
From Whence
We Came



Meet Our Honorees

6th Annual

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

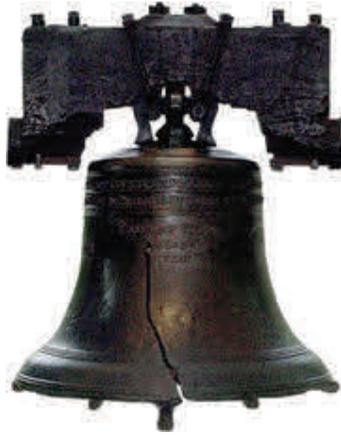
Thursday, February 28, 2008

11:30A.M.

Charleston Job Corps Center

Charleston, West Virginia

“From Whence We Came”



West Virginia Civil Rights Day
February 28, 2008



*Joe & Gayle Manchin
Governor and First Lady
of West Virginia*



PROCLAMATION
by
Governor Joe Manchin III

- Whereas,** equal rights and opportunities for all West Virginians are fundamental to our well-being, and these rights and opportunities are protected in our Declaration of Independence and in our state's Constitution; and,
- Whereas,** equal opportunities in employment, public accommodations and housing are public policy in West Virginia; and,
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Legislature created the Human Rights Act prohibiting discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodations based on race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age or disability; and,
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Human Rights Commission encourages mutual respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups within the state; and,
- Whereas,** it 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 hereby proclaim **February 28, 2008**, as:

Civil Rights Day

in the Mountain State.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto 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 Twelfth day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Eight and in the One Hundred Forty-fifth year of the State.



Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:

Betty Ireland
Secretary of State



**U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION
Philadelphia District Office**

801 Market Street, Suite 1300
Philadelphia, PA 19107-3127
National Contact Center: (800) 669-4000
National Contact Center TTY: (800) 669-6820
Philadelphia Status Line: (866) 408-8075
Philadelphia Direct Dial: (215) 440-2602
TTY: (215) 440-2610
FAX (215) 440-2632, 2848 & 2604

February 28, 2008

To the 2008 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees:

On behalf of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and our esteemed Chair, the Honorable Naomi Earp, I would like to take the time to thank each and every one of you for your continued commitment to civil rights. Your achievements in this cause have created positive steps toward gaining equality for all persons regardless of their race, gender, age, disability, national origin, or religion.

We congratulate you on the award being bestowed upon you today by Governor Joe Manchin, III, of the State of West Virginia, and join with the governor in honoring you.

Sincerely,

Marie M. Tomasso
District Director

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

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.

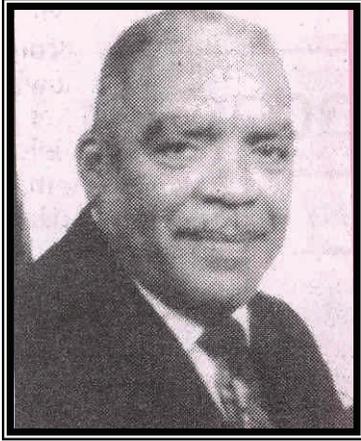
Norfolk and Western Railroad Company settled with the complainants. The Union did not.

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.

After a nine-year battle with the Union, the complainants were successful. They had finally won. 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.

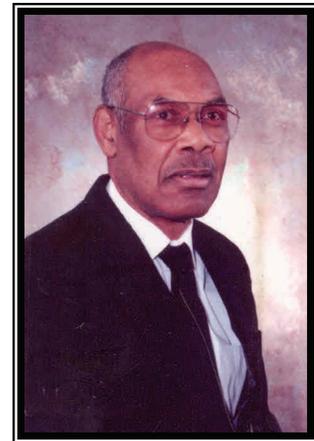
CLARENCE O. BAUMGARDNER



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 Accumen, 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

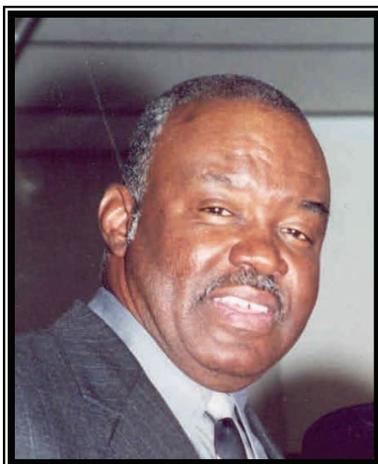
Judge MacQueen was born in Morgantown, WV and raised in Dunbar, WV and Ohio. From 1970 to 2000, he served as a Circuit Judge for the Kanawha County Circuit Court during which time his colleagues elected him chief judge for a number of years. He is a graduate of Marshall University and WVU College of 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

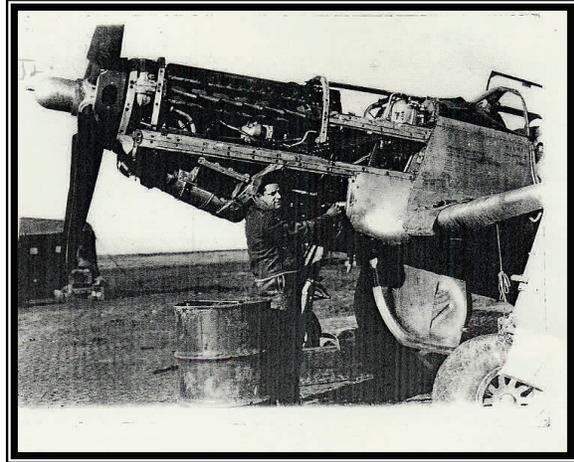
Richard H. Payne, Lead Equal Opportunity Specialist, an incumbent with 41 years Department experience, serves as the principal on-site Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity civil rights official.

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 Stoolley 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.



QUEWANNCOII CASANOVA STEPHENS, SR.

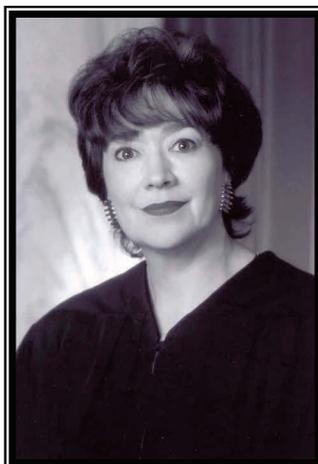
Quewanncoii (“Que”) Stephens, Sr. was born in Washington, D.C. and was raised in Plant City, Florida. He attended Florida A & M University before leaving for active duty at the height of the Vietnam War. He served as an Army officer and platoon leader, where he was injured in the line of duty and received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

Past Honorees

2007

Dr. Charles R. Byrd*
Anna Evans Gilmer
The Hon. Mike Kelly
Rashida Khakoo, M.D.
John E. Lynch, Jr.*
The Hon. Charlene Marshall
James B. "Jim" McIntyre, Esq.*

Mary Willene Hairston Moore
Robert L. "Bob" Morris*
Dr. Taylor J. Perry, Jr.
Joseph Cromwell Peters*
Bishop Donald L. Pitts
Martha "Sweet Pea" Dunlap Sanders*
Carter Zerbe, Esq.

2006

Carole "Cookie" Glasser
Kent S. Hall
Della Louise Brown Taylor Hardman, Ph.D.*
Ken Hechler, Ph.D.
Mildred Ruth T. Holt
Mentola Joyce Jackson
The Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Jarvis, D. Min.

The Rev. Dr. David A. Kates*
J. Franklin Long, Esq.
Anna L. McCright
Edward L. Peeks
The Hon. Larry V. Starcher
Clarence Wanzer

2005

Willard L. Brown, Esq.*
The Hon. Herman G. Canady, Jr.
Harry Jheopart Capehart, Esq.*
Elizabeth E. Chilton
William E. "Ned" Chilton*
Gustavus Werber Cleckley*
Savannah R. Evans
Faith Holsaert
The Rev. Dr. Idus Jones, Jr.
Cora Francis Coleman Jones

The Hon. A. James Manchin*
Dr. Virgil E. Matthews
Blanche Wade
Thomas G. Nutter, Esq.*
The Rev. Dr. David Louise Smith*
Dr. John Warner, Jr.
Richard G. Walker
William L. Williams, Jr.
The Rev. Dr. F. Emerson Wood

2004

Dr. Elayne Croxier Abnathy
Dr. Mildred Mitchell Bateman
Hollie James Brown
Madrith Chamber
Rev. David C. Chappell*
Sgt. Edward Clark, Jr. (Ret.)
Rabbi Samuel Cooper
Howard Samuel Crump
The Hon. Gail Ferguson
Roger Foreman, Esq.
Robert Jackson Guerrant
Betty Agsten Hamilton
Jean F. L. Lazarus*
Allen Edward Lee

Rev. Newsome*
Josephine Rayford
Lucile Meadows*
Dr. Sophia Peterson*
Lucille Pianfetti
Charles E. Price*
George Rutherford
Steve Rutledge
Rev. Charles H. Smith
Mary Snow
The Hon. Nancy Starks*
Rev. Julian Sulgit, Jr.
The Hon. Booker T. Stephens
Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan

2003

Louise P. Anderson
Rev. Richard Bowyer
Joan C. Browning
Philip W. Carter, Jr.
George E. Chamberlain, Jr.
Carrie Chance
Dr. Betty Jane Cleckley
Rev. Homer H. Davis
Elizabeth H. Gilmore*
Rev. Paul J. Gilmer, Sr.
Henry Hale
Bernard Francis Hawkins*

Herbert H. Henderson, Esq.
Paul J. Kaufman*
Rose Jean Kaufman*
Shirley N. Paige
Emerson Reed
Helain Rotgin
Rev. Dr. Dean K. Thompson
Clayborn Tillman
James A. Tolbert, Jr.
Nellie Walker
Ellis Ray Williams

*honored posthumously

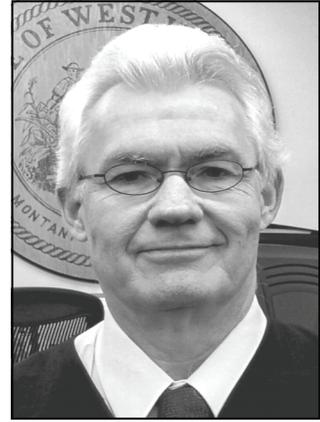
The 2007 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees



Dr. Charles R. Byrd,
Posthumously



Anna Evans Gilmer



The Honorable
Mike Kelly



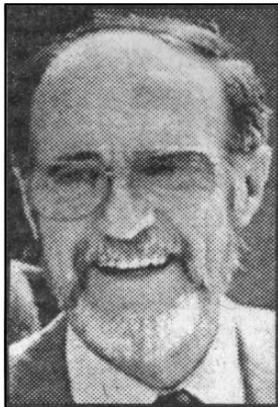
Rashida KhaKoo, M.D.



John E. Lynch, Jr.,
Posthumously



The Honorable
Charlene Marshall



James B. "Jim" McIntyre,
Posthumously

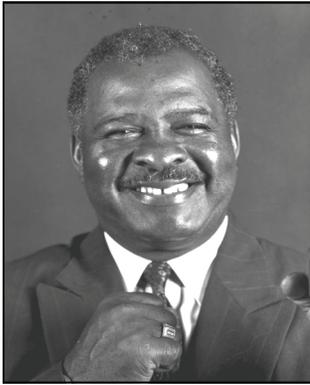


Mary Willene
Hairston Moore



Robert L. "Bob" Morris,
Posthumously

The 2007 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Con.)



Dr. Taylor Perry



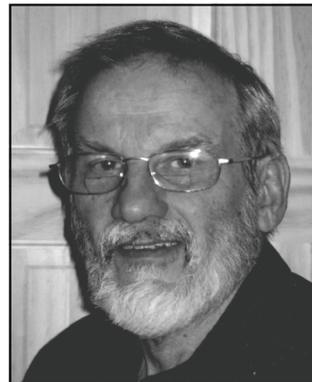
Joseph Cromwell Peters,
Posthumously



Bishop Donald L. Pitts



Martha "Sweet Pea"
Dunlap Sanders,
Posthumously



Carter Zerbe, Esquire



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.



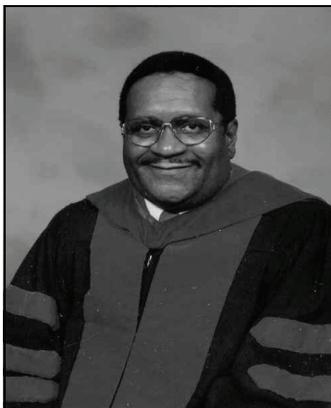
Mildred Ruth T. Holt



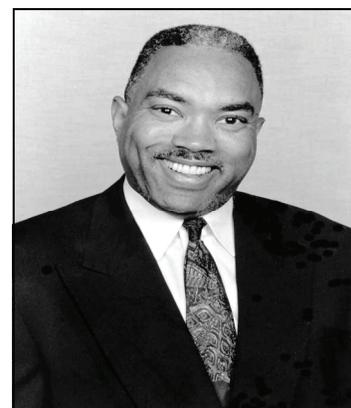
Mentola Joyce Jackson



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



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



Attorney J. Franklin Long

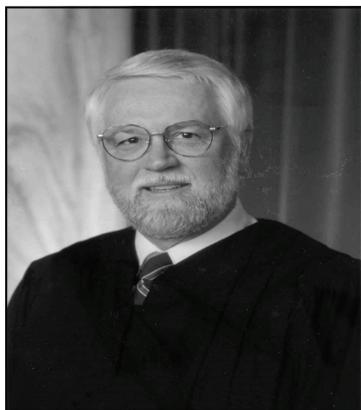
The 2006 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Con.)



Anna L. McCright



Edward L. Peeks



**The Honorable
Larry V. Starcher**



Clarence Wanzer



The 2005 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees



**Attorney Willard L.
Brown
(Posthumously)**



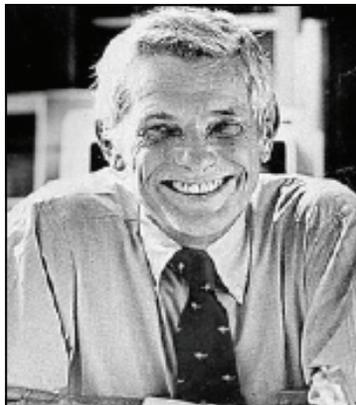
**The Honorable
Herman G. Canady, Jr.**



**Attorney Harry Jhe-
opart Capehart
(Posthumously)**



Elizabeth E. Chilton



**William E. "Ned"
Chilton (Posthumously)**



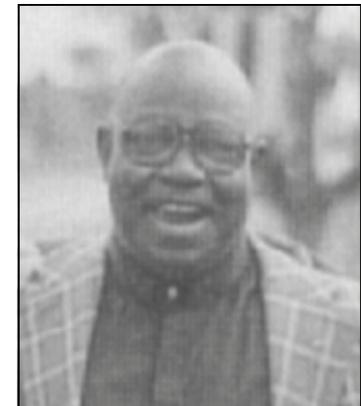
**Gustavus Werber
Cleckley (Posthumously)**



Savannah R. Evans



Faith Holsaert



**Reverend Dr. Idus
Jones, Jr.**

The 2005 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



**Cora Francis
Coleman Jones
(Posthumously)**



**The Honorable
A. James Manchin
(Posthumously)**



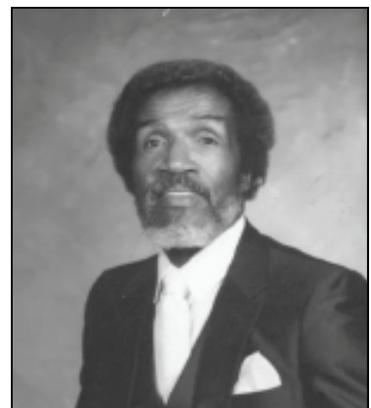
**Dr. Virgil E.
Matthews**



Blanche Wade



**Attorney Thomas G.
Nutter
(Posthumously)**



**The Reverend Dr. David
Louis Smith
(Posthumously)**



Dr. John Warner, Jr.



Richard G. Walker



William L. Williams, Jr.

The 2005 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



**The Reverend Dr.
F. Emerson Wood**

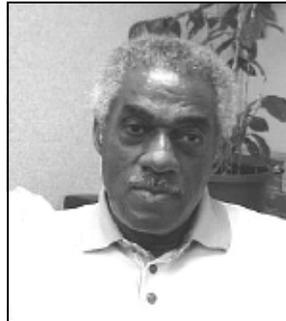
The 2004 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees



**Dr. Elayne Croxier
Abnathy**



**Dr. Mildred Mitchell
Bateman**



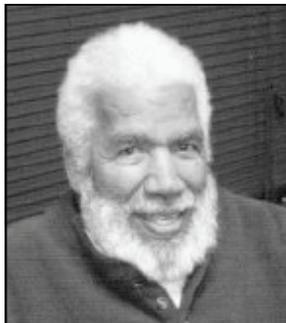
**Hollie James
Brown**



Madrith Chambers



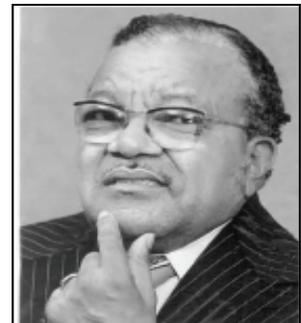
**Rev. David
C. Chappell
(Posthumously)**



**Sgt. Edward Clark,
Jr. (Ret.)**



**Rabbi Samuel
Cooper**



**Howard Samuel
Crump**

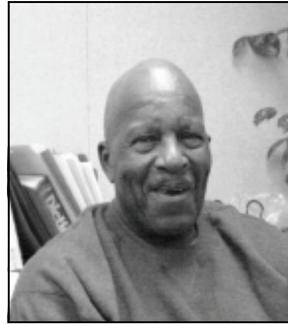
The 2004 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



**The Honorable
Gail Ferguson**



**Attorney Roger
Forman**



**Robert Jackson
Guerrant**



**Betty Agsten
Hamilton**



**Jean F. L. Lazarus,
(Posthumously)**



Allen Edward Lee



**Reverend Newsome
(Posthumously)**



Josephine Rayford



**Lucile Meadows
(Posthumously)**



**Dr. Sophia
Peterson**

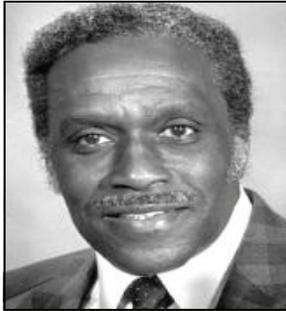


**Dr. Virgil A.
Peterson
(Posthumously)**

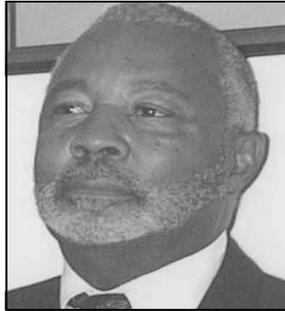


Lucille Pianfetti

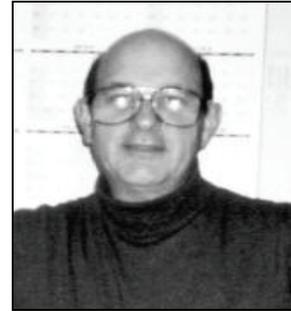
The 2004 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



**Charles E. Price
(Posthumously)**



George Rutherford



Steve Rutledge



**Reverend Charles
H. Smith**



Mary Snow



**The Honorable
Nancy Starks
(Posthumously)**



**Reverend Julian
Sulgit, Jr.**



**The Honorable
Booker T. Stephens**



**Dr. Leon Howard
Sullivan
(Posthumously)**

2003 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees



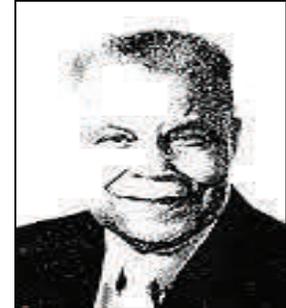
**Louise P.
Anderson**



**Joan C.
Browning**



**Philip W. Carter,
Jr.**



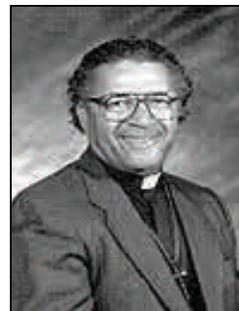
**George E.
Chamberlain, Jr.**



Carrie Chance



**Dr. Betty Jane
Cleckley**



**Reverend
Homer H. Davis**



**Elizabeth H.
Gilmore
(Posthumously)**



**Reverend Paul J.
Gilmer, Sr.**



Henry Hale



**Bernard Francis
Hawkins
(Posthumously)**



**Attorney
Herbert H.
Henderson**

2003 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



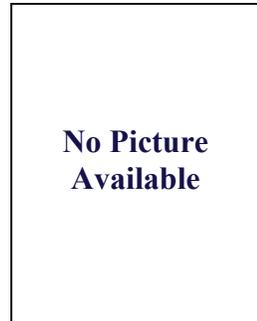
**Paul J.
Kaufman,
(Posthumously)**



**Rose Jean
Kaufman,
(Posthumously)**



Shirley N. Paige



Emerson Reed



Helaine Rotgin



**Rev. Dr. Dean K.
Thompson**



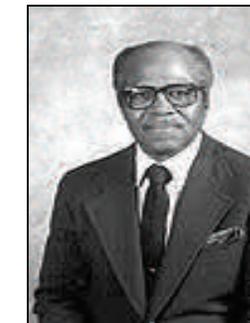
**Clayborn Till-
man**



**James A.
Tolbert, Jr.**



Nellie Walker



**Ellis Ray
Williams**

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