd's decision to change his mind about the adoption of this important legislation "makes him one of my heroes." Zerbe's activism was catching attention from his coworkers and, while teaching at Kanawha County Public Schools, another teacher asked if she could share with her students Zerbe's participation in demonstrations. The teacher believed that the respect the students had for Zerbe would lend credibility to the movement. Zerbe told the teacher that he was proud of his participation and she could share the information with her students. "She must have told her classes because, after that, black kids would hang out in my classroom at noon," Zerbe said. But, Zerbe's activism in the movement was not always looked upon with respect. The principal of the school where Zerbe taught shared his views following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. when he stated that Dr. King was a radical who got what he deserved. When Zerbe told the principal that he did not agree with his evaluation of the situation, he found himself out of a job. While the principal gave no reason as to why his teaching contract was not renewed, Zerbe knew the cause was his participation and sympathetic view of the civil rights movement. Two years later, Zerbe found himself at the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. After just one year he was promoted from investigator to Compliance Director. Zerbe notes that simply working at the Commission at that time brought unwanted hatred from people in the community. Zerbe's favorite case story from his time at the Commission involved a white landlord who would not rent an apartment to a black male. When Zerbe confronted the landlord, she admitted that she would not rent housing to the man because of his race. "That's right," she said, "I don't rent to colored, hippies, or people from New Jersey." The Commission found probable cause to credit the allegation of discrimination and the woman later settled the case and agreed to rent apartments to blacks. Zerbe stayed with the Commission three years before leaving to go to law school. He has now retired from law, after practicing for 35 years. Zerbe stresses that what some people do not realize is that the civil rights movement took place even in the small towns and cities all across America. "In the 1950's and 60's massive discrimination existed everywhere in this area [in West Virginia]," Zerbe said. "Blacks were barred from swimming pools, movie theatres, and restaurants." He hopes all West Virginians recognize that the struggle for civil rights was a nationwide struggle. It did not just take place in Birmingham, Montgomery, and Boston, but also in the hills and valleys of West Virginia and all across America.

2010

2011

2012

9th Annual

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Tuesday, February 28, 2012, 11:00 AM

Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater

The WV Division of Cultural and History

State Capitol Complex

1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.

Charleston, WV

The Governor's 10th Annual

Civil Rights Day

Friday, February 22, 2013 10:00 AM

The WV Division of Culture and History

Norman L. Fagan West Virginia State Theater

at the Culture Center

1900 Kanawha Blvd. E.

Charleston, WV 25305

For dedicated service to the people of West Virginia and their constant struggle for civil rights for all, we honor:

Carol A. Beattie

The Honorable Irene C. Berger

Randall Byrnside

Walter H. Chamberlain

Jan Derry

Katherine "Kitty" L. Dooley, Esq.

Reverend Ronald W. English

Timothy L. Hairston

Robert L. Harrison, Ph.D.
Cheryl L. Henderson, Esq.
The Honorable Tal Hutchins
Christopher D. Jackson
Reverend Dr. Skyler K. Kershner
Reverend William Howard Law *
National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia
Curtis E. Price
The Honorable Marie E. Redd
Major General (Ret.) Allen E. Tackett
First Lady Joanne Jaeger Tomblin
Frank Veltri *
Reverend Matthew J. Watts
Dr. Rozelle Jenee Walker
Chief Brent L. Webster
The Honorable Patricia H. White

*honored posthumously

7

Carol A. Beattie

Carol A. (Sharp) Beattie was born in Columbus, Ohio. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree from Ohio State University in June, 1963, specializing in Elementary Education. She obtained her Master's Degree in June of 1977 from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan.

Beattie was employed in the Columbus Public Schools from 1963 until 1967 and the Department of Defense Dependent Schools in Germany from 1967 until 1970 as a First and Second Grade Teacher. She was a Teacher for the Learning Disabled in the Southwestern City Schools in Grove City, Ohio from 1970 until 1974, Port Huron, Michigan Public Schools from 1974 until 1977, Watervliet, Michigan Public Schools from 1977 until 1980, and Loudoun County Public Schools in Virginia from 1980 until 1988. She served as an Educational Diagnostician for the Loudoun County Public Schools in Virginia from 1988 until 2007 and is currently retired.

Beattie currently serves as Chairperson of Mission Team for the Charles Town Presbyterian Church in Charles Town, West Virginia. She believes it is her calling to "Help the Least of These" with her actions, as well as her voice. She became a founding member of the Jefferson County Homeless Coalition in 2010. At the time, there were no shelters available for those without homes in Jefferson County. Her team was able to work with area churches to

establish an overnight Cold Weather Shelter for adults from November until March. They are now in their third year of providing winter shelters for men and women.

The Presbyterian Mission team also established and organized a day-time drop-in center known as the Hospitality Center to provide a caring, warm place for those without homes to receive breakfast and lunch and to take a shower. Since March, 2011, with the help of volunteers from many religious and civic groups, it has grown into a place where assistance is provided in helping adults move forward in their lives. Through association with Shenandoah Community Health and East Ridge Behavioral Health, they are able to provide physical and mental health services at the Center and assist with transportation to various parts of the Eastern Panhandle where assistance can be obtained. In addition, they are able to assist with jobs searches, resume building, and obtaining affordable housing for those who have limited income.

Beattie calls Charles Town, West Virginia her home and is married to Reverend Joseph G. Beattie.

8

The honorable Irene C. Berger

9

The Honorable Irene C. Berger graduated from West Virginia University in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in mathematics, and from the West Virginia University College of Law in 1979. After graduation, she was a staff attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Charleston until 1982, when she joined the Office of the Kanawha County Prosecuting Attorney. In 1994, she accepted a position as Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia. She was appointed by Governor Caperton to fill a vacancy as Circuit Judge of Kanawha County for the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit of West Virginia in June 1994. In November 1996, she was elected to the unexpired term of Circuit Judge, and in November 2000 and November 2008 was elected to full terms. She was unopposed in all elections.

During her tenure on the state bench, she was assigned by Administrative Order of the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals to sit temporarily as a justice of that Court in instances of recusal.

Judge Berger was named Woman of the Year by the Charleston Area Business and Professional Women's Club in 1996, and in 1997 she received the Celebrate Women Award from the West Virginia Women's Commission in the category of Government. In 2000, she was named an Outstanding Woman of Achievement by the Charleston YWCA and received the West Virginia University College of Law Women's Law Caucus Distinguished Woman in the Law Award for the Public Sector.

In 2002, she was named a Fellow of the West Virginia State Bar Foundation and honored as a West Virginia African American Woman of Distinction by the West Virginia Women's Commission. In the same year, she became a permanent member of the Fourth Circuit Judicial Conference. In 2003, she was named a Fellow of the American Bar Association and given the Mountain State Bar Association Merit Award.

In 2004, she was awarded the Community Champion Award by the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action and honored as a Distinguished West Virginian by then Governor Bob Wise. In 2006, Judge Berger was named Outstanding Alumna by the West Virginia University Alumni Association. In 2007, she was awarded the NAACP Image Award for Leadership by the Charleston, West Virginia, branch of the NAACP, and in 2008 received the Departmental Alumni Award from the Department of Mathematics of the West Virginia University Eberly College of Arts and Sciences. Judge Berger has served as Chairperson for the Legal Services for the Poor Symposium and as President of the

Board of Directors of the West Virginia University Alumni Association. She has been a member of the following civic and professional organizations: West Virginia University College of Law Visiting Committee, West Virginia University Institutional Board of Advisors, West Virginia University Social Justice Visiting Committee, West Virginia Judicial Association, Mountain State Bar Association, Juvenile Justice Committee, the Governor's Domestic Violence Advisory Committee and the Children and Families Interim Committee of the West Virginia Legislature. She has served on the Board of Directors of the Legal Services Corporation, Family & Children Together and Keep a Child in School. She has also served as a judge for the West Virginia University College of Law Moot Court competition and participated in the Judge in Residency program at Washington and Lee School of Law. Judge Berger has been a presenter for numerous continuing legal education seminars.

She currently serves on the West Virginia University Student Affairs Visiting Committee, the University of Charleston Board of Trustees and the Board of Directors of the West Virginia University Foundation. On November 9, 2009, Judge Berger was appointed by President Barack Obama to the position of United States District Judge for the Southern District of West Virginia.

Judge Berger is a native of Amonate in McDowell County, West Virginia, and was the youngest of nine children born to Nathaniel and Irene O. Calloway Berger. She is married to David Howell.

Randall Byrnside

10

Randy Byrnside, known as the Chef for Seniors serves between 3,000 and 4,000 meals per month. He cooks from scratch and serves up meals at the Kanawha Valley Senior Services Tiskelwah Center. Meals are delivered throughout the Kanawha Valley.

Byrnside started cooking when he was a kid in St.

Albans, working in the food service industry at the age of 15 at Shoney's, Captain D's and the original River's Edge

Restaurants. He then went on to work in the insurance industry for about 15 years until he had an aortic aneurysm in 2001.

Doctors told him that he would not live.

After that experience, he decided he should be doing the work he truly loves, and he went back into the food service business. He worked at the Putnam Aging/Kanawha Valley Senior Services for ten years, and is currently working at the Tiskelwah Center.

Byrnside felt there was a reason why he lived and believes working for seniors is that reason. Byrnside said, "It's not about the cooking but cooking for the people I see come in here." "I see people come in here who have nothing." "I have people from shelters and high rises and some who are doctors. I've got such a diverse group of people."

Byrnside loves to cook and never went to culinary school. He has received \$40,000 to \$50,000 in participation grants throughout several years by writing his own grant proposals. He makes sure that his recipes meet health guidelines for his clientele.

Byrnside is involved in many community activities such as 4-H clubs, West Virginia Women Works, KVSS, and Tiskelwah Community Services Center, by helping with clothes, furniture or whatever is needed to anyone with needs.

Byrnside is the son of Rachel and Copper Byrnside. He and his wife, Linda, have one daughter, Brandie who helps him at the Tiskelwah Center and two granddaughters, Macie and Marley Reed.

Walter H. Chamberlain

Walter H. Chamberlain was born in Charleston, West

Virginia, on July 16, 1953 to the late Ida and George E. Chamberlain Jr. He attended Charleston High School graduating in 1971, and continued his education at the University of Cincinnati, Marshall University and West Virginia State College, graduating in 1976 with a degree in Sociology. Chamberlain's mother graduated with a Master's degree in Psychology from Atlanta University and her grandfather, William Hooper Council, founded Alabama A & M University. Both of his parents put a high priority on education and all four of their sons eventually graduated from college.

Growing up he developed a great love for athletics and eventually became the captain of the first high school football team in West Virginia to win three straight State Championships. He was also a State Champion shot-putter his senior year at Charleston High School. He went on to play two years of college football and later became a member of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity while attending Marshall University.

Chamberlain retired from Union Carbide Corporation in 2001 with 26 years of service. He then began a second career as a social services worker with the State of West Virginia in 2008. He currently works as a social worker for the State of West Virginia with Adult Protective Services, where he works with abused and neglected adults. He is also a licensed Realtor in the State of West Virginia and was at one time a West Virginia high school football official.

In recent years, Chamberlain attended Shining Light Celebration Church and Living Word Christian Center. One of the greatest joys in his life has been reading and studying the Bible and sharing this message of love with other people. He was also a member of a group of Christian volunteers that for many years served monthly at Heartland of Charleston sharing the message and celebrating life with the elderly. Chamberlain has been a Bible teacher at Shining Light Celebration and at Living Word Christian Center in Charleston.

One of his favorite quotes: "The life you live before other people will ultimately be the unwritten testimony you leave behind about you in their hearts".

Chamberlain and his wife Velva are parents to one child, George Chamberlain IV of Charleston.

11

Jan Derry

12

Jan Derry has been doing civil rights work for more than 30 years. Her life-long work as an advocate for individuals with disabilities began in 1981 when she became the Patient Advocate at Weston Hospital (renamed Sharpe Hospital) one of our state's largest inpatient psychiatric hospitals. In that capacity, she was responsible for investigating allegations of abuse and rights violations. She was often referred to as the "resident hemorrhoid" due to her tenacity to ensure that clinical decisions and administrative policies and procedures did not compromise the rights of the individuals they served. She developed the reputation of being known as the hospital's conscience. From there she moved to Morgantown in 1990 and began

working in the independent living division of the Coordinating Council for Independent living, CCIL. In 1993, this division of the agency split off from its parent organization and created a new non-profit organization, the Northern West Virginia Center for Independent Living, NWVCIL. She has served as the Executive Director since. In this capacity she has developed services and supports that assist individuals with disabilities throughout a 13 county service area to set, reach and maintain their goals for independence. She is known as being a leader in the disability community working to ensure that people with disabilities have equal opportunity to be contributing, valued members of their community and have equal access to all that a community has to offer its members. Derry is a member of WVU's Social Justice Visiting Committee, a member of the WVU Rehabilitation and Counseling Advisory Board, a member of the state's Olmstead Advisory Committee, the state's Take Me Home Advisory Council and has recently been reappointed by the Governor as a member of the WV Statewide Independent living Council. In her home town of Morgantown, she brings the voice of individuals with disabilities to City government by serving on the Pedestrian Safety Board and has recently been appointed by the City Council to serve on the City's Human Rights Commission. She is a strong advocate within her community, working for compliance with the Americans with Disabilities and Fair Housing Acts.

Because of her work with the West Virginia Foundation for Rape Information and Services, as they work towards addressing the needs of victims with disabilities and create more inclusive services, she was awarded the 2011 Visionary Voice Award by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. In 2011 she was also selected by her peers in Region III (West Virginia, Virginia, District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Maryland) to be the recipient of the National Council for Independent, NCIL, Regional Advocacy Award. She was also elected to serve on the board of directors for this national disability rights organization, representing Region III and serves as chairperson of NCIL's taskforce on Violence and Abuse of persons with disabilities.

Derry and her husband Mark, have 3 boys and 3 girls, ranging from age 38-19, and have been blessed with 4 grandchildren.

Katherine "Kitty" L. Dooley, Esq.

Katherine L. "Kitty" Dooley is an attorney practicing in Charleston, West Virginia.

A sole practitioner she is the principal of The Dooley Law Firm, P.L.L.C. where she practices in the areas of personal injury, social security disability, consumer rights and employment. She has numerous legal and other affiliations.

She is the Chair of the Board of Commissioners for the Charleston - Kanawha Housing Authority where she spear-headed a Fifty Million Dollar project to rebuild the most depressed public housing in the City of Charleston. She is a 2006 recipient of the UniCare Community Service Award for her work with the Housing Authority.

In 2007, she was named as a Fellow of the West Virginia State Bar Foundation.

Attorney Dooley served two terms as a member of the Board of Governors of the West Virginia State Bar and is also is a currently the Chair of the Board of the Children's

Home Society of West Virginia and is a Board member of the Kanawha Institute for Social Research and Action (KISRA), the Appalachian Children's Chorus and is a Member of the West Virginia University Women's Studies Visiting Committee.

Attorney Dooley is a Past President of the Mountain State Bar Association, Inc. and Past Chair of the Minority Committee of the West Virginia State Bar. She has also served as a member of the State Bar's Young Lawyer's Executive Committee. She is also past member of the West Virginia University College of Law's Visiting Committee. She formerly served as a part-time Administrative Law Judge for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. She is a member of the Mountain State Bar Association, Inc. the American Association for Justice, the West Virginia Association for Justice, the Judge John Fields American Inns of Court and the Charleston Branch of the NAACP.

Attorney Dooley has also been involved in projects to recognize and honor the work of West Virginia's first African-American Attorney, J.R. Clifford, as co-director of the J.R. Clifford Project.

Attorney Dooley is a native of Fairmont, West Virginia where she is a member of the Morning Star Baptist Church and serves as a Deaconess. She is a 1990 graduate of the West Virginia University College of Law and a 1980 graduate of Marshall University with a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism. She has practiced law privately in Bluefield and Charleston before opening her own practice. She is also a former Senior Assistant Attorney General.

Following college she received her Commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and served in the United States Army from 1980 until 1984 attaining the rank of Captain. She received the Army Commendation (two oak leaf clusters) and an overseas service ribbon while an Intelligence Officer. She received her Army Parachutist Badge (Airborne wings) in 1979 while an ROTC cadet at Marshall University; the first female cadet in the State of West Virginia to do so.

Attorney Dooley is married to Chuck Green.

13

Reverend Ronald Williams English

Rev. Ronald W. English acknowledged the call to Ministry at the historic Ebenezer Baptist in Atlanta where he was licensed and ordained under the tutelage of Dr. Martin Luther King Sr. and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. While serving as Assistant Minister at Ebenezer he offered the prayer at the funeral of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was the 2012 recipient of the Living the Dream Advocate for Peace Award from the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree at Morehouse College in 1967 and the Master of Divinity Degree from the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITS) in 1970 at the Atlanta University Complex, he served as special assistant to the President of ITC as Director of Public Relations and established the office of Alumni Affairs at ITC.

In June of 1972, Rev. English was called to pastor the First Baptist Church of Charleston, West Virginia. During his 21 year tenure, he led the church to become a Charter

Member of the Religious Coalition for Community Renewal (RCCR) which established low income housing in downtown Charleston. He initiated the Black Heritage Cultural Series as the first such project funded by the WV Arts and Humanities Council and the Division of Culture and History.

Rev. English worked for the WV Division of Corrections on the administrative team that opened the Mt. Olive Corrections Complex, the state's maximum security prison for adult offenders in Fayette County.

As a lifelong learner, Rev. English has done post graduate work in counseling at Marshall University Graduate College and has received counseling certification from the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center of Charleston. He has pursued specialized training in leadership studies from Princeton University (Princeton, NJ), the Center for Creative Leadership (Greensboro, NC) and the American Institute on Managing Diversity (Atlanta, GA). He was the Founder and Project Director for the 2007 King Day Conference on Managing Diversity which led to the Institute on Diversity Management in 2009.

He has lectured and written extensively on African-American history, particularly on the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. His international travels include sojourns to Europe, the Middle East, the Far East and he participated in a delegation of African American leaders invited by Bishop Desmond Tutu to South Africa on the release of Nelson Mandela.

Currently, Rev. English serves as Interim Minister at the Metropolitan Baptist Church of Charleston and as Adjunct Instructor in Leader Studies at Wheeling Jesuit University. His essays and editorials have been featured in local newspapers and other publications, particularly on the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr. He has also moderated and produced public affairs programs for commercial and public television.

Rev. English is the proud father of one son and two daughters and loving grandfather of four girls and one grandson.

14

Timothy L. Hairston

Tim Hairston was born in September, 1955 in Welch, WV and grew up in Twin Branch, WV. He attended Davy Elementary and Welch High School until 11th grade, and then attended Gary High School in Gary, WV. While at Gary High School, he was the manager and statistician on the 1973 "AA" State Basketball Champions.

He enrolled at West Virginia University in the fall of 1973 and followed a pre-med curriculum. After completing 101 hours, he left school and has been working steadily since. His work career included the Governor's Youth Work Program when he was still in high school, McDonald's during college, and Hills Department store. He also worked at The Sound Post Hi-Fi in Morgantown, Radio Shack in Morgantown, and then acquired his present job with Mon Power/First Energy, which he has been employed with for the last 26 years.

Hairston is also a third-degree black belt equivalent in Chinese Kempo and is also a member of the Appalachian American Indians of West Virginia (A.A.I.W.V.) since June 1998. He was also the first African American president of the Mon-Preston Labor Council, AFL-CIO. He completed the West Virginia University Institute of Labor Studies and Research (ILS&R) for year course plus a year as an intern and six years of refresher courses

starting in June 1991 and is an active member on the finance committee and citizen's liaison committee for the Mon-Preson United Way for the past sixteen years. Hairston is also a member of the Community Coalition for Social Justice (CCSJ) since 1999, where he was also president for five years and still an active member of the steering committee as well as a founding member of the Allegheny Energy Diversity Council for its four year existence and a Commissioner for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission since October 2006. Hairston has been married to Marcia for 35 years and they have two children, Clifton and Stephanie, and five grandchildren.

15

16

Robert L. Harrison, Jr. PH.D.

Dr. Robert L. Harrison, Jr. is the Dean of the College of Professional Studies and Professor of Education at West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia.

He is involved with the National Center for Human Relations where he chairs the Faith-Based Initiatives Committee.

He also serves on the Historic Preservation Committee.

When he was Education Chair from 2003-2007, he provided the leadership to have West Virginia State designated as a Reading First Teacher Education Network School by the US Office of Education.

The purpose of the Network was to increase reading achievement of minority and high poverty students in the public school system. There were 150 Historically Black, Tribal and Hispanic Institutions in the United States eligible for consideration for this designation, and only 38 institutions were selected.

Prior to joining the faculty at West Virginia State University in 2002, Dr. Harrison was employed for 12 years at the West Virginia Department of Education where he worked as an Executive Director of the Office of Curriculum and Instruction; a Director of the Office of Professional Development; a Coordinator of Reading and English Language Arts; and a Coordinator/Liaison to the 19 West Virginia Teacher Education Programs.

From 1968-1988, he was employed as a teacher at Bluefield High School and Central Junior High School where he taught English, Journalism, and Reading, In addition, he served as a newspaper, yearbook, student council and National Honor Society Adviser. For ten years he coordinated the Black History Month Activities for Bluefield High School. In 2011, he was inducted into the Bluefield High School Hall of Fame.

Dr. Harrison earned his Ph. D. in Educational Administration from The American University in Washington D.C in 1988 where he was a Bishop Hurst Promising Young Doctoral Student Fellowship Recipient.

Dr. Harrison was awarded the Certificate Excellence in College Teaching and was the first graduate teaching assistant at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg to receive this honor in the College of Education. He earned the Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies in 1975 from Virginia Tech. He earned the M. Ed. in Secondary Education at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio in 1972.

Dr. Harrison was Cum Laude Graduate of Bluefield State College in Bluefield, West Virginia. He was the first minority graduate of Bluefield State to be invited to give the Distinguished Alumnus Address during Homecoming in 1993.

Cheryl L. Henderson, Esq.

Cheryl L. Henderson is an attorney and lives in Huntington, West Virginia where she has practiced law in the firm Henderson, Henderson & Staples, L.C. since 1982.

After graduating from Huntington High School in 1973, Henderson received her B.A. in English from Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, and then her J.D. from West Virginia University College of Law in 1980. During her studies at West Virginia University School of Law, she spent the summer of 1978 at the Exeter College of Law in Exeter, England.

Henderson worked as a trademark attorney in the Trademark Office at the Department of Commerce in Washington D.C. for two years before returning home to West Virginia. She is a member of the West Virginia State Bar Association, American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Mountain State Bar Association, and was President of the Mountain State Bar Association from 1996-1998. She served as Treasurer of the Mountain State Bar Association from 1988-1994 and is currently serving as Treasurer again. From 1987-1988, she was Vice-President of the Cabell County Bar Association.

She served on the MCLE Commission from 1989-1992, on the State Bar Board of Governors from 1990-1994, and on the West Virginia Disciplinary Board from 1994-2000, and 2007-present. Henderson was a member of the West Virginia University Visiting Committee from 1996-2000. From 1997-1998, Henderson was a member of the Commission on Lawyer Specialization and Certification.

She served on the West Virginia Bar Foundation from 1997-2002 and was President from 2001-2002. Henderson is active as a volunteer in her community. She is a member of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church and was a member from 1996-1999 of the Race and Race Relations Committee of the United Methodist Church. She has served on the Ebenezer Medical Outreach Board for over 20 years. From 1998-2000, she was a member of the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers Network, Inc. Henderson was a mentor for the Cabell County Juvenile Probation Program from 1999-2001. She was a member of the Center for Independent Living Board of Directors from 1987-1990, Ebenezer Community Outreach Center Board of Directors from 1992-1994, St. Mary's Advisory Board for Women's Health 2008 to present, Team for West Virginia from 1995-1999, and WPBY Advisory Council from 1994-1998. Henderson was appointed to the West Virginia Board of Medicine as one of three lay members by former Governor Joe Manchin, III, in November, 2010.

17

The Honorable Tal Hutchins

The Honorable Tal Hutchins was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. He grew up in Bellaire, Ohio graduating from Bellaire High School. He is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a BFA degree and BA in Education.

He taught school for seven years in Wheeling, West Virginia, Ohio County, and was elected as the president of the Ohio County Teachers Association; later becoming an education consultant for the West Virginia Education Association, and is recently retired as a labor relations consultant for the Ohio Education Association with offices in Columbus, Ohio.

His community service includes membership in the Wheeling Lions Club, and a former member of the Wheeling Kiwanis Club. He has volunteered for Habitat for Humanity, Easter Seals, and the American Cancer Society's Walk-for-Life Campaigns. Previous Board memberships include the Wheeling Human Rights Commission, Northwood Behavioral Health

System, and the Upper Ohio Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Former Delegate Hutchins has been a lifelong member of the NAACP. He has been active in the advancement and recognition of minorities on the national level through his involvement with the American Red Cross organization.

Hutchins served as a member of the National Diversity Advisory Council NDAC of the American Red Cross from 2008 - 2012. The purpose of the Red Cross Diversity Board is to increase participation of minorities and persons of color at all levels of the organization. He was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates 3rd District, Ohio County, in 1994 and served three (3) consecutive terms from 1994 – 2000. He was re-elected to the House in 2006 and 2008 for a 4th and 5th term to the House of Delegates.

As a member of the House of Delegates, Delegate Hutchins has served as vice chair of the Health and Human Services Committee 1996 - 2000 and also served as vice chair of the Constitutional Revision Committee 2006 - 2010. He also served as a member of the House Judiciary, Banking and Insurance Committees and the Committee on Homeland Security and Veterans Affairs.

Hutchins has worked to provide insurance for poverty-stricken children and for the protection of senior citizens in nursing homes. He successfully co-sponsored and passed a bill to provide free transportation for aging veterans to VA hospitals in West Virginia, Pennsylvania and Ohio .

Delegate Hutchins is married to Carmen (Bass) Hutchins of Wheeling for 40 years, They have two daughters, Caressa Hutchins of Columbus, Ohio, Melanie Hutchins of Dallas, Texas and three wonderful grandchildren.

18

Christopher D. Jackson

19

Christopher D. Jackson was born July 29, 1978 in Charleston, West Virginia. He attended West Virginia State College from 1996 to 2001, and received a Bachelor of Science in Communications.

Jackson was the Student Government Association Vice President from 2000-2001; the Mr. WVSC 1999-2000; a Member of the Student Leadership Program; Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities; a member of WVSC Ambassador's Club 1996-2001; a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Theta Psi Chapter. Jackson was the Gore Hall Residence Director upon graduation in 2001, and this job provided him the opportunity to mentor other young males. While a Residence Director, he educated students about time management and participated in community service projects. The passion he developed for public service during his time as a Residence Director led him to enroll in a Master's Program. Jackson attended Marshall University's Graduate School from 2002 to 2005 and received a Master of Science in Adult and Technical Education.

During his tenure as a recruiter at West Virginia State University (WVSU), he took advantage of the opportunity to speak to college-bound students about the importance of continuing their education beyond high school; specifically in cities like Baltimore, Washington D.C., and Atlanta, students found his pep talks inspirational.

Jackson was the Director of Extended Studies/Personal Assistant to the Executive Assistant of the University President, West Virginia State University Department of the President's Office from October 2005 to November 2009 WVSU; the Interim Director of Recruitment from 2009 to 2012; the WVSU Program Coordinator; the WVSU Student Union from 2013 to the present; a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.; a Xi Alpha Graduate Chapter from 2001 to the Present; a Keeper of Finance Secretary from 2010 to 2013; a mentor at Glenwood Elementary and Dunbar Intermediate Schools; and other various community service projects. He is currently the Program Coordinator for the Student Services Department at West Virginia State University.

Jackson is currently applying to various universities to begin his quest for a doctoral degree. He is a true proponent of the belief that everyone should do all they can to perfect their craft. He enjoys working with students at WVSU where he is able to continue to engage and mentor other young adults as was done for him. He dedicates his professional life to helping others in any way he can.

Reverend Dr. SkylEr K. Kershner

Rev. Dr. Sky Kershner is the Executive Director of the Kanawha Pastoral Counseling Center in Charleston, West Virginia, and has been with the Center since 1989. He is a Diplomat in the American Association of Pastoral Counseling, a Nationally Approved Supervisor for the American Association of Marital and Family Therapy, and is adjunct clinical faculty at WVU School of Medicine, Department of Behavioral Medicine.

Rev. Kershner holds a Bachelor Degree from Dickinson College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania (1978), a Masters of Divinity from Drew University in Madison New Jersey (1981), a Master of Social Work from Yeshiva University in New York City (1990), and a Doctorate in Ministry from Andover-Newton Theological School in Newton Center, Massachusetts (1988).

Ordained to ministry by the United Methodist Church in 1981, Rev. Dr. Kershner serves as the Pastoral Leader at Unity of Kanawha Valley Church on Bridge Road. He also coordinates the meetings of the Charleston Area Religious Leaders / Interfaith Clergy Association (CARLA). Rev. Dr. Kershner is on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Charleston and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

He received his clinical training in two three-year post-graduate residencies in New York City: one at the Blanton-Peale Institute of Religion and Health (1987), the other at Ackerman

Family Institute (1990). Kershner has training as an Outward Bound wilderness instructor, has been certified by the Samaritan Institute in coaching, using the Appreciative Inquiry model, and is an approved trainer for the International Critical Incident Stress Foundation.

Rev. Kershner is probably best known in the Charleston area for his work as a pastoral counselor and therapist, for his teaching and many presentations and workshops to professional and community groups, for his work on Interfaith initiatives, his care of miners after industrial disasters, and his trainings using Nonviolent Communication and Appreciative Inquiry.

Rev. Dr. Kershner appeared on the Discovery Studios show "Hoarders," showing his therapeutic work with a West Virginia family.

Passionate in his life work to help people have better relationships with themselves and

with others, Rev. Dr. Kershner sees understanding and acceptance as core values of his ministry.

Rev. Dr. Kershner was born in Washington DC, and grew up in Pennsylvania. He has lived in Thailand, Germany, Maine, New Jersey, and New York City before settling in West Virginia. Rev. Dr. Kershner lives in Charleston with his wife, Maria Leon Kershner, a native of Costa Rica, and their two children, David and Maria Celeste.

20

Reverend William Howard Law *
Posthumously

21

Rev. William Howard Law, was born October 15, 1909, in Eldridge, West Virginia. Law and his parents moved to Beckley from McDowell County in 1921. In Beckley, he earned the distinction of being a member of the first graduating class of Stratton High School, Beckley, West Virginia in 1926. Pursuing a family-instilled love of knowledge, Rev. Law continued his higher education at West Virginia State College where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education in 1931.

Rev. Law began his life of service by becoming an educator. As an educator, he held positions in Greenbrier, McDowell, and Raleigh counties, as well as in Baltimore, Maryland, where he taught French and German at Douglass High School. During the Korean Conflict, Rev. Law was a welding instructor for the United States Army at the Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland. Rev. Law witnessed first-hand the impact of *Brown v. Board of Education*. At an early age, he manifested his commitment to his fellow man through his selfless desire to help others. Rev. Law was a founding member of the Raleigh County Branch of the *National Association for the Advancement of Colored People*, established in 1938. During the early 1960's, Rev. Law noticed that many individuals within the black community had physical challenges. Because of this, he set out to remedy this problem by establishing Handicapped

and Technical Industries, a non-profit business. Through Handicapped and Technical Industries, many persons with physical challenges received opportunities to make a living and have self worth. Rev. Law established a school for adults teaching typing and shorthand skills for those who had to choose between food for their family or an education. He helped adults earn their General Equivalency Diploma.

In 1991, one of his passions and greatest accomplishments was spear heading a successful mission along with collaboration efforts of individuals and community organizations from Beckley and surrounding areas to restore the historic Hunter Cemetery in Beckley, West Virginia. Law was a tireless proponent and often used his own finances to assist with the restoration. Rev. Law was asked why he took so much time and effort to restore the cemetery and was quoted as saying he believed he felt as though those who were buried there deserved to have a resting place that exemplified their heritage. Rev. Law helped achieve the goal to carefully preserve the resting place of Beckley's African American pioneers. Rev. Law was also able to demonstrate his desire to give and help others. Rev. Law was the founder of the Beckley World Mission, a nonprofit organization that collected and distributed food and

clothing to the less fortunate. Rev. Law believed that God asks us “to look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.” Over a span of many years, his desire was accomplished by distributing hundreds of pounds of clothes and food, not only to less fortunate people within the hills of West Virginia, but transported those items to Africa.

Rev. Law reached out to encourage and comfort others. He was remembered by the son of a lifelong friend in “Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2” speaking words of comfort and encouragement. Rev. Law, who died in 2007 at the age of 97, often reminded his children and close friends “it is not how long you live, but how well you live.”

National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia

22

The National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia (NFBWV) is the Organized Blind of the Mountain State. It is West Virginia's state affiliate of the National Federation of the Blind, the oldest and largest organization of the Blind in America. Founded in 1940, the Federation has grown to include over 50,000 members.

The NFBWV began in 1954 and has local chapters in Bluefield, Charleston, Clarksburg, Huntington, and Wheeling. Persons who do not live near these locations may join as members at large.

The purpose of the NFBWV is the complete integration of the blind into society on a basis of equality. This objective involves the removal of legal, economic, and social discriminations; the education of the public to new concepts concerning blindness; and the achievement by all blind people of the right to exercise to the fullest their individual talents and capacities. That means the right of the blind to work along with their sighted neighbors in the professions, common callings, skilled trades, and regular occupations. Federationists understand that "The real problem of blindness is not the loss of eyesight. The real problem is the misunderstanding and lack of information which exist. If a blind person has proper training and opportunity, blindness is only a physical nuisance."

The NFBWV is a consumer organization of blind people working to improve opportunities for blind West Virginians and to improve the understanding of blindness by the general public. The NFBWV serves as a vehicle for collective self-expression by the blind of West Virginia. Members of the NFBWV are involved in many programs and activities aimed at changing what it means to be blind. Through a variety of outreach efforts, the NFBWV is committed to changing public attitudes and understandings about blindness. These efforts include presentations to schools, civic organizations, and other groups; distribution of literature and videos; a presence on the Worldwide Web; and relevant stories in the news media.

Members of the NFBWV work to support legislation in both the U.S. Congress and the State Legislature. These legislative initiatives are intended to promote educational, social, and economic opportunities for blind persons as well as to remove barriers of discrimination. It is important to note that the NFBWV was instrumental in working with the Legislature in the early 1970's to amend the West Virginia Human Rights Act to extend protection to blind West Virginians. Two Federation members, Sid Allen and Victor Gonzalez, have also served as former Commissioners for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission.

A committee of the NFBWV meets regularly with representatives of state agencies that provide services to blind West Virginians in such areas as education, rehabilitation, library services, advocacy, and human rights. These meetings give blind persons an opportunity for effective consumer input into the quality and delivery of services which affect their lives . One of the NFBWV programs "NFB Newslines" provides registered blind individuals with free access to more than 300 daily newspapers--including 12 West Virginia dailies--through the use of a touchtone telephone, available to persons within the state by contacting the WV Library Commission.

Curtis E. Price

For 20 years, Curtis Price hopped around the country as he climbed the ladder with the Job Corps. Assignments took him to Cincinnati, Utah, Maine, Washington, D.C., Texas, Massachusetts, and New York.

At one point, as a Technical Officer based with the corporate office in Texas, he spent 80 percent of his time on the road. He loved his work and jumped at every opportunity to advance. But he never forgot his roots.

In 1986, after seven years in then Governor Jay Rockefeller's office as Equal Employment Opportunity Director, he signed on at the downtown Job Corps Center as a jobs finder for graduating students. Job Corps leaders then included such iconic community figures as Cookie Glasser, Bob Easley and James Parker. He quickly established

a rapport with the at-risk students. Promoted to the center in Cincinnati where he headed the discipline program, he dealt with students from Detroit and Chicago and learned more about the special difficulties of street kids.

Wherever he went, he indulged his passions for basketball and music. As a center director in Washington, he played basketball with the students two nights a week. Advancing to the corporate office in Utah, he joined a group that recorded an instrumental gospel CD. During the Olympics, they played for groups in the Olympic Village and for visiting corporations. He was best known, however, for his prowess on the basketball court. He grew up playing sports, first at Washington Manor and later on Bullitt Street. His father, a maintenance worker, introduced him to baseball and taught him about the importance of teamwork, a concept that paid dividends throughout his Job Corps career. He starred on the legendary 1968 team at Charleston High School. Under Coach Lou Romano, the undefeated team won the state championship. His team at Thomas Jefferson Junior High also went undefeated.

Despite a shattered knee suffered during his senior year in high school, he excelled in basketball at WVU and earned a B.S. degree in Secondary Education and Social Studies. He landed a coaching job at West Virginia State College. At 21, he was the nation's youngest head basketball coach and went on to earn the conference coach of the year title. After five years at State, he accepted the position with Rockefeller's affirmative action program. Seven years later, he found his career home with the Job Corps. Operated for the U.S. Department of Labor by Horizons Youth Services, the Job Corps here accepts students from Washington, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Virginia and West Virginia. The program offers free schooling, including technical training, for young people from 16 to 24. Primary goals are to improve the performance of the local center, known early on for its high graduation and placement rates,

and to improve communication between staff members and students.

23

The honorable Marie E. Redd

The Honorable Marie E. Redd is a native of Huntington, West Virginia. She is a graduate of Marshall University and holds a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice.

Senator Redd, in 1998 was elected to the West Virginia State Senate. Senator Redd has the distinction of being the first African American to serve in the Senate and the first woman senator ever elected from Cabell County. She was the Vice-chair of Transportation and sat on the Judiciary, Small Business, Government Organization, Health and Human Resources, and Education Committees.

In 2000 she co-chaired the Subcommittee B on Child Settlement Rights, As Is Vehicles, Police Review Boards, Stalking, and Victims' Rights. As Senator, she took pride in representing "all of the citizens of Cabell and Wayne Counties" and invited all constituents to the Capitol during the legislative session.

Former Senator Redd was employed by IBM Corporation for 18 years and was an instructor for five years in the Criminal Justice Department at Marshall University. She has served her community well as past President of the Huntington Chapter of Links, Incorporated; past member of the YMCA C.D. Lauer Board of Directors; member, First Baptist Church; member, First Baptist Church Board of Trustees and past President of the First Baptist Church Women's Organization; President, Beta Tau Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, Huntington, WV; past member of the Huntington Foundation; member, Federation of Democratic Women; member, Cabell County Democratic Women's Club; member, American Criminal Justice Association and American Corrections Association; member, Board of Directors TEAM for West Virginia Children, Inc.; and President, Board of Directors First Baptist Church Housing Association.

Her numerous awards include: 2000 Marshall University Criminal Justice Alumni of the Year; 69th Great Lakes Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Community Service Award; 1999 Huntington Chapter of Links, Incorporated High Achievement Award; Member of the Year Award 2000 Black Alumni, Inc. Outstanding Service and Founder's Award; 1998-99 Marshall University Board of Director's Award; voted 100 Most Influential Person of the Century, Herald Dispatch, Golden Girl's Award, Stepping Stone's Award, 2012 Hova Underwood Children's Home Society Award.

Senator Redd is married to Attorney William L. Redd, her husband of 40 years and a Marshall University graduate, and who is a Social Security Advocate in The Redd Law Firm. They are the proud parents of two young adult children, LeMarquis A. Redd (Kateeda) and D'Ann M. Roach (Dwight) and grandparents of four grandchildren.

24

Major General (ret.) Allen E. Tackett

Major General Allen E. Tackett began his military career in the West Virginia Army National Guard as a Private with the 16th Special Forces Group on 20 January 1963. He went on to attend Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning,

Georgia where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, Infantry on 27 June 1967. Major General Tackett served with the 16th Special Forces Group and the 2nd Battalion 19th Special Forces Group for 25 years culminating with a tour as the Battalion Commander from 1 August 1985 through 1 October 1988. After 25 years with the Special Forces Battalion, he was assigned to the West Virginia State Area Command in several different positions of importance. While serving as the Maintenance Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics, he was promoted to the grade of Colonel on 1 May 1989. He then served as the Deputy Chief of Staff and Chief of Staff. On 1 August 1994, Major General Tackett was assigned as the Special Assistant to the Adjutant General, then on 16 January 1995 he was assigned as the Assistant Adjutant General of the West Virginia Army National Guard.

Effective 11 September 1995, General Tackett was appointed as The Adjutant General for the West Virginia National Guard by Governor Gaston Caperton. On 9 October 1996, Governor Caperton promoted him to Major General. In 1997, he was reappointed by Governor Cecil H. Underwood, in November 2000. Governor elect Bob Wise reappointed him, and in November 2004, Governor elect Joe Manchin reappointed him. Major General Tackett retired on 31 January 2010. Major General Tackett has received numerous decorations and awards such as: Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal with Oak leaf Cluster; Army Commendation Medal with Oak leaf Cluster; Army Achievement Medal; National Defense Medal; Army Reserve Component Achievement Medal (Fifth Award); Humanitarian Service Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal (Third Award); Army Reserve Component Overseas Training Ribbon; Army Service Ribbon; Special Forces Tab; Master Parachutist Badge; West Virginia Distinguished Service Award; West Virginia Service Medal with six devices and West Virginia Emergency Service Medal. Major General Tackett was named the Outstanding Officer of the West Virginia National Guard for 1988; in April of 1989 he was elected President of the National Guard Officers Association of West Virginia for 1991; and 24 May 1991, he was named to the Fort Benning Officer Candidate School Hall of Fame. Major General Tackett was educated at the Special Warfare Center, Jumpmaster Course; 1967 Infantry Officer Candidate School; 1967 Infantry Officer Basic Course; 1968 Infantry Officer Advanced Course; 1978 Command and General Staff College; 1982 Special Warfare Center; and 1984 Techniques of Special Operations. Major General Tackett is affiliated with NGAWV, NGAUS.

He graduated in 1962 from East Bank High School and the University of Charleston in 1985 with his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Management. Major General Tackett was born in Baltimore, Maryland, 22 November 1944. His wife, Sallie Pat, is a retired teacher from the Kanawha County School System. He has one daughter, Lisa, who is an attorney and one son, Allen, presently serving as a Captain in the West Virginia Air National Guard.

25

First Lady Joanne Jaeger Tomblin

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin was born in New York City, New York and educated in the Long Island public school system. She went on to attend the University of Hartford, Connecticut, majoring in science for two years. During her third year, she

decided to take an elective course in communications that would ultimately change the course of her life.

Upon the recommendation of her father, John Jaeger, who had visited West Virginia several times while on business with American Electric Power, she transferred to Marshall University to study journalism. She excelled in her newly chosen field and her efforts paid off when she, as a Senior, was named Marshall University's Broadcast Journalism Student of the Year. Her assignment of covering the Legislative session at the State Capitol was one that introduced her to a young freshman legislator, Earl Ray Tomblin. First Lady Tomblin holds a B.A. and M.A. in Journalism from Marshall University and an Honorary Doctorate in Human Letters from Marshall University.

Joanne Jaeger Tomblin became the First Lady of the State of West Virginia on November 15, 2010. As First Lady, she promotes education at all levels, as well as the importance of college completion for our state and nation. Serving as President of Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College since 1999, she is very passionate about developing and encouraging leadership that benefits our State. She is an advocate for community colleges and their unique mission which she continually promotes throughout West Virginia and the nation. In her 30 years of service to the College she has served 13 years as President, making her the second highest ranking president in years of service in West Virginia. Throughout her years of service at the college, she has been successful in fostering cooperative relationships and partnerships between business and industry groups, government officials and boards of education. Under her leadership as President, Southern West Virginia Community and Technical College has attained the maximum ten years accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools; and most recently, in October 2011, Southern was ranked as the 14th best community college in the nation by Washington Monthly.

The First Lady is not only passionate about education; she is also an advocate for the military and volunteerism. She has created and encouraged support of the West Virginia military and their families through her statewide initiative, "Serve West Virginia Military: Serving Those Who Serve Us," that encourages individuals and community groups to find ways to give back to the military personnel and families of the mountain state. In addition, she is also an advocate for tourism and the arts. During her time as First Lady, she has been instrumental in developing and showcasing our many artisans around the state and has even commissioned a West Virginia native to design the official Governor's Mansion ornament each holiday season. She is involved in many state, local and regional committees and organizations including The Education Alliance Board of Directors and Executive Committee. She currently serves as Chair of the Logan Regional Medical Center Board and Co-Chair of the West Virginia College Completion Task Force. She is an active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Logan and a devoted participant in the Chancel Choir. She has been married to Governor Earl Ray Tomblin for 32 years. They have one son, Brent, who graduated from Marshall University, in Health Care Management, December 2012.

26

Frank Veltri *

Posthumously

Frank Veltri was described as a Humanitarian who cared for Charleston's "little people" for nearly half a century.

Charleston lawyer Tim Barber called him, "... the living example of pure, unadulterated selflessness."

Veltri was born the second of ten children. He was an

uneducated man due to an impairment which prevented him from learning to read or write, but he was able to make a living as a real estate and business owner. He was an Army Veteran, serving in World War II. After the War, he opened poolrooms and clubs in Charleston.

Veltri also purchased several properties, including the Worthy Hotel and the Holley Hotel, both of which stood on Quarrier Street. He offered rooms to those with little to no income, and only expected them to pay rent if they were able to afford it.

In 1966, Veltri realized that many of his tenants had nowhere to go for Thanksgiving dinner. He decided to cook a feast for them. This custom grew year by year, until his annual Thanksgiving event was a Charleston tradition.

After being diagnosed with cancer, Veltri established an endowment with the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation to continue paying for the annual Thanksgiving dinner after his death.

Through dedicated volunteers and donations, the Frank Veltri Annual Thanksgiving Dinner lives on today. Volunteers package over 1,600 dinners to deliver to shut-ins, and serve hundreds more at an area church. Many volunteers feel helping provide to those in need is not only a gift to those they serve, but a gift to themselves as well.

While the Veltri Dinner emphasizes a true need in Charleston – as evidenced by the almost two thousand people the meal helps every year – it also illustrates the benevolent spirit of many who are intent on giving. Candi Romero, Veltri's daughter, stated "The Thanksgiving dinner symbolizes what he did throughout the year. It is one day to bring what he believed in together. He was always helping anyone and everyone."

Veltri lost a five-year battle with prostate cancer on August 27, 2001.

27

Reverend Matthew J. Watts

28

Rev. Matthew J. Watts is the Senior Pastor of the Grace Bible Church of Charleston, West Virginia, where he has served for over 17 years. He has been a pastor for more than 26 years serving in several churches. He was formerly employed by Union Carbide Corporation for 18 years as an engineer and purchasing manager for Union Carbide's Kanawha Valley Locations. He left Union Carbide Corporation in December of 1996 to pursue his ministry and community service projects. In January of 1997, he established the HOPE Community Development Corporation, a non-profit organization with the mission of empowering the inner city through spiritual renewal, education, employment and training and economic development.

Rev. Watts is a native of Mount Hope, West Virginia and was educated in the public school system there. He is a 1977 graduate of West Virginia Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. His Theological study includes the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, Illinois, as well as special training focusing on developing the black family through the Christian Research and Development Center in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Reverend's 20-year career in Corporate America has enabled him to develop a keen business mind and he understands the importance of economic development to the empowerment of the African American Community. He developed Kingdom Management Consultants as a vehicle

to assist minority owned business in their start-up and expansion plan, as well as to assist individuals in obtaining employment. He provided consultation to the One Valley Bank and the Charleston Black Ministerial Alliance in the development, implementation and marketing of the "Covenant Program". From 1993 to 1997 he served as President and CEO of Kingdom Broadcasting Corporation, which operated 1490 AM WCZR Radio, he still hosts a weekly call in radio program. Rev. Watts is recognized as a community leader and has earned this distinction through his active community involvement. Much of his community service is now done under the umbrella of the HOPE Community Development Corporation. One of his passions is working with youth. He has developed a model entitled HOPE Youth Development Movement. His staff shares this model each week at select public schools in the Kanawha County. Over 500 youth participate in the HOPE Youth Development Movement. He has also developed two models for juvenile offenders entitled "Prevention, Intervention and Diversion for Juveniles" and "After-Care and Transitioning for Juveniles". Rev. Watts views his community service as an extension of his ministry that helps him to keep his ministry focused and relevant as well as sensitive to the felt needs of the community. He serves as a mentor for young men and dedicates his time to service on several boards such as the Clay Center for the Arts, Governor's Workforce Investment Council, Governor's Commission on Prison Over-crowding, John & Vera Mae Perkins Foundation, Jackson, MS; Christian Community Development Association, Chicago, IL and the friend and confidant to many. He is also privileged to serve as the friend and confidant to many.

Rev. Watts has received local, state and national attention for his work. He was a 1996 recipient of the West Virginia Small Business Administration's "Small Business Advocate of the Year Award" for his work on the "Covenant Program". In 2002 Rev. Watts received the Washington Times Foundation Leadership Award for Faith Based Organization of the Year in West Virginia. He was also the 2004 recipient of the Crown of Peace Award for Exemplary Leadership in Reconciliation and Peacemaking from the Inter-religious and International Peace Council.

Dr. Rozelle Jenee Walker

In 1974, Dr. R. Jenee Walker graduated from Lynwood Academy, in Lynwood, California as class valedictorian. She then went on to earn her B.S. Degree in 1978, majoring in Biology with honors from Loma Linda University and minoring in Family Studies, Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, California.

Dr. Walker received her Medical Degree in 1984 at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, Tennessee.

She also graduated from West Virginia University School of Medicine, Morgantown, West Virginia. She completed her residency in Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine at Charleston Area Medical Center, in Charleston, West Virginia in 1987.

Walker received her Fellowship in 1987 through 1989 in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the Charleston Area Medical Center.

She became Board Certified through the American Academy of Psychiatry and Neurology in 1989 and the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry in 1993.

From 1989 to 2000, Dr. Walker worked at the Shawnee Hills Mental Health Center, as a Staff Psychiatrist in Charleston, West Virginia; and then from 2000 to the present at the Charleston Area Medical Center's Family Resource Center as a Staff Psychiatrist.

Dr. Walker has appointments with the Clinical Faculty, West Virginia University School of Medicine from 2000 to the Present and is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at the

WVU Dept. of Behavioral Medicine & Psychiatry from 2000 to the present. She has memberships with the following organizations: American Psychiatric Association; the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry; and the American Medical Association.

Walker's Presentations of Distinction are: African American Women on Tours, Atlanta, Georgia 2000; African American Women on Tour, Los Angeles, California 2001; and African American Women on Tour., Los Angeles, California 2003.

Dr. Walker has published "*Chicken Soup for the African American Soul.*" She has received the Alpha Omega Alpha - Woman of Distinction Award in 2004 and the West Virginia Minority Business Association - West Virginia Entrepreneur of the Year Award in 2005.

R. Jenee Walker, M.D. was born in 1956 in Compton California. She is married to Robert L. Walker, Jr., M.D., an anesthesiologist, and they have three adult children.

29

Chief Brent L. Webster

Chief Brent Webster was hired by the City of Charleston Police Department in November, 1994 and attended the Charleston Regional Police Academy #5. He was appointed to the position of Police Chief in January, 2005. During his tenure on the police department, Chief Webster has served as a patrol officer, bike unit member, and investigator in the Criminal Investigation Division. Supervisory assignments include Patrol District Sergeant, Juvenile Division Commander, Assistant Chief of Detectives, and the Chief of Detectives for the Criminal Investigation Division. He currently holds the civil service rank of Captain.

Webster is a graduate of West Virginia University and holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in Sociology. He also attended the Maryland Institute of Criminal Justice Polygraph Examiner's Course and is a certified polygraphist.

Early on in Chief Webster's tenure as Chief, he realized and visualized that the direction of the department needed to focus on improving three key areas of customer service. Those key areas were: proactive law enforcement strategies, community policing, and education. The success of each of those key areas depended mightily on the use of diversity management. To Chief Webster, that simply meant that he needed to understand a much different perspective as possible to develop and implement the most impactful strategies for safety and community relations.

During his career, Webster has initiated many strategies that have proven most affective for the citizens of Charleston. Among these initiatives are Project Gun Safe (a comprehensive gun safety initiative in which \$25,000 was donated to midget league sports in the Charleston area in exchange for the opportunity to teach conflict resolution to many of our youth), development

of a Police/Community Coalition for direct and frank communications with community leaders, and implementation of a new Incident Response Continuum for more efficient responses to criminal incidents.

Chief Webster has also developed a new Community Service Division; mandated

walking patrols to garner better police/community relations; developed a minority recruiting committee to recruit highly interested and qualified minority applicants; host an annual Celebration of Black History Ceremony to recognize and honor those who serve; and he makes available many training opportunities for the police and community leaders.

Webster always makes himself available to everyone. At the end of the day, when contemplating whether to initiate a strategy for safety or positive police/community relations, Chief Webster can frequently be heard saying, “It’s the right thing to do.” At the Charleston Police Department, being fair is a requirement, not a preference, thanks to the leadership of Chief Webster.

Chief Brent Webster resides in Charleston, West Virginia with his wife and two sons.

30

The honorable Patricia H. White

31

The Honorable Patricia H. White has been a tireless and committed advocate for the impoverished and uninsured for most of her professional career. In addition to her executive leadership and guidance of West Virginia Health Right, she is a past president of the National Association of Free Clinics and currently serves as Treasurer of NAFC. She served in the West Virginia House of Delegates for ten years and promoted legislation to improve health care for the uninsured, serving on many committees. Additionally, she was Director of West Virginia Health Systems’ Regionalization project, a Planning Director for the Regional Intergovernmental Council, and a high school math teacher. She received her Masters of Public Administration and Public Health in 1973 at WVU/Marshall University in South Charleston; 35 hours on Master of Social Work 1970-71 at West Virginia University in Morgantown; and a BS in Mathematics 1970 at the University of Charleston, West Virginia.

From 1983 to the present, White has been the CEO of West Virginia Health Right in Charleston, West Virginia—a community based primary care clinic providing free medical care to over 22,000 uninsured indigent patients with clinic visits exceeding 90,000/year. White supervises/manages a paid staff of 42 and 500+ volunteers including physicians, dentists, nurses, pharmacists, medical technicians and office personnel. White designed an extensive patient database to track financial and medical status of patients that now serves as the national model for free clinics. She designed and implemented a directory and Instructional guide of all indigent patient assistance drug programs. White collaborated with the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, AmeriCares and Aidmatrix to have this vital resource for obtaining free drugs available to physicians, medical facilities, and patients on the World Wide Web. White communicates and collaborates with the medical community, legislators and national drug companies to assure continued community support and availability of medications for indigent patients. White solicits large donations to aid in fund-raising for the expansion of services. West Virginia Health Right is the second Free Clinic in the country and was the first in West Virginia to receive recognition as a patient Centered Medical Home from the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA). White established the WVRx, a statewide charitable pharmacy for the uninsured working poor, in 2008, which is now

providing medical home referral and medications to over 50,000 individuals, and medications valued at over \$100 million. In 2010, she provided oversight of the development of software, called 'iHOPE', to streamline free drug manufacturer programs for the uninsured. WV Health Right which is the largest clinical provider for Breast and Cervical Cancer, screens over 10,000 uninsured women annually; and provides diagnostic, educational, treatment and follow-up medical care. White serves on Board of Directors of the National Association of Free Clinics: 2001 – present, Officer of NAFC Board of Directors, 2007-2010: Treasurer; President: 2005 & 06, Vice-President: 2002-04. White successfully completed a three year grant from the National Institutes of Health, NHLBI, from 2001 to 2004. It was the first NIH grant awarded to a free clinic in US and studied Cardiovascular Disease of the uninsured poor in rural West Virginia; one of six projects nationally.

32

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
PAUL R. SHERIDAN, ESQ.
FORMER DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL
CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE
ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE**

Special recognition is given to Paul R. Sheridan the former Deputy Attorney General for Civil Rights Division of the West Virginia Attorney General's office. Deputy Attorney General Sheridan worked for the Division from 1990 to 2013, with more than 22 years of faithful service dutifully enforcing state civil rights laws, representing the West Virginia Human Rights Commission in cases of discrimination in employment, housing, and places of public accommodations. He appeared regularly before the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, the state circuit courts, and the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals.

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD
G. MICHAEL PAYTON, ESQ.
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION**

Special recognition is given to G. Michael Payton the Executive Director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) for his faithful support of the West Virginia Governor's Civil Rights Day since 2005. Not only has he and his staff faithfully supported West Virginia in recognizing Civil Rights honorees, but he had a significant part in bringing about the Ohio Civil Rights Day to honor those unsung heroes of the Civil Rights Movement in the State of Ohio. This year the Ohio Civil Rights Commission celebrates its 5th Civil Rights Day.

Attorney Payton oversees and directs nearly 100 employees statewide in the agency's Central Office and six regional offices located in Akron, Cincinnati, Cleveland, Columbus, Dayton and Toledo. The OCRC is a state agency that investigates and enforces Ohio Civil Rights Act prohibitions against discrimination in employment, public accommodations and housing, and other

areas while providing comprehensive education and outreach to organizations throughout Ohio. Payton previously served as Chief Legal Counsel and Director of Regional Operations for the Commission from 1997 to 2000. He served as an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio from 1984 to 1995. During his tenure as an Assistant Attorney General, he also served as Counsel to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. In addition, he served as Assistant Chief of the Attorney General's Transportation Section. Attorney Payton received a B.A. from The Ohio State University, and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, in 1983.

Past Honorees

2012

**Robert S. Baker, Esq. The Honorable Bonnie Brown
Marion J. Capehart * Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
Earl Eugene "Gene" Corum * Rev. Dr. Darrell Cummings
Elmer H. Day, Jr. James Lonnie Hagood *
Lt. Col. Kenneth Hale Richard J. "Dick" Henderson *
Allan N. Karlin, Esq. Rev. Jim Lewis
The Honorable Darrell W. McGraw Jane Moran, Esq.
Charles G. Peters, Jr. Paul R. Sheridan, Esq.
Jean E. Simpson Randall Reid Smith
Richard F. "Dick" Smith Carolyn Elizabeth Smoot *
Dallas S. Staples Dwight J. Staples, Esq.
Gail Henderson-Staples, Esq. Milford Ziegler**

2010

Mary Frances Brammer Reverend Beatrice Ruth Burgess*
Helen Sutton Dobson* Patrolman Robert Edward Easley, Sr.*
Lieutenant Sidney Edward Frye The Hon. Joseph Robert Goodwin
James A. Haught Councilman James C. Hunt
Jada C. Hunter Odith P. Jakes*
Dr. Margaret Anne Cyrus Mills* Brown Hugo Payne, Esquire*
Dr. Minu Sabet First Sergeant James C. Spriggs, Jr.*
Catherine Dooley Taylor

2009

**William Anderson Margaret Taylor
Raymond Hammarth Wendy Thomas
Lenora E. Harmon* Russell Van Cleve*
Gregory T. Hinton, J.D. Winifred W. White
Bernice Johnson Brian Williams*
James C. Karantonis Claude Williams
Mae Stallard Thomas Zerbe, J.D.
David Stewart**

2008

**The Seventeen Black Railroad Yardmen Charles Howell James, II*
C. O. Baumgardner The Hon. A. Andrew MacQueen, III
Thomas H. Mack Attorney James E. Parker
Rabbi Helen Bar-Yaacov Richard H. Payne
William Anthony "Tony" Brown Benjamin Clyde Perkins, Jr.***

**The Charleston Women's Improvement The Silver Leaf Club
League, Inc. The West Virginia Tuskegee Airmen
James A. Griffin Quewanncii "Que" C. Stephens, Sr.
James Arthur Jackson* The Hon. Justice Margaret L. Workman
Gertrude Diana Campbell Jackson* Eugene K. Young
2007**

**Dr. Charles R. Byrd* Mary Willene Hairston Moore
Anna Evans Gilmer Robert L. "Bob" Morris*
The Hon. Mike Kelly Dr. Taylor J. Perry, Jr.
Rashida Khakoo, M.D. Joseph Cromwell Peters*
John E. Lynch, Jr.* Bishop Donald L. Pitts
The Hon. Charlene Marshall Martha "Sweet Pea" Dunlap Sanders*
James B. "Jim" McIntyre, Esq.* Carter Zerbe, Esq.**

33

***honored posthumously**

2006

**Carole "Cookie" Glasser The Rev. Dr. David A. Kates*
Kent S. Hall J. Franklin Long, Esq.
Della Louise Brown Taylor Hardman, Ph.D.* Anna L. McCright
Ken Hechler, Ph.D. Edward L. Peeks
Mildred Ruth T. Holt The Hon. Larry V. Starcher
Mentola Joyce Jackson Clarence Wanzer
The Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Jarvis, D. Min.**

2005

**Willard L. Brown, Esq.* The Hon. A. James Manchin*
The Hon. Herman G. Canady, Jr. Dr. Virgil E. Matthews
Harry Jheopart Capehart, Esq.* Blanche Wade
Elizabeth E. Chilton Thomas G. Nutter, Esq.*
William E. "Ned" Chilton* The Rev. Dr. David Louise Smith*
Gustavus Werber Cleckley* Dr. John Warner, Jr.
Savannah R. Evans Richard G. Walker
Faith Holsaert William L. Williams, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. Idus Jones, Jr. The Rev. Dr. F. Emerson Wood
Cora Francis Coleman Jones**

2004

**Dr. Elayne Croxier Abnathy Rev. Newsome*
Dr. Mildred Mitchell Bateman Josephine Rayford
Hollie James Brown Lucile Meadows*
Madrith Chamber Dr. Sophia Peterson*
Rev. David C. Chappell* Lucille Pianfetti
Sgt. Edward Clark, Jr. (Ret.) Charles E. Price*
Rabbi Samuel Cooper George Rutherford
Howard Samuel Crump Steve Rutledge
The Hon. Gail Ferguson Rev. Charles H. Smith
Roger Foreman, Esq. Mary Snow
Robert Jackson Guerrant The Hon. Nancy Starks*
Betty Agsten Hamilton Rev. Julian Sulgit, Jr.**

**Jean F. L. Lazarus* The Hon. Booker T. Stephens
Allen Edward Lee Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan
2003**

**Louise P. Anderson Herbert H. Henderson, Esq.
Rev. Richard Bowyer Paul J. Kaufman*
Joan C. Browning Rose Jean Kaufman*
Philip W. Carter, Jr. Shirley N. Paige
George E. Chamberlain, Jr. Emerson Reed
Carrie Chance Helain Rotgin
Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley Rev. Dr. Dean K. Thompson
Rev. Homer H. Davis Clayborn Tillman
Elizabeth H. Gilmore* James A. Tolbert, Jr.
Rev. Paul J. Gilmer, Sr. Nellie Walker
Henry Hale Ellis Ray Williams
Bernard Francis Hawkins*
34**

2004

2015

*The Governor's 12th Annual
Civil Rights Day
Thursday, February 26, 2015 10:00 AM
at the
Beni Kedem Shrine Temple
100 Quarrier Street
Charleston, WV 25301*

**For dedicated service to the people of West Virginia and their constant
struggle for civil rights for all, we honor:**

**THE HONORABLE KIM AARON
MARY BOOKER
YODORA P. BOOTH
CAROLE A. BOSTER
R. CHARLES BYERS, PH.D.
PAUL W. COOK**

F. LAYTON COTTRILL, ESQ.
PENNY C. CRANDALL, ESQ.
ELIZABETH A. DOOLEY, ED.D.
PARTHENIA EDMONDS
MICHELLE M. FOSTER, PH.D.
DAVID M. FRYSON, PH.D., ESQ.
THERESA L. GARRETT
SAMI GHAREEB, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.
SHERRI HENDERSON, ESQ.
HILDA V. HOSTON *
HELEN JACKSON-GILLISON, ESQ.
JO MOSS
MARSHALL P. MOSS
SYLVIA C. RIDGEWAY
MONSIGNOR P. EDWARD SADIE
NORA SHEETS
DONALD L. SPENCER
WILLETTE F. STINSON, PH.D.
REV. WILLIE STINSON
MICHAEL R. WENGER

*honored posthumously

1

THE HONORABLE KIM AARON

Kim Aaron has served as a Kanawha County Magistrate since February 2003 – additionally serving as Chief Magistrate in 2006. Magistrate Aaron has spent much of her judicial career as a five-year Magistrate Court Instructor at the WV State Police Academy, five years as a volunteer instructor - Kanawha County Schools educating School Bus Driver's "*Criminal Complaint Overview*," and Seminar Instructor - Residential Landlord & Tenant Law in West Virginia. Magistrate Aaron is a certified participant in the following: West Virginia Victim Assistance Academy focusing on The Scope of Violent Crime & Victimization, The Role of Federal & State Law, the Judicial System, Victims of Crime, Dynamics of the Criminal Justice System, Elderly Victims of Crime & Victim Safety; WV Civil Rights Summit, Children's Justice Task Force Conference, Charleston Police Department Citizen's Police Academy, American Red Cross First Aid/CPR Training; Conflict Resolution, Improving Communication & Attitude, Multi-Cultural Diversity Cadre; Building Better Public Relations, Sexual Harassment Prevention; AIDS Prevention; Bomb Threat Management Training; Braille Studies & Certified Braille Transcriptionist; Character Education Academy; De-Escalating Students with Aggressive Behavior; and Certified T.I.P.S. Trainer.

Her community involvement entails: Member Temple Israel, Temple Israel Sisterhood and National Council of Jewish Women, Past Member B'nai Jacob Synagogue, West Virginia Supreme Court *Robes to Schools Reading Program*, Published Author: *Chicken Soup for the Preteen Soul*, Cross Lanes Women's Club, Kanawha County Democratic Women's Club; Awarded: 2009 Multiple Sclerosis *Champion Award* and 2010 MLK, Jr Holiday Commission – *Living the Dream Award – Sharing of Self*, Speaking Role: *New Home for Liberty* Statewide Play and J.R. Clifford Project Play – cast member of *Brown Vs. Board of Education*, Past: Kanawha County Poll Worker, Public Radio Reader to the Blind, US Federal Petit Jury Foreperson, Charleston Area Business & Professional Women's Club, Christmas in April Elderly Home Repair, Temple Israel Sunday School Instructor, Elk River Boots & Saddles Riding Club, St. Jude's Horse Ride-a-thon raising more than \$40,000 to date.

Magistrate Aaron is mindful of continuing education and from 2004 through 2013 has trained in the following: Professional Conduct in Office & Courtroom, Animal Cruelty, Abuse & Neglect Issues; Ethics & Appearance of Impropriety, Mediation Training, Mental Hygiene Instruction, School Safety Certification, Ratification of "Child Emergency Custody" Training; Cultural Competency, Stalking, Victimless Prosecution, Community Corrections; Ethical Obligations, Judicial Ethics of Social Networking, De-Escalating Aggravated Individuals, Professionalism in Appearance, Phone and Email, Providing Fluent Language Access to the Courts; Ethics in Media, Serving the Customers of Government, Alternative Sentencing; Real Work Fact Patterns, Relevance of Diversity in the Workplace, Abuse / Neglect Mandatory Report; Court Security, Ethical Elections, Truancy; Handling Stress in Domestic Situations, Drug Endangered Children – *Meth & Beyond*; Magistrate Court Rules, DNA Evidence; and Fugitive from Justice, Resolving Landlord / Tenant Disputes, Crimes of Domestic Violence.

Magistrate Aaron, 58, of Cross Lanes has been married to TV News Reporter, Bob Aaron for more than 31 years. They have one son, Adam, 29 who plans to attend law school this coming fall. Magistrate Aaron is a step-mother to Bob's oldest son, Craig Aaron, who is married to Sheryl Aaron. They have two small children, Isaac and Zev.

12

13

MARY L. BOOKER

Mary L. Booker, who graduated from Garnet High School in 1949, was a majorette in the marching band and a member of the Glee Club. In 1950, Booker married the late Charles L. Booker, and her husband worked for the U.S. Postal Service. In 1993, after 18 years of service, Ms. Booker eventually retired from the Accounting Department of Union Carbide.

Ms. Booker recalls her experience of segregation in a time before the Civil Rights Movement. "In my neighborhood, there were Greeks, Russians, Germans, Jews, and the all children played together after school," Booker stated. "We played together but we couldn't go to school together." To watch movies, Ms. Booker would have to skip three theaters located on Summers, Capitol and East Washington Streets, to go to the Ferguson Theater for blacks on Washington Street. She could buy an ice cream cone at the Valley Bell Dairy on Washington Street, but was forced to eat outside—not at the counter. She had an account at the Diamond Department Store -- her money was just as good as anyone else's -- but she couldn't eat at the lunch counter or at the cafe. In the face of CORE's protests, The Diamond, West Virginia's largest department store at that time, was more obstinate than the other downtown

lunch counters. It took 18 months of sit-ins, boycotts and pickets until blacks were allowed to sit down to eat at the store.

From 1964 to 1974, Ms. Booker worked at Arlan's Department Store on the south side of the Patrick Street Bridge, where she was Charleston's first black office manager. While she worked a cash register, she would regularly have white customers who refused to put money in her hand. They would drop it so that it fell on the counter or on the floor. One example of discriminatory treatment Ms. Booker endured, was when Ms. Booker was helping out in the electronics department and asked a white woman if she needed any help. The woman did not reply, and instead went to the front desk to say she needed help. The front desk sent her back to Ms. Booker and the woman, again, refused to talk to her and went back to the front desk. This routine occurred three times before Ms. Booker's boss called her to the front desk. "Mrs. Booker will help you," her boss told the woman. The woman stared at Ms. Booker. Ms. Booker asked her, "Who would you like to have, the Queen of Sheba?" Ms. Booker recalled. The woman said she didn't need any help and left the store.

Ms. Booker was the first black President of the United Federation of Postal Clerk's Auxiliary, the first Black President of the U.S. Postal Services Supervisor's Auxiliary, and she went on to become the first black Vice President of the National Postal Clerk's Auxiliary. Ms. Booker participated in lobbying Congress to successfully keep them from taking workers' pensions and putting them into the Social Security Fund. Booker also participated with informational picketing at Charleston's Main Post Office. In 1998 and 1999, she was member of the Silver Haired Legislature.

Ms. Booker is currently the Treasurer of Henry Highland Garnet Foundation, a member of the Hall of Fame Committee, and a member of the Scholarship Committee where she has nominated several high school students to receive college scholarships; she is a member of Kathern Sutphin's Steel Drumming class at the Second Avenue Center on the West Side of Charleston; is a member in the Active for Life Exercise Class for Senior Citizens; and she teaches the Chosen Generation Exercise Class at First Baptist Church of Vandalia, where she has also taught Sunday School for 45 years.

14

YODORA P. BOOTH

Yodora P. Booth was born in Cabin Creek, WV and is affectionately known as "Doe." After graduating from Stonewall Jackson High School, Ms. Booth attended West Virginia State College for a short period of time, (now known as West Virginia State University). She continued her education at Garnet Career Center where she took classes in Word Processing and Accounting.

Ms. Booth received her certification from Garnet Career Center in 1980, after she completed her six weeks of required on the job training (OJT) with the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. In 1987, she was asked to come back and work for the Commission, and accepted the offer, working from 1981 to 1987, as a part-time/contract employee in the legal, financial, compliance, and docketing departments.

In April of 1988, she worked for the Commission part-time as Docketing Clerk,

which utilized the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Case Tracking System. By November of 1988 the Commission hired her full-time in the Docketing and Compliance Division, where she continued working until being promoted to Investigator for the Employment and Public Accommodation Division. In October 1993, Ms. Booth was appointed to the Housing Division as full-time Housing Investigator, where she processed housing complaints, and was responsible for coordinating Fair Housing outreach seminars and workshops throughout the state of West Virginia. In addition she was in charge of coordinating the Annual Fair Housing Conference which is promoted in the month of April in conjunction with National Fair Housing Month. The Fair Housing event is sponsored annually by the WV Human Rights Commission and the United State Housing and Urban Development (HUD). In March of 2006, Ms. Booth was promoted to Director of Operations which oversees the work of the Employment and Housing units, and the (EEOC) and Housing (HUD) contracts.

Ms. Booth served as the Commission's EEO Counselor for several years, she is a member of the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) and has held the office of Treasurer for the West Virginia Chapter of the National Association of Human Rights Workers. Ms. Booth is also a member of the International Association of Official Human Rights Works (IAORA). She is a member of the Westside Church of the Nazarene.

15

CAROLE A. BOSTER

Carole Anita (Bess) Boster has used both her personal and professional life to expand and protect the rights and benefits of persons with disabilities; the elderly and minorities.

Ms. Boster is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Marshall University and has completed additional coursework at both Marshall and Ohio Universities.

Ms. Boster began her career in civil rights as a commissioner on the Huntington Human Relations Commission. She was hired as an investigator and then promoted to Executive Director of the Human Relations Commission. Her approach to civil rights was always to educate and prevent discriminatory acts when possible. To achieve this, she provided training to employers, realtors, human rights workers, housing providers, and various civic organizations. During her 14 year tenure with the Huntington Human Relations Commission, she received the following recognitions which included being chosen as a "Mover and Shaker" by the Huntington Herald Dispatch; being awarded at the Martin Luther King, Jr. banquet for her work with minorities; given a commendation by the U.S. Department of Justice for her work in diffusing volatile racial situations in Huntington, WV; being chosen as "Woman of the Year" by the U.S. Department of the Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington Division, who recognized her for her leadership in civil rights in the Huntington area; and being chosen as an Outstanding Employee by Huntington's Mayor, Bobby Nelson.

Upon leaving the Huntington Human Relations Commission, Ms. Boster was employed by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

(HUD) where she remained for 22 years before retiring in 2010. During her time at the HUD office, she received additional awards which included: the Bronze award for Excellence in Government Service by the Federal Executive Board; was chosen as Public Official of the Year by the West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council for her work on behalf of persons with disabilities. She was awarded three times for Excellence in Achievement by the Cabinet Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; and chosen Employee of the Year by her peers in the Charleston, HUD office.

Ms. Boster has continued her community service as the Vice President of the Neighborhood Institute of Huntington and the President of the Westmoreland Neighborhood Association where she is active in the Neighborhood Watch program. She recently received a Community Service Award by current Huntington Mayor, Steve Williams.

She is the proud mother of four children, Anita Keller of Union New Jersey; Cindy Boster-Hayden of Blanchester Ohio; Dr. Richard Brian Boster of Loveland, Ohio; and Douglas Allen Boster of Kenova, West Virginia. She has 11 grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

16

R. CHARLES BYERS, PH.D.

Dr. R. Charles Byers continues to serve West Virginia State University after forty years. He became an administrator after 22 years of teaching more than 4000 students in the Education Department. As an Associate Professor, he became Vice President for Planning and Advancement, and later was named Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.

A native of Logan County, Dr. Byers is a West Virginia State College graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Education. He pursued studies at Ohio State University, earning an Master of Fine Arts (MFA) in Graphic Arts. He attained his Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from Kent State University. His post-graduate work in Foundations of Education, Art Education, Educational Anthropology, and Higher Education Administration was earned through Ball State University, Marshall University, West Virginia University, Indiana University, and Ohio State University.

Dr. Byers is also involved in a number of community and civic groups. He is a member of the Board of Directors for Booker T. Washington Association, Central West Virginia Visitors and Convention Bureau, honorary of the West Virginia state University Foundation, Inc., and currently serves as chair of the Board of Trustees for First Baptist Church of Charleston. He is WVSU representative to the National Council on Agriculture, Research, Extension, and Teaching, Vice Basileus for Xi Alpha Chapter of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa Education Honorary and Leadership West Virginia. Dr. Byers is a senior consultant for Cornerstone Consulting Partners, LLC and Byers Consulting, LLC.

Dr. Byers is presently working on a book of drawings about West Virginia State University to raise funds for the Presidential Scholarship Fund. This year he is working

part time as Senior Adviser to the President of West Virginia State University. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors. He is most proud to have the Dr. R. Charles Byers Scholarship Fund named in his honor, and to receive Emeritus status as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

He states that “As I reflect on my life, I realize that as many who I may have helped, there are more who have helped me. For my life I am thankful.” Dr. Byers and his wife, Edithe, a retired teacher, are the parents of three children and the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

PAUL W. COOK, JR.

Paul W. Cook, Jr., was born in December of 1950 in Frostburg, Maryland. He completed his elementary and secondary education in Mineral County, WV, and is a 1968 graduate of Ridgeley High School in Ridgeley, WV. Mr. Cook attended the Potomac State College of West Virginia in Keyser, WV, and in 1973, he graduated cum laude with a BA degree in Political Science from the Frostburg State University in Maryland.

Mr. Cook’s graduate studies in the disciplines of political science and education were held at West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV; he studied ancient philosophy and its relation to modern Christianity at the Catholic University of America, Graduate College of Philosophy and Theology; he studied programing in several computer languages at the West Virginia College of Graduate Studies in Institute, WV; and he studied designing, implementing and support of computer networks at Marshall University, College of Graduate Studies, Information Systems.

Mr. Cook began his career working as a Private Investigator, both nationally and internationally, with the Norman Jaspas Associates in New York City, NY, investigating corporate white collar crimes for Fortune 500 corporations, which were preliminary investigations for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He then taught junior and senior high school social studies in Cecil and Allegany County Schools in the State of Maryland.

Paul Cook began his 31 year tenure with the West Virginia Human Rights Commission on August 1, 1980, as an Investigator of discrimination claims. He went on to become the Commission’s Information Systems Coordinator until his retirement on August 1, 2011.

When Cook first started with the Commission, he was given paper, pens and was told that the turnaround times in getting work typed was about two weeks—add in a land line telephone, and you have the WVHRC information system of 1980!

Mr. Cook completed and/or assisted in the completion of thousands of claims of discrimination while the Commission expanded its powers to add disability discrimination, increased its coverage of age discrimination from a ceiling limit of 70 years of age to no limit, and increased the time limit of 90 days to file a claim of discrimination to 365 days.

As the IS Coordinator, Mr. Cook played an active role in establishing and maintaining the modern Information System Network that is currently being used by the Commission. The network also included maintenance of the personal desktop computers in addition to the database of dually filed cases provided by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which allows immediate access to the cases in or out of the office of the Commission.

Mr. Cook is married to Barbara Cook, they have twin daughters and one granddaughter.

18

F. LAYTON COTTRILL, JR., ESQ.

F. Layton Cottrill, Jr., has served as the chief legal advisor for Marshall University since 1989. In that role, he directs all litigation in which the university is involved, including, in some instances, providing in-court representation. Primary responsibilities are in the areas of human resources, intercollegiate athletics, economic development and outreach. He also represents the university before the Board of Governors, the West Virginia Legislature, the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, and additional state and federal entities. He also provides advice and counsel to the president and other university officials.

Mr. Cottrill is known as a professional, caring communicator who is dedicated to equal opportunity for members of the Marshall University staff, faculty and more specifically students. He has mastered the art of balancing local, state and federal regulations, while providing equal opportunity for all. As a leader and mentor, Mr. Cottrill has created a foundation of equality that will exist and prosper for generations to come. In addition, since 1994, he has served as Senior Vice President for Executive Affairs, with responsibilities for the offices of Human Resources, Equity Programs, Public Safety and Facilities Planning.

Prior to joining Marshall, from 1987-89, Mr. Cottrill was general counsel to the West Virginia Board of Regents (now the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission), the governing body for the state system of higher education. He served two terms (1976-79 and 1986-87) in the West Virginia Attorney General's office, representing the state's higher education governing board and its 16 public colleges and universities, as well as various state agencies and officials.

In the 1970s and early 80s, he worked in private practice and served as city attorney for the towns of Poca and Nitro. From 1977-86, he was general counsel for various West Virginia Senate and House committees related to banking, judiciary, industry and labor, roads and transportation, and government.

Mr. Cottrill graduated cum laude from West Virginia University in 1972 with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. He was a member of both the Economics and Business national honorary societies. In 1975, he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree, also from WVU, where he was a member of the Student Bar Association and the Law Students' Civil Rights Research Council. He also served as legal advisor to the Student Committee on Housing and as an assistant to the West Virginia University student attorney.

Mr. Cottrill is a member of the West Virginia Bar Association and the National Association of College and University Attorneys. A native of Poca, WV, he is married to Dr. Barbara Becker-Cottrill. They reside in Huntington.

19

PENNY C. CRANDALL, ESQ.

Penny Caldwell Crandall grew up in Louisville, Kentucky. While a student at Antioch College, she made her way to Mingo County West Virginia as a member of the Appalachian

Volunteers VISTA program and fell in love with the state. After she attended law school in Los Angeles at Loyola Law School, Crandall and her former husband settled in WV and opened their law firm in Williamson. Later, following a devastating flood along the Tug River they moved their law office to Charleston.

Ms. Crandall specialized in family law and worked on many reforms including legislation on child support, alimony, sexual assault, domestic violence and adoption issues. In 1984, while teaching a domestic relations course at WVU College of Law, she helped draft and lobby for West Virginia's first statute on the equitable distribution of marital property which ended the state's ranking as the last state to award marital property to the party whose name appeared on the title. The new law established women's right to a fair division of property during divorce. In 1986, Crandall helped draft and lobby for the adoption of the Family Law Master program which established a system of judicial officers appointed by the governor to hear child support, paternity and divorce cases. At a time when only two of the sixty-two circuit judges in the state were women, almost half of the twenty-four family law masters were women.

In 1987, after serving as a Per Curiam Clerk in the Supreme Court system, the Court appointed Crandall to be the first director of the Family Law Master program. She helped set up judicial education seminars for the Family Law Masters, prepared summaries of domestic relations cases, lectured at family law seminars, helped draft the first court rules of practice and procedure for family law and helped plan and implement new programs such as parent education and mediation projects. The Family Law Master program was subsequently transformed by constitutional amendment into the first Family Court in West Virginia.

In 2000, Penny Crandall left West Virginia and moved to Tallahassee Florida where she initially worked as a domestic violence specialist for a local legal services program. Later she served as the Legal Director for the Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence. While serving as the Clemency Board Attorney, she secured the release of three women who had been charged with the fatal wounding of a spouse during an abusive relationship. Ms. Crandall has left the Coalition and is in private practice but continues to work on cases of women who have been incarcerated for defending themselves against abusive partners and family members.

While in West Virginia, Ms. Crandall proudly served on the boards of Appalachian Research and Defense Fund Legal Services Program, West Virginia Kids Count and Children's Therapy Clinic; she is the mother of two sons.

20

ELIZABETH A. DOOLEY, ED.D

Dr. Elizabeth A. Dooley resides in Morgantown, WV with her husband, Reverend Cornell Newbill, and their daughter, Briahna Dooley-Newbill. She is the daughter of the late Fred and Juanita Dooley, both advocates for civil rights for all human beings. She received her Bachelor's Degree in Education from Alderson Broaddus College, her Master's Degree in Special Education and a Doctorate in Education/Educational Leadership from West Virginia University. Dr. Dooley is described as an effective, collaborative, transformative leader and active community member. She has served as a mentor for youth and young adults for the past 30 years and constantly encourages

—sharing pathways to success - youth to fulfill their dreams while engaging in “giving back” meaningful community activities.

As a person who believes in building human capital, she takes on projects that aim to improve teaching and learning. As the former Chair of the local NAACP Education Committee, Dr. Dooley acquired a grant that enabled the creation of a summer Science and Literacy Enrichment Program for underserved elementary aged children.

Another notable accomplishment is her leadership role as one of the co-founder’s of the Health Sciences & Technology Academy (HSTA), a state-wide community outreach partnership program, designed to educate and inspire underserved youth to pursue careers in health science fields and STEM education. The HSTA has provided educational and professional opportunities to more than 2,000 underserved West Virginia youth. She has been the principal investigator or co-PI on more than \$2 million grant funding to support community engagement projects and student scholarships.

Dr. Dooley has headed new initiatives at West Virginia University where she serves as Associate Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Founding Dean of the WVU, University College and Professor of Curriculum and Instruction and Special Education at WVU. One of the principal reforms lead by Dr. Dooley, is the creation of a University College (UC) at WVU, in which, newly formed units such as the Office for Transitional Services and the Office of Undergraduate Research were established. The UC provides a functional home for many of the academic units that contribute to student success, and serves as the academic home for exploratory students and others. Dr. Dooley began her career in higher education as a faculty member at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago Illinois. Dr. Dooley has served as Interim Dean for the College of Education and Human Services, chaired WVU’s Department of Curriculum Instruction, Special Education and Literacy Studies (Educational Theory and Practice) for 10 years, served as the Summer Program Director for the HSTA for 15 years and held an administrative position in the Division of Student Life.

Dr. Dooley is a member of the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission, Joint Academic Affairs Advisory Committee and a member of the WV Academic Administrators Association. She also serves as a member of the Multicultural Learning and Teaching Editorial Board and is a long standing “field reader” for the United States Department of Education.

Throughout her journey Dr. Dooley has served in key leadership positions but has remained committed to giving back to her community. In her spare time, she plans and offers special programs for youth development in the local community, and she lead efforts to secure funds for community based programming and capital building projects for her church. Dr. Dooley is a Minister of Music at the Morning Star Baptist Church in Fairmont WV and has written and recorded, with the Umoja Voices of Joy, over 20 gospel songs.

One of her proudest accomplishments is the creation of the “Fred and Juanita Dooley Scholarship Fund” in the College of Education and Human Services at WVU in honor of her parents and their consistent commitment to supporting youth and the community.

PARTHENIA EDMONDS

Parthenia Edmonds, born on December 23, 1914, and who recently turned 100 years old, was congratulated with letters from President Barack Obama, WV Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, Senator Joe Manchin, Mayor of Beckley William O’Brien, and Delegates Linda Sumner and Cliff Moore. As a child she lived near the Tugger’s Plantation in Martinsville, Virginia where her grandparents worked as slaves and her parents were sharecroppers. Her grand-mother was known as a medicine woman and mid-wife. Ms. Edmonds remembers when she was a child, thinking while sitting on a creek bank watching the birds fly near the Tugger’s Plantation, that

she would like to have an education. Her mother, Polly Ann Hairston Fountain, taught her how to read, write and spell at a time which would now be called preschool and kindergarten. Her mother, who only had a fourth grade education, was a firm believer in getting all the education you could get. When the Great Depression hit the United States, her family moved to Eckman and then to Tams, WV, so her father, Jessie James Fountain, Sr., could get work as a coal miner. Ms. Edmonds attended the Keystone-Eckman School, and while in the 4th grade won a silver dollar for reciting the Alfred Joyce Kilmer

poem, "Trees." She still quotes it today and says that the poem describes her relationship with God. It was an accident that allowed her, as a black woman, to attend college during the Great Depression. In 1931, she discovered that she and others could attend the new black high school near Amigo, WV, called Byrd-Prillerman High School. Ms. Edmonds, along with other students were in the back of a truck (*a make-shift school bus with a tarp for protection against wind and rain*) traveling near Cooktown (today called Ury), when a Beckley music truck struck their vehicle. Edmonds nearly lost her arm and her life. Dr. Aikens, the Tams coal camp doctor, saved her life by applying a tourniquet on her arm. She was rushed to Beckley Hospital, where Dr. M.M. Ralston saved her arm from amputation. After the accident, a settlement between the board of education and the music company funded her college degree. Ms. Edmonds graduated valedictorian from Byrd Prillerman High School and later entered the then known as, West Virginia State College, where she graduated in 1939.

Ms. Edmonds married the late Jerry Earl Edmonds, Sr., and settled in Beckley, WV, where she has lived for 70 years. She, along with her sister, opened a store as the sole proprietors of Jerry's Grocery at the corner of Bostic and Harley Avenues in Beckley, WV. This location was the dividing line between the black and white communities. Mrs. Edmonds also designed and sewed children's clothes which she sold to the patrons of the black community and the white community as well. Her business acumen allowed her to open another store near Piney Oaks Elementary School, where she sold to the parents of the

school children there. She successfully ran her businesses without the use of a calculator, and she is still able to perform 'arithmetic' calculations today on her notepaper, and writes in the journal she keeps.

Ms. Edmonds worked in the Voting Polls until she was 90 years old helping and teaching others how to vote. She also taught school, and in 2011, she started the East Beckley Ward V Education Fund with the Beckley Area Foundation to help others achieve the level of education she had been able to have.

Ms. Edmonds credits her long life to staying close to nature, and exercise, which she still does and taking long walks. She is a lifelong-learner; an herbalist, who still grows herbs in her garden for medicinal use; a devout Christian; and is a volunteer and pillar of the Beckley community. To stay healthy and active, Ms. Edmonds suggests that people should exercise, use their minds and never be satisfied without learning

something. When you learn something good and helpful to "pass it on to someone else."

Ms. Edmonds is the mother of three sons, Jerry, Benjamin (deceased) and Timothy, and a grandmother. As the granddaughter of slaves, she has lived to see and shed tears when America elected its first black President—Barack Obama.

22

MICHELLE M. FOSTER, PH.D.

Dr. Michelle Foster, has a doctorate in community economic development (CED) and two master's degrees: one in CED and another in engineering management. She is also a certified economic development financial professional and a certified housing development financial professional.

Prior to her CED career, Dr. Foster was a chemical engineer. Most recently, she has completed studies in non-profit management and leadership at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government.

Dr. Foster is a consummate, detailed, intensely driven professional, with an extremely high level of analytical, leadership and non-profit management technological skills. She is the CEO of the Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA) and has served in this capacity since 1998.

Dr. Foster developed all of KISRA's programs in the areas of Health, Employment, Asset Development and Learning. Under her leadership, KISRA has grown from one employee sponsored by Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church (KISRA's founder), to a team of over 70 employees with funding from multiple local, state, and federal sources. Dr. Foster and the KISRA team serve and empower thousands of West Virginians annually.

Additionally, in 2010, Dr. Foster launched "Foster Solutions" which provides development, evaluation, research and leadership consulting services globally, building on the KISRA experience.

Her work has been recognized locally and nationally. In 2012, Dr. Foster was honored, at the White House by President Barack Obama as a "Fatherhood Champion of Change."

KISRA is a faith-motivated initiative established in 1993, a 501(c)(3) organization that was started by Ferguson Memorial Baptist Church located in Dunbar, West Virginia.

23

DAVID M. FRYSON, PH.D., ESQ.

Dr. David M. Fryson is a Vice President for West Virginia University and heads the Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. Dr. Fryson formerly served as the Deputy General Counsel for WVU. He has practiced law for over 20 years in a variety of legal and advocacy settings.

In addition to heading his own law office for many years, Dr. Fryson was an associate with Preiser Law Offices and McQueen and Brown Law Offices. Fryson served as staff attorney for the Honorable Randolph Baxter, Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Ohio in Cleveland, Ohio, as senior attorney for the West Virginia Workers' Compensation Commission and the West Virginia Offices of the Insurance Commissioner. He was counsel in successful and historic civil rights cases and other major litigation. He also served as the Chief Legal Official for two municipalities, and before becoming an attorney, he served on the Governor's Economic Development staff for two West Virginia governors.

Dr. Fryson received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from West Virginia State University and was awarded the Doctor of Jurisprudence from West Virginia University.

Dr. Fryson has spent his life dealing with the issues of diversity. In 2001, he served a

term as the National Vice-President for the legendary Rev. Dr. Leon Sullivan's Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America establishing a national office in Washington DC. In addition, he has been involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Charleston Job Corps Centers and assisted with the establishment of West Virginia Multi-Fest the largest diversity gathering in the state. Dr. Fryson is also an ordained pastor and has served as an Elder and Pastor for over 30 years. He was most recently the Chief Ministry Officer for the "House of the Lord", a progressive, diverse church with a membership of over six thousand in Akron, Ohio. As Chief Ministry Officer, Dr. Fryson had oversight over all the more than 30 ministries of the church, the nine pastors and over 300 ministers, deacons and church leaders who served the congregation. In addition, he was President and CEO of the Beth-El Fellowship of Visionary Churches, a consortium of over forty churches. Dr. Fryson is non-denominational but holds an ecclesiastical title as a member of the Joint College of Pentecostal Bishops. Dr. Fryson is a dynamic speaker, an experienced attorney, mediator, innovative educator, manager, skilled musician, and an exceptional motivator. He is also known for his understanding of African-American political and cultural history, writes a statewide newspaper column for the Charleston Gazette and has often appeared as political commentator and pundit on radio and television programs; such as Talkline with Hoppy Kercheval and West Virginia Public Television and Radio. His book, Bitter or Better: The Seven Principles – Why God Allows Adversity in a Believer's Life, is available nationally from Amazon.com. Dr. Fryson has been married to the extraordinary Joy Morris Fryson for 37 years and they have three children David, Jr., Aaron and Kristina and three grandchildren Aaron Allen, Jr., Aidan Allen and Elijah David.

24

THERESA L. GARRETT

Theresa L. Garrett was born in Wheeling, West Virginia. She graduated from Wheeling College with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Criminal Justice, with a minor in Psychology. While attending Wheeling College, Ms. Garrett was selected for membership into Alpha Sigma Nu (National Jesuit Honor Society). Garrett's graduate work has been through Marshall University. In addition, Ms. Garrett is licensed to sell real estate in the State of West Virginia and has been a Notary Public for over thirty years.

Ms. Garrett is currently employed with HCR Manor Care as Human Resources Director for their Heartland Lansing facility in Bridgeport, Ohio. She served as Executive Director for the Wheeling Human Rights Commission for over 26 years, retiring in July of 2013. While Executive Director for the Wheeling Human Rights Commission, Ms. Garrett served as a member of the National Association of Human Rights Workers, West Virginia Hate Crimes Task Force, Easter Seals Human Rights Committee, West Virginia Employment Programs – Employer Advisory Committee, City of Wheeling Reclassification Committee, Community and Supportive Services Committee for the Housing Authority of the City of Wheeling, Northern Panhandle Continuum of Care, Racial Justice Coalition, and WV Saves. In addition, Ms. Garrett also served as board member for Change,

Inc., Housing Connections, Inc., Laughlin Chapel, Wheeling Jesuit's Institutional Review Board, and the Upper Ohio Valley Society for Human Resource Management.

Ms. Garrett continues to stay active in the community. She is a member of the Wheeling CAC/NOD (Consumer Advisory Committee/National Organization on Disability), West Virginia University Ohio County Extension Service Committee, as well as, a board member for Youth Services Systems, Inc., House of Carpenter, and Wheeling Neighborhood Ventures.

Ms. Garrett has received numerous awards over her 26 plus years at the Wheeling Human Rights Commission including the WV Human Rights Commission Social Justice and Human Dignity Award. In 2013, she along with the Wheeling Human Rights Commission received recognition from The Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration Committee for 50 Years of Compassionate Presence and Caring Service to the people of Wheeling. In December of 2014, Garrett received a Distinguished Service Award for exemplary leadership and support of the Wheeling CAC/NOD Committee from the West Virginia Division of Rehabilitation Services. Additionally, she is a member of the Ohio County Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition, Safe Place Advisory Committee, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Day Celebration Committee, and the Wheeling Lions.

Theresa Garrett is married to Mark Warren Garrett. They are the proud parents of Tara Ann and Brian Michael, and proud grandparents of Samari DeWayne Biggs.

25

SAMI GHAREEB, D.D.S., M.A.G.D.

Dr. Sami Ghareeb is the founder of Ghareeb Dental Group.

Dr. Ghareeb graduated from West Virginia University in 1969 with a B.S. degree; received his M.S. degree in 1971 from Emory University; graduated from Meharry Medical College in 1975 with a doctorate degree in dental science; received his F.A.G.D. degree in 1995 in Baltimore; received his M.A.G.D. degree in 2007 in San Diego and received his L.L.S.R. degree in 2014 in Detroit.

Dr. Ghareeb is a member of several organizations which include: The Academy of General Dentistry and Academy of dentistry International, the American Dental Association, the Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry, the Pierre Fauchard Academy, the Kanawha Valley Dental Society, the Virginia Street Study Club, Kanawha Valley's Dental Study Club, The West Virginia Dental Association, The West Virginia Academy of General Dentistry, the Arab American Medical Association, the American College of Dentists and the International College of Dentists.

Dr. Ghareeb has served as President of the West Virginia Academy of General Dentistry, the West Virginia Dental Association, Kanawha Valley Dental Society, the Kanawha Valley Dental Study Club, Virginia Street Study Club, the Putnam County Dental Health Council, the West Virginia Rehabilitation Center Foundation, and the Arab American Medical Association.

He has served also on the Boards of the Academy of General Dentistry, Tri-County YMCA, Rock Branch Community Bank, Putnam County Chamber of Commerce, West Virginia Academy of General Dentistry, Miss Wheelchair West Virginia, the Academy of General Dentistry Foundation, and the West Virginia State University Foundation.

He has touched the lives of many West Virginia patients, and has been a steadfast supporter of access to dental care and treatment, regardless of a person's inability to pay. He has donated

dental services to West Virginia's Health Right Dental Clinic, the Give Kids a Smile Community Dental Program, the Mission of Mercy Mobile Dental Program, the Independent establishment of a Village Dental Clinic, Aita, Lebanon. He also established and supported the Missionary Dental Clinic in the bush of Kenya, Africa. Dr. Ghareeb provides services to the Putnam County Dental Health Council, a program that provides free dental services to indigent residents of Putnam County in West Virginia, where United Way, as well as, State Health Department funds are channeled to help those in need.

Dr. Ghareeb is very much involved in organized dentistry and takes an active part in legislative lobbying for the dental profession in the West Virginia Dental Association and the West Virginia Academy of General Dentistry both in the state of West Virginia and nationwide. He is also a huge supporter of continuing education. He continues to dedicate a considerable amount of time to bringing the best speakers with the most up-to-date information to West Virginia, and to his colleagues to speak on updates in dentistry. Dr. Ghareeb is a learned Master in the Academy of General Dentistry.

Dr. Ghareeb has been happily married to Berneda Kay since 1971, and they have five children: Mitri D.D.S. and Heather, granddaughters: Kalila, Samira and Aleeya; Samia M.D. and Chad Turner, M.D., grandsons Christopher, Sami and Eli; Steven D.D.S. and Shayna R.D.H., grandsons, Amos and William; Cindy M.D. and Joshua Massey, D.D.S., grandson, Lucas and granddaughter, Lily; and Kathleen, R.D.H. and Matthew Scarberry, D.D.S., granddaughter Juliet and grandson, Leeson.

SHERRI HENDERSON, ESQ.

Sherri Henderson, Esq., is the daughter of the late Herbert Henderson, founder and CEO of the Law Firm, Henderson, Henderson and Staples, and late Maxine Henderson.

Ms. Henderson was educated in the Cabell County school system, at Huntington High School, in Huntington, WV. Ms. Henderson continued her education at Marshall University, in Huntington, receiving her Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance degree in 1982.

Ms. Henderson received her Juris Doctor degree at the University of Toledo, College of Law, Toledo, Ohio in 1998, and is currently admitted to the West Virginia Bar.

Ms. Henderson is an accomplished attorney with over 10 years of litigation experience focused in areas such as contracts, child abuse and neglect, real property, general civil and wills and estates. Ms. Henderson is a self-motivated and dependable professional who handles significant responsibility. Her background, comprises her law firm financial management, including taxes, payroll, and contracts; with her prior experience, which range from tax auditor to statistician.

From 1989 to 1997, Ms. Henderson was a Tax Auditor for the City of Toledo, Department of Taxation in Toledo, OH. After receiving her Juris Doctor, she became an Associate Attorney for the Law Firm of Henderson, Henderson and Staples of Huntington, WV from 1999 to 2000. From 2000 to the present, Ms. Henderson has moved on to become a Member and Partner of the Law Firm, Henderson, Henderson

and Staples.

Ms. Henderson is a Member of the Bar, State of West Virginia; a Member of the Mountain State Bar; Member, Board of Directors, West Virginia United Methodist Foundation; a Member of the Board of Directors, Ebenezer United Methodist Outreach. She participates in Kairos Prison Ministry and various other organizations.

Ms. Henderson has two children and three grandchildren. Her interests include traveling, crocheting, and reading.

27

HILDA V. HOSTON (POSTHUMOUSLY)

Hilda Virginia Farmer Hoston was born February 13, 1926, in Tams, WV. She was the fourth of seven children born to the late Moody Farmer, Sr. and Evangeline Rogers Farmer.

Ms. Hoston attended schools in Raleigh County and graduated from Byrd-Prillerman High School in 1944.

She was affectionately called 'Shennie' by her family.

Ms. Hoston accepted Christ at an early age and was baptized in new Salem Baptist Church in Tams, WV, where she sang in the choir. She continued her Christian walk with a 50 year membership at Central Baptist Church.

Her service to the Church included was widely known, as she was President of the Usher Board, the Dorcas Missionary Society, Clerk of the Church, Senior Choir and Women's Chorus, and Assistant Secretary. She was also a member of the New River Valley Association.

Hilda's love of people and desire to serve others led her to seek employment in the medical field. She was employed at Raleigh General Hospital, Pinecrest Hospital and Beckley Hospital, respectfully and faithfully until her retirement from the medical profession in 1991.

After retirement, she spent many years volunteering at Beckley Appalachian Regional Hospital where she once served as president of the volunteers. Her other activities included being a member of Church Women United; Senior Friends Club; an active member of the NAACP, assistant secretary of the Women's Auxiliary, executive board member and past secretary of the Women's Baptist Convention of New River Valley Association; a member of the Order of the Eastern Star (OES), a member of the Melvola Order of Eastern Star Chapter No.#1. She also served as treasurer of the National Masonic Mass Choir and Grand Matron of the State of West Virginia, and National Order Eastern Star Flag Bearer.

Ms. Hoston served as a Commissioner to the City of Beckley Human Rights Commission from June 12, 2011 until her death in 2012. During her tenure with the Commission she also served as Chairperson from May 7, 2003 through June 7, 2006. Ms. Hoston served on many committees for the Commission and participated in training at many of the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) conferences throughout the United States.

She was happily married for 45 years to the late Sam Hoston, and the mother of Brenda Cormack of Beckley.

HELEN JACKSON-GILLISON, ESQ.

Helen Jackson-Gillison, Esq., is a native of Weirton, West Virginia and graduated cum laude from West Liberty State College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Public Service. Ms. Jackson-Gillison graduated from West Virginia University College of Law in May, 1981. She is the first African American to establish her own private law practice in Weirton, West Virginia and the first African American attorney to be elected at large to the West Virginia State Bar Board of Governors in the history of the State of West Virginia.

Ms. Jackson-Gillison represents her community in a multitude of both legal and community outreach activities. She is the visionary of the West Virginia All Black Schools Sports and Academic Hall of Fame (WVABSSA), founded in 2006. The first Hall of Fame was held in 2008. The inductions are presented each year by the Dunbar School, Dr. A. J. Major Historical Educational Museum. Ms. Jackson-Gillison recently stated “*preserving and recognizing the athletic and academic history of the segregated schools of yesteryear in West Virginia is one goal close to my heart.*” She is the founder, CEO and President of this historical event to honor and recognize the contributions of esteemed academicians and athletes from the great State of West Virginia. This is the only program of its kind in the country which preserves the history and accomplishments of All Black Schools, prior to *Brown v Board of Education*. There have been seven events commemorating the WVABSSA and over one-thousand inductees. Recently, the state of West Virginia has placed historical booklets in over twenty counties in its school systems. Ms. Jackson-Gillison promotes educational development and serves as the host for the Dr. Carter G. Woodson Black History Bowl held each year in Weirton, West Virginia. The bowl consists of questions on Black history in West Virginia, thus presenting additional opportunities for students in West Virginia to learn more about Black history. Ms. Jackson-Gillison strives to ensure equal opportunity for all and is known among family, colleagues and friends as a woman who has used the power of appreciative inquiry to build a network that has transformed her business and personal life.

To date, Ms. Jackson-Gillison has volunteered for several causes and served on multiple boards. She is an active member of several local community service programs and organizations. She was the first African American member of the Northern Community College Board of Advisors, where she served as the Secretary of the Board. She was also the first African American female to serve on the Police Civil Service Commission in Weirton and was elected President of that Commission. She has dedicated over two decades of her life to engage in the preservation of our state’s history and the enhancement of our school system’s curriculum. Ms. Jackson-Gillison currently continues her advocacy efforts and is presently writing a book to highlight the efforts of the work she has compiled. She is an active member of Morning Star Baptist Church in Weirton, WV, where she serves as the director of the choir. Ms. Jackson-Gillison is the mother of one son, Edward L. Gillison, Esq. (who is a partner in the Gillison Law Office). She is the grandmother of four grandchildren.

JO MOSS

Jo Moss, a native West Virginian, was born in May 1957 in South Charleston. She is the daughter of Vincent Holstein (a U.S. Army Staff Sergeant and World War II POW) and Dorothy Dailey Holstein (a Defense Department Rosie the Riveter), both of whom are deceased. The ideals that were so much a part of the lives of Moss's parents and others who were part of the Greatest Generation—a strong work ethic, perseverance, and compassion and respect for others—were instilled in Moss at an early age and continue to be her guiding principles today.

In July 1975, Ms. Moss began her employment at APPALRED (Appalachian Research & Defense Fund), one of four legal aid programs in West Virginia providing legal assistance to low-income West Virginians on housing, consumer, benefits programs, and other problems affecting their daily lives.

Ms. Moss initially was the secretary to the executive director and the accountant, where she was responsible for coordinating the set-up and management of eight APPALRED field offices in Southern West Virginia. Ms. Moss's duties changed in January 1981 when she was assigned to work with the legal staff. This was the start of Ms. Moss's involvement in providing direct, hands-on legal services to West Virginians who needed assistance with issues such as consumer credit and debt collection; evictions; food stamps, Social Security, and unemployment benefits; divorce and custody; mental health services; enforcement of environmental laws; and access to education and employment opportunities, including work on the *Allen* case, which mandated that the Commission promptly docket and investigate complaints alleging violations of the Human Rights Act and established the Attorney General's Civil Rights Division to litigate cases that receive a probable cause finding.

The staff at APPALRED shared Ms. Moss's belief that all West Virginians must have equal access to housing, employment, and public accommodations. The employees of the Civil Rights Division, where Ms. Moss has worked as a legal assistant/paralegal since March 1990, share her commitment to this same principle. She has worked behind the scenes for almost 25 years assisting CRD attorneys with drafting correspondence, motions, discovery requests, orders, and settlement agreements; responding to inquiries from Commission staff, attorneys, court personnel, and the public; and assisting less experienced staff to ensure that the Civil Rights Division operates as efficiently as possible. Ms. Moss' dedication to improving the human and civil rights of all individuals is as strong today as it was in July 1975 when she began the long journey toward that goal.

MARSHALL P. MOSS

Marshall P. Moss was born in Mallory, West

Virginia educated in the Logan County public schools and graduated from Man High School. He continued his education at West Virginia State College (now West Virginia State University) and graduated in August 1973 with a BA degree, majoring in Psychology and minoring in Sociology.

Mr. Moss attended Marshall University Graduate School, studying Employee Relations. He was awarded certification as a “Professional Human Rights Worker” by the National Association of Human Rights Workers (NAHRW) in October 2001.

He has worked for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission for over 23 years, including an earlier 16 years period when he was employed as an investigator, supervisor, compliance director, and administrative assistant to the Executive Director. He is currently employed by the agency as an Investigator II, investigating discrimination complaints, in addition to handling the agency’s predetermination conciliation agreement program, its compliance review and enforcement program, and participating in the agency’s outreach and education (training) program. He is also the agency’s EEO Counselor.

Mr. Moss was the Executive Director of the Charleston Human Rights Commission for five years during which the agency organized and hosted the city’s annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebrations which featured guest speakers such as Tony Brown (Tony Brown's Journal), the Honorable Judge Irene Berger (West Virginia's first African-American female federal judge), former State Senator Marie Redd (West Virginia’s first African-American State Senator) and other notable West Virginians.

Mr. Moss served as a board member of the NA HRW and the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) of Charleston, Inc. He was a founding board member of the Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Kanawha-Putnam Area (now Big Brothers Big Sisters of South Central West Virginia). He also was a steering committee member of the Charleston YMCA’s Black/Minority Achievers; advisory board member of the Kanawha Sheriff Department’s “Combating Underage Drinking Committee.” Mr. Moss is a member of the Charleston Public Safety Council; a member and President of Inroads/WV Parents Support Group; a member of the Kanawha Valley “Stop the Hate Interfaith Vigil Planning Committee” and a member of the West Virginia Hate Crimes Task Force. He and his wife, Melissa have two daughters, Marisa and Medea, and two grandchildren, Natalia and Warrick.

SYLIVA C. RIDGEWAY

Sylvia C. Ridgeway is a graduate of Douglass High School in Huntington, West Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree and a Masters Plus in Secondary Education from Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia.

Ms. Ridgeway was an English teacher at Huntington High School from 1969 to 1975. She was

also previously employed with Xerox Corporation in their Federal Jobs Corps Program.

Ms. Ridgeway is the current President of the Huntington-Cabell branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and is also the President of the West Virginia State Conference of Branches for the NAACP. Ms. Ridgeway is a current member of the West Virginia Martin Luther King Jr., Holiday Commission appointed by Governor Earl Ray Tomlin, and a member of the Huntington Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Delta Sorority and the City of Huntington's "Children in the Arts" program which meets at the A.D. Lewis Community Center. She is the current Organizer/Moderator of the Fashion Show for "Go Red", a breast cancer program; and a member of the West Virginia Health, Science, Technology Academy (Cabell-Lincoln Counties).

Ms. Ridgeway has received multiple honors for her achievements.

These honors include being named the "Citizen of the Year for 2012" by the Herald Dispatch, selected as the "Teacher of the Year" by Cabell County Secondary Language Arts, received the Community Service 2005 award from Marshall University Alumni Association, also the Lifetime Achievement in Community Service Women's Award from Marshall University and the Award from the Women of full Gospel Assembly for Lifetime Achievement in Community Service. Ms. Ridgeway is listed in the "Who's Who Among College Women." She was inducted into the Alpha Delta Kappa Honorary Fraternity for Education through Marshall University and the City of Huntington's Foundation Wall of Fame in October of 2014.

Ms. Ridgeway was invited to the Congressional Club Luncheon where the luncheon was held in honor of First Lady Michelle Obama.

Ms. Ridgeway and her late husband, Raymond I. Ridgeway, of 50 years, are the proud parents of four children, Keith, Troy, Bryan, and Shelly and four grandchildren, Branden, Clarke, Carsyn and Tory.

32

MONSIGNOR P. EDWARD SADIE

Monsignor P. Edward Sadie, P.A., V.F., S.T.L., was born on December 15, 1930, to Timothy G. Sadie and Jennie Betres Sadie where he grew up in the Syrian-American community of Parkersburg, WV. From 1951-1953, he attended St. Mary's Major Seminary, Philosophy Division, Baltimore, MD, for his Junior and Senior years of College, obtaining an A.B., Philosophy degree; from 1953 to 1957, he studied at St. Mary's Major Seminary, Theology Division, obtaining an S.T.B./S.T.L., Theology degree; and obtained an M.A.in Latin degree from the University of Michigan.

Monsignor Sadie became an ordained Priest on June 1, 1957 for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston. From 1957 to 1963, Monsignor Sadie was the Associate Pastor of St. Mary's Church and Mission in Blacksburg, VA, and the Chaplain at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Radford College, VA; from 1963 to 1969, he was the Vice Rector, Treasurer and Instructor at St. Joseph Preparatory Seminary in Vienna, WV; from 1969 to 1980, he was the Pastor of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Charleston, WV; and, from 1980 to the present, he became the Pastor of the Basilica Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Charleston, WV.

Monsignor Sadie is also the President of Charleston Catholic High School, the Administrator of Sacred Heart Grade School, and in 2005, was appointed as the Executive Director of the Catholic Conference of West Virginia. In his role, as a Catholic educator, he works to provide access to Catholic education for Catholic students who cannot afford the tuition through scholarships and assistance opportunities.

In 2006, he started serving as the Vicar Forane for the Charleston Vicariate and in 2009 was instrumental in having Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral raised to the status of a "Minor Basilica" by the Vatican in Rome, Italy. Monsignor Sadie served on the Diocesan Commission for Religious Unity, the Diocesan Commission for Evangelization, the Diocesan Vocations Committee, the Anglican-Roman Catholic Commission of West Virginia, and the Catholic Commission of West Virginia, St. Francis Hospital Board of Directors and the Catholic Charities West Virginia Board of Directors.

As the rector of Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, he provides leadership in ecumenical efforts and as a spokesperson on many public issues. He co-founded the Root and the Branch an organization dedicated to creating opportunities for faith traditions in the Kanawha Valley to come together and learn from one another. Sacred Heart is also instrumental in hosting the Red Mass for lawyers and the Rose Mass for doctors and other healthcare providers. In September 2013, during the West Virginia Sesquicentennial Year, the parish hosted the Saint Augustine's African American Gospel Choir from Washington DC.

Monsignor Sadie's valuable service to the Church of West Virginia and community was highly honored in 2005 in his appointment as "Monsignor," when he was recognized as a "Prelate of Honor to His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI.," and again in 2013 when he was appointed Protonotary Apostolic of the Diocese.

33

NORA SHEETS

Nora D. Sheets has a Master's degree in Art Education, from West Virginia University in Morgantown, WV and an Associate's degree in Design/Illustration from Ivy School of Professional Art. She has taught art and social justice at St. Francis de Sales Central Catholic School in Morgantown for 28 years. Her philosophy is to teach with compassion, understanding, love, and respect for all students. Her goal is to develop a realization of the individual as a valued person entrusted with creativity, compassion, self-expression, and imagination. The art program at St. Francis is designed to encourage students' social responsibility via themes of social justice. Many of the issues addressed and investigated include: human and civil rights, violence, war, hunger, poverty, and peace-related endeavors. This art curriculum provides opportunities for students to advocate for a more just and peaceful world. As a result, students, teachers, family members and, in turn, the community may find ways to address issues and their causes, strengthen their relationship with those who suffer injustice, and work on ways in which to facilitate positive

change. From 1999 to the present, Nora Sheets has been the coordinator of PSALM, which was founded by students in 1999 as an art project to educate the public about a global issue, and is a member of the West Virginia, United States and International Campaigns to Ban Landmines and a member of the Cluster Munitions Coalition. Sheets represented PSALM at global disarmament summits and conferences in Bosnia, Kenya, Croatia, Jordan, Norway, Colombia, Laos, Cambodia and at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. PSALM students have been recognized for their work in disarmament by the International Peace Bureau and are published in a book titled, "Ingredients for Peace" along with eight Nobel Laureates including Desmond Tutu.

Ms. Sheets has worked with the WV Commission on Holocaust Education on curriculum for the "Holocaust in Perspective" textbook and given educational presentations based on the curriculum; she is a working member of the Community Coalition for Social Justice since 1999; in 2003, she worked with ART REACH Art Therapy Program in Srebrenica, Bosnia. The program included working with children suffering from post-traumatic stress syndrome; her students, through art and social justice projects, have met Martin Luther King, Jr. III, Arun Gandhi and Sister Helen Prejean, Morris Dees, Queen Noor of Jordan as well as Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Oscar Arias, Jody Williams, Lech Walesa and Betty Williams. A photo of her students painting over hate graffiti is included in the Southern Poverty Law Center's "10 Ways to Fight Hate" publication. An example of our global social justice curriculum is our "Global Lisa" Project. Students cooperated on a collaborative painting of the "Mona Lisa" in a variety of artistic styles with schools in other countries. Objectives for the projects were: the importance of the collaborative process in learning about other people and their respective cultures, cultivating respect and reconciliation, human rights, and the effects of war/violence on a country and its people. Schools included: Ballarat Australian School (students studied the rights of the indigenous peoples, the Aboriginal); Colleraine Integrated School of Northern Ireland (where students learned about the peace process and reconciliation between Protestants and Catholics); Sarajevo School, Bosnia (students studied life in wartime and the effects of ethnic conflicts on children); Beirut, Lebanon (students studied life in wartime and the effects of conflicts on children); Other projects include: students who have also painted murals for WV AIDS Network, Martin Luther King Day celebration, the Community Coalition for Social Justice and the West Virginia Students for Social and Economic Justice.

In March, 2005, students painted a mural for the Institute of Human Dignity and West Virginia University Forum on AIDS in Africa. The forum, titled, "A Voice for the Voiceless," included presentations by students from St. Francis. The students presented facts and statistics about the AIDS pandemic. The mural included a painting of Nelson Mandela, whose foundation, 46664, sponsored the event.

Nora Sheets awards and recognition include: the 1997 Bishops Cross Award; 2001 selected as one of 12 American representatives to the Sarajevo Conference for a Mine Free World; 2004 Cyrus Vance International Educator Finalist; 2004 "PeaceJam" teacher, Nairobi, Kenya. Program includes Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, Shirin Ebadi, Wangari Maathai and Jody Williams; 2005 W.V.C.E.E. Dream Maker of Education Award; 2011 PSALM received the "Innovations in Catholic Education" Award /National Catholic Education Association; 2012 NCEA National Catholic Education Association National Distinguished Teacher Award; 2001-2013 WVCBL/ PSALM Delegate from United States to: Bosnia, Kenya, Croatia, Jordan, Norway, Colombia, Laos, Cambodia and the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.

34

DONALD L. SPENCER

Donald L. Spencer received his Baccalaureate degree from Hamilton College and three Master's degrees including a Masters in Public Administration from WVU. Mr. Spencer was the Executive Director of the Western Maryland Area Health Education Center - a rural Appalachian Health Professions Training Center affiliated with the University of Maryland School of Medicine at Baltimore. He served as director of the Cumberland, MD-based center for 18 years while continuing to live in Morgantown, WV. He retired in 1998. His previous employment in West Virginia was with the Region VI Planning and Development Council and with the Westminster Foundation Campus Ministry at WVU. In his retirement, Mr. Spencer served eight years as a member of the Morgantown, WV, City Council (2003-2011) and Deputy Mayor for four one-year terms (2007-2011).

Mr. Spencer promotes and protects tolerance, fairness, equity and inclusion through his leadership for an Inclusive City Committee. He was successfully in the reconstitution of the City's Human Rights Commission

in 2012 by the Morgantown City Council. He served as Chairperson, (2012-2014), and thereafter, secretary of the HRC. As the Chair of the HRC he developed operating procedures; planned and executed a community wide need survey; developed and advocated for City Council passage of resolutions supporting employment and housing non-discrimination and equality in marriage; generated a plan accepted by the WVU Diversity, Equity and Inclusion for the establishment of an Annual WVU Community Human Rights Film Festival; and developed a plan and a Committee on Diversity Representation to lead the rewrite of the City's Affirmative Action Plan. While not all inclusive, Mr. Spencer has served as an active member of numerous municipal boards, councils and committees; acted as a liaison for the City Council with the State Legislature, the National League of Cities and the West Virginia Municipal League; initiated preparation of numerous City Council resolutions and ordinances and several bills for state legislation. He has served as a volunteer and community resource person since moving to Morgantown in 1968 before being elected to City Council; and continued to work on community issues since. Mr. Spencer is an advocate for the establishment of a Neighborhood Coordinating Council since 2005. Additionally, he sponsored additions to City government such as: the Youth Commission, the Pedestrian Safety Board, the Municipal Bicycle Board, the Airport Advisory Committee, the Rental Housing Advisory Committee, the Solid Waste Advisory Board, and the Municipal Green Team. He participated in the initiation of a Task Force for Homelessness and its work to develop a community plan for addressing homelessness; provided leadership in the City for the successful development of a WVU Day Care Center; served as Campus Minister for Westminster Foundation at WVU (1968-1973); served as coordinator pastor for ecumenical team ministry involving seven denominations; chaired an advisory committee for the campus ministry "Last Resort Coffee House" which provided drug, draft, and problem pregnancy counseling. He has served as the organizing chairperson for committees which brought about the establishment of a Community Need Council; 24/7 crisis intervention telephone service for the area (1969-1975), a Council for Drug Information which provided information/referral/counseling/resources and protection for persons working to cope with substance abuse (1969-1972). The "In-Touch and Concerned" telephone reassurance and transport service agency for isolated elderly persons, since 1972 and continuing, was also one of Mr. Spencer's projects. He organized and directed Region VI Area Agency on Aging to plan, fund and advocate for services for elderly in a six county area (1973-1979). Mr. Spencer worked with the Council of Senior West Virginians in 1975-1976, which provided staff services and advocacy for the passage of the first statewide provision of Home Health Care Services; and co-coordinated a Comprehensive Health Planning need survey to Monongalia County in 1972 (the first known survey in the County). Don Spencer, has achieved several awards for his community service which include: WVU Center for Black Culture and Research: Martin Luther King, Jr. Achievement Award (2015); American Collegiate Hockey Association Hall of Fame (Builder) (2007); Maryland Rural Health Association: Outstanding Rural Achievement Award (1997); American Lung Association of Maryland: Volunteer of the Year (1987); Morgantown Jaycees: Distinguished Service Award (1973); Morgantown City Council and the Consolidated Monongalia County Recreation Commission: Certificate of Superior Service (1972). Mr. Spencer, his wife Carol and family have been Morgantown residents since 1968.

35

WILLETTE F. STINSON, PH.D

Dr. Willette F. Stinson was born in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1965, the daughter of Reverend Willie F. Stinson and Evangelist Ruth E. Stinson. Her secondary education was completed in New York and Pennsylvania, and she graduated from Trinity High School in Washington, Pennsylvania. While attending Saint Vincent College, she became the first African-American woman awarded the Florence Dornblaser Memorial Scholarship from the *Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women* in 1986. At Saint Vincent College she earned the honor of the Dean's List. She was also a recipient of the Communications' Department Award. Dr. Stinson earned B.A. degrees in Political Science and Communications from Saint Vincent College, where she was one of its first female graduates of its first co-ed class in 1987. In 1990, she earned an M.L.S. degree from the University of Pittsburgh. Then, she began working at National Public Radio as a Broadcast Librarian. At NPR, she served on its first

Diversity Committee. In 1993, Dr. Stinson was awarded a full-tuition Doctoral Fellowship. In 1998, she earned her Ph.D. degrees, one in Library Science and the other in Information Studies, from Florida State University.

Dr. Stinson was employed at Prairie View A&M University in Texas. She also received an honor from the US Congress on the recommendation of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson-Lee. The honor was called "Certificate of Congressional Recognition" awarded to Dr. Stinson for being an "exemplary education professional of the state of Texas." Dr. Stinson was also appointed by the President of the *American Library Association* to serve, from 2003 through 2005, on the library profession's National Committee on Diversity. In 2005, Dr. Stinson moderated a National Diversity forum at the *Annual American Library Association Conference* in Chicago, where at that time Senator Barack Obama was also a participant as the keynote speaker.

In 2006, Dr. Stinson held auditions for her own gospel stage-play production, titled "Oh What a Time". In 2007, she produced and directed this play at Wheeling Jesuit University, for which she not only wrote the script, but she wrote its music and lyrics, too. While employed as the *Director of The Wilberforce University's Library and Information Commons*, she was given the opportunity to form a partnership with the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base to combat childhood obesity in collaboration with First Lady Michelle Obama. On February 7, 2011, Dr. Stinson received communication from the First Lady concerning this agenda.

Dr. Stinson is a rising star among poets. In 2011, Harry E. Johnson, Sr., the President and CEO of the *Friends of the Memorial Foundation, Inc.*, invited Dr. Stinson to give her reflection on Dr. King for the occasion of the *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Memorial Dedication Week*. Dr. Stinson was chosen to deliver the poem she wrote, titled "Eagle Spirit Run On", for that occasion held at the Washington Convention Center on August 26, 2011. There, Dr. Stinson presented her poem on a speakers' platform at the Convention Center; other poets included Maya Angelou at the Women Who Dare to Dream luncheon celebration.

Dr. Stinson is an innovative and service-driven *Director of Library Services*, employed at West Virginia State University, shaping the University Library's services and collections for twenty-first century learners, educators, and scholars. While employed at West Virginia State University, she is also serving as a Statistician on the Marketing Committee for Habitat for Humanity of Kanawha and Putnam County. In 2009, Dr. Stinson was a recipient of the Vanguard Legacy Honors Award awarded by the *West Virginia All Black Schools Sports and Academic Hall of Fame*. Also, she received The Legends Award awarded by the *West Virginia All Black Schools Sports and Academic Hall of Fame* in August of 2014.

REV. WILLIE STINSON

Reverend Willie F. Stinson, is a man on a mission.

He was born in Enterprise, Alabama, July 24, 1936 to the late Will and Katie Stinson. He grew up in Steubenville, Ohio, where the early credentials and educational for his life long mission to realize his ultimate potential.

Education played a huge part in Rev. Stinson life, including the lessons he learned as an athlete excelling in football and basketball which included professional football for the United League, located in the smallest city in the nation to support a professional football team and before their expansion with the Ironmen Football Team of Wheeling, WV. The Ironmen won the United Football League Championship in 1962 and 1963. His professional football career also included

playing for the Boston Patriots and in Canada. The team joined the Continental Football League in 1965. After graduation, he moved to Klamath Falls, Oregon, and received the first of his many degrees, from Oregon Institute of Technology.

Rev. Stinson received his next degree from Hyde Park, NY in Culinary Arts.

Considering himself a strong man of faith in pursuing his education, it was not a challenge

for him to relocate, when necessary, to pursue his goals and to further his education. Blending faith, determination and hard work, Rev. Stinson was finally able to realize his goal of attending Trinity College of the Bible in Newburgh, Indiana, which he says prepared him for his lifelong mission but not before he served his country three years in the U.S. Army, serving proudly protecting our great country. He used his education and training as a Chef Instructor, and Executive Chef to train others. That training and disciplined-learning were carried over to the work of the church as he moved up the ranks from Deacon to Minister and finally when becoming a Pastor in 1992, and forming his first church, Agape Baptist Church. There he worked with utilizing his lifelong discipline and training to in his work with the youth at his youth center in the Church Fellowship Hall. He worked tirelessly as mentor to criminally challenged youth and young adults, both single and married adults; other ministers and pastors.

Rev. Stinson gave his life to Christ at age 12. He was licensed to preach the Gospel in June of 1986, and ordained as a minister in June 1987. His first sermon as founder of Agape Church, was August 9, 1992, entitled “The Love of God.” His mission is to show that love to his community through, Agape, “*the house that faith built*; and to teach people how to live by faith. Rev. Stinson is blessed to have four children: two daughters—Willette and Renita, and two sons—Michael and Robert.

He is recently married to Jacquelin Stinson. He quotes, “All he has done and been through has made him truly a man on a mission for God, the youth, and his community.”

37

MICHAEL R. WENGER

Michael R. Wenger, of Mitchellville, Maryland, teaches about race relations and institutional racism in the Department of Sociology at George Washington University. He is a consultant on race relations, and is the author of his recently-published memoir, *My Black Family, My White Privilege: A White Man's Journey Through the Nation's Racial Minefield*. In addition, he is a co-founder and a member of the Interim Leadership Team for the “Within Our Lifetime Network”, a national network of individuals and community organizations working to promote racial equality and foster racial healing.

From 1998 until August, 2014, Mr. Wenger was with the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a research and public policy analysis institution focused on issues of race. At the Joint Center, Mr. Wenger was the founder and Director of NABRE (Network of Alliances Bridging Race and Ethnicity), an initiative that linked more than 200 race relations/racial justice organizations across the country

facilitating communication and interaction, among leaders of community racial reconciliation activities, which cultivated and nurtured local leaders as they build and sustain alliances that break down and transcend barriers of race and ethnicity in all sectors of society and communities across the country. Mr. Wenger also served as the Acting Vice President for Governance and Economic Analysis, Acting Vice President for Communications, Acting Vice President and Director of the Civic Engagement and Governance Institute, and most recently, as a Senior Fellow.

From September 1997 to October 1998, Mr. Wenger served as the Deputy Director for Outreach and Program Development for President Clinton's Initiative on Race, responsible for the development and implementation of programs designed to broaden public support for President Clinton's vision of One America in the 21st Century--a more just, inclusive and unified America that offers opportunity and fairness for all Americans. Prior to this work, Mr. Wenger served for more than 16 years as the States' Washington Representative for the Appalachian Regional Commission, a Congressionally-funded agency charged with promoting economic development in the 13-state Appalachian region of the United States. He represented the Governors on policy and legislative matters relating to their membership on the Commission.

Before coming to Washington, D.C. in 1981, Mr. Wenger held several policy-making positions in the administration of West Virginia Governor John D. Rockefeller IV, including Director of the Governor's Office of Federal/State Programs, Director of the Governor's Office of Community Development, Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Welfare and Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security. Prior to that he served as Director of Federal/State Relations for the City of Charleston, WV, under the administration of then Mayor John G. Hutchinson, and before that, as a community organizer and then Executive Director of the Raleigh County (WV) Community Action Association. He began his career as a journalist and public school teacher in the New York City area.

Mr. Wenger's memoir describes his experiences as a white man from New York City married to an African American woman from rural North Carolina and living in Charleston, WV, integrates his personal experiences with his professional insights, and shares the lessons he has learned about race as a result of his journey. He also is the co-author of *Window Pane Stories: Vignettes to Help You Look At and Beyond Your Experiences*, a frequent speaker on race relations, and the author of numerous articles on race relations and on rural economic development.

Mr. Wenger was born in New York City and educated at Queens College of the City University of New York, where he was a leader in the civil rights struggles of the early 1960s. He is married and has three grown children, four grandchildren, and a great grandchild.

Past Honorees

2014

**Jamie S. Alley, Esq. Dr. Ethel Caffie-Austin
Edward "Eddie" Belcher Beni Kedem Shrine Temple
Dr. Braxton Broady Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner
Rev. Wesley Q. Dobbs Karl S. Gattlieb, Esq.
Paul L. Hamilton Rt. Rev. Dr. Emanuel A. Heyliger
Rosalean Hibbett Rev. Dr. Lloyd A. Hill
Norman Lindell Tara N. Martinez
Dr. Rida Mazagri John T. McFerrin, Esq.
Ralph D. Miller The Honorable Sharon M. Mullens
Pastor Willie Nevels Cpl. Errol Randle
Kathleen P. Reid William O. Ritchie, Sr. *
Monia S. Turley West Virginia Commission for the
Rabbi Victor Urecki Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Lisa K. Younis**

2013

Carol A. Beattie The Honorable Irene C. Berger
Randall Byrnside Walter H. Chamberlain
Jan Derry Katherine “Kitty” L. Dooley, Esq.
Reverend Ronald W. English Timothy L. Hairston
Robert L. Harrison, Ph.D. Cheryl L. Henderson, Esq.
The Honorable Tal Hutchins Christopher D. Jackson
Reverend Dr. Skyler K. Kershner Reverend William Howard Law *
National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia Curtis E. Price
The Honorable Marie E. Redd Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Allen E. Tackett
First Lady Joanne Jaeger Tomblin Frank Veltri *
Reverend Matthew J. Watts Dr. Rozelle Jenee Walker
Chief Brent L. Webster The Honorable Patricia H. White

2012

Robert S. Baker, Esq. The Honorable Bonnie Brown
Marion J. Capehart * Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
Earl Eugene “Gene” Corum * Rev. Dr. Darrell Cummings
Elmer H. Day, Jr. James Lonnie Hagood *
Lt. Col. Kenneth Hale Richard J. “Dick” Henderson *
Allan N. Karlin, Esq. Rev. Jim Lewis
The Honorable Darrell W. McGraw Jane Moran, Esq.
Charles G. Peters, Jr. Paul R. Sheridan, Esq.
Jean E. Simpson Randall Reid Smith
Richard F. “Dick” Smith Carolyn Elizabeth Smoot *
Dallas S. Staples Dwight J. Staples, Esq.
Gail Henderson-Staples, Esq. Milford Ziegler

*honored posthumously

38

*honored posthumously

2011

The West Virginia Human Rights Commission’s Fiftieth (50th) Year Anniversary Celebration. The West Virginia Human Rights Act was enacted in 1961 thereby creating the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. Governor Tomblin presented a Proclamation proclaiming December 13, 2011, as Human Rights Commission Day, reaffirming the mission of the Commission to continue to administer and enforce the Act, and to encourage and endeavor to bring about mutual understanding and respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups within the state and to eliminate discrimination in employment, places of public accommodation and housing. In Celebration of its Fiftieth Year (50th) Anniversary, held in the Rotunda of the Capitol Building, Charleston, West Virginia during the Legislative Ses

2016