



Advancing Civil Rights Through Advocacy



**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







Sponsored by:



**State of West Virginia
Office of the Governor**



**Herbert Henderson
Office of Minority Affairs**



**State of West Virginia
Human Rights Commission**





PROGRAM

HONOREES ENTRANCE

**PLEASE STAND FOR THE POSTING OF THE COLORS,
HONOREES, AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Invocation:
Remain Standing

**Rev. Wesley Dobbs, Commissioner
WV Human Rights Commission**

Welcome and Occasion:

**Rev. Darrell Cummings, Chair
WV Human Rights Commission**

**Greetings and
Presentation of Proclamation:**

**The Honorable Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor, State of West Virginia**

Historical Overview:

**Letari D. Thompson, Pastor
Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church**

Musical Selection:

**Rev. B. J. Roberts, Pastor
Kingdom Life Fellowship Church**

Introduction of Honorees:

**Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary
WV Department of
Health and Human Resources**

Violin Selection:

**Stephen Spottswood, Conductor
Urban Strings Youth Orchestra
Columbus, Ohio**

Introduction of Honorees:

**Dr. Carolyn Stuart, Executive Director
Herbert Henderson
Office of Minority Affairs
Office of the Governor**





PROGRAM

Poetry Selection:

**Crystal Goode, Poet
Founder, CEO at Mixed Media**

Introduction of Honorees:

**Dr. Bob Harrison
Spiritual Director
WV Institute for Spirituality**

Musical Selection:

**Rev. Donte Jackson, Pastor
First Baptist Church
Huntington, WV**

Introduction of Honorees:

**Josh Chaffin, Investigator II
WV Human Rights Commission**



~ SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS ~

**Marykaye Jacquet, Acting Executive Director
WV Human Rights Commission**

SPECIAL MEMORIAL SELECTION

In Honor

of all Civil and Human Rights Heroes and Heroines

Rev. B. J. Roberts / Rev. Donté Jackson



Closing Remarks:

Closing Song:

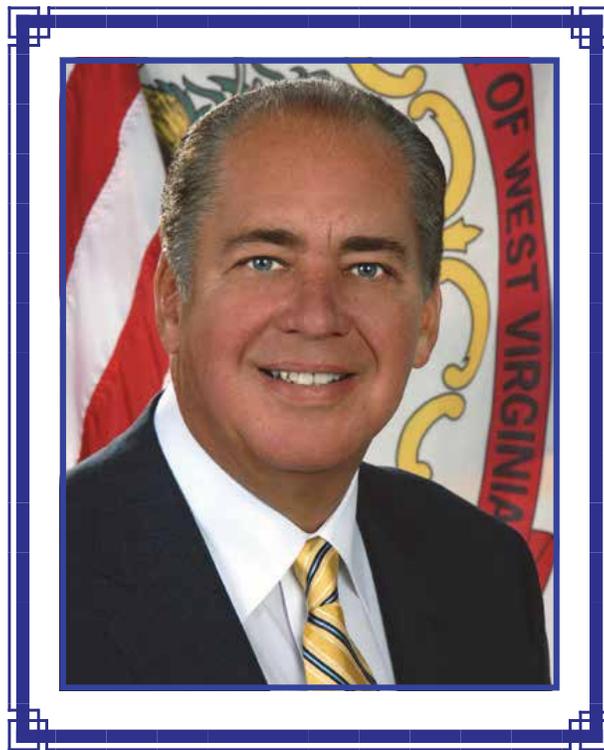
“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LUNCHEON 12:00 NOON—1:00 PM



Advancing Civil Rights Through Advocacy

The Governor's 12th Annual
Civil Rights Day
February 26, 2015



GOVERNOR EARL RAY TOMBLIN

Proclamation

by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

Whereas, equal rights and opportunities for all West Virginians are fundamental to our well-being and these rights and opportunities are protected in both our Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the State of West Virginia; 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, blindness, disability, or familial status; and

Whereas, the West Virginia Human Rights Act also requires reasonable accommodations and equal access for pregnant women and persons with disabilities who use service animals; and

Whereas, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission encourages mutual respect among all racial, religious, and ethnic groups within the state; 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.

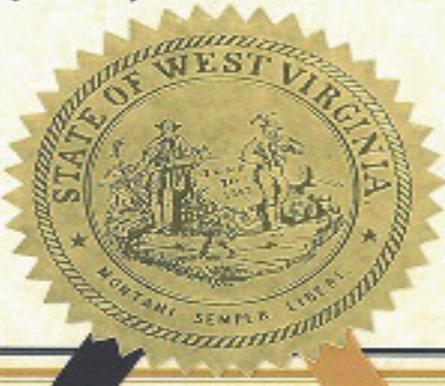
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *February 26, 2015* as:

Civil Rights Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance and treat all West Virginian's with respect and dignity.

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 Twenty-Sixth day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Fifteen and in the One Hundred Fifty-Second year of the State.



Earl Ray Tomblin

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

By the Governor:

Natalie E. Tennant

Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State



Office of the Secretary of State
Building I, Suite 157-K
1900 Kanawha Blvd., East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State
State of West Virginia

Telephone: (304) 558-6000
Toll Free: 1-866-SOS-VOTE
Fax: (304) 558-0900
www.wvsos.com

February 26, 2015

Dear Friends,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the Governor's 12th Annual Civil Rights Day. I applaud you for taking time to attend. Thank you for allowing me to take part in such a special event.

The West Virginia Human Rights Commission has made monumental strides under the leadership of Acting Executive Director Marykaye Jacquet and her wonderful staff. I look forward to hearing about more exciting developments in the future as we continue to fight adversities and discrimination.

As Secretary of State, I thank you for your continued service to West Virginia. Please accept my best wishes for a wonderful event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Natalie E. Tennant".

Natalie E. Tennant
West Virginia Secretary of State





STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

February 26, 2015

As the Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Health and Human Resources, I am honored to join with the Governor and the West Virginia Human Rights Commission in celebrating the accomplishments and contributions of the 26 individuals who are being honored during the 12th Annual Civil Rights Day.

In communities throughout West Virginia and across the nation, you have devoted yourself to creating an environment of justice and equality in civil and human rights. I thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring that all citizens have equal rights and equal protection. On this special day, please know that we applaud you and stand with you in your efforts to create and support a world where every man, woman, and child has the opportunity to be safe, healthy and successful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Karen L. Bowling".

Karen L. Bowling, Cabinet Secretary





STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
HERBERT HENDERSON OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1900 KANAWHA BOULEVARD, EAST
STATE CAPITOL BUILDING 1 ROOM 35
CHARLESTON, WV 25305
(304) 558-3179

EARL RAY TOMBLIN
GOVERNOR

GREETINGS FROM THE HERBERT HENDERSON OFFICE OF MINORITY AFFAIRS

On behalf of the Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs and the Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission, I am pleased to be able to welcome you to the Governor's 12th Annual Civil Rights Day. I cherish the relationship that we share with the Human Rights Commission (HRC) and the small part that we play in this event.

I am honored for the opportunity to extend my sincere congratulations and warmest best wishes to the honorees who are being recognized and celebrated for the work they do to advance both civil and human rights issues. Because of caring, concerned people like you, we are able to make strides in the fight for equality for every individual.

The (HRC) faced some adversities of their own during the past year, however, because of the tireless commitment of Acting Executive Director, Marykaye Jacquet, HRC staff and the HRC Board of Directors, the citizens of West Virginia continued to benefit from their efforts to end the discriminatory practices that we still face in the 21st century.

I will forever remember, and be grateful to my dear friend, the late, Judge Phyllis H. Carter, who devoted her life to advocating for the rights of others.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn L. Stewart".

Executive Director,
Herbert Henderson Office of Minority Affairs
Chair,
Martin Luther King Jr. State Holiday Commission





Governor John Kasich

February 4, 2015

**OHIO
CIVIL RIGHTS
COMMISSION**

MaryKaye Jacquet
Acting Executive Director
West Virginia Human Rights Commission
1321 Plaza East, Room 108A
Charleston, West Virginia 25301

G. Michael Payton
Executive Director

Re: West Virginia Human Rights Commission's
12th Annual Civil Rights Day

Commissioners

Leonard Hubert, Chairman

Lori Barretas

William W. Patmon, III

Tom Roberts

Dear Director Jacquet:

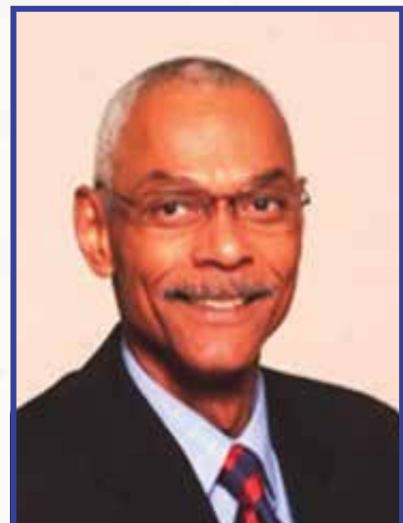
The State of West Virginia has established a long and proud tradition of annually recognizing and celebrating its outstanding citizens.

The honorees selected for your 12th Annual Civil Rights Day have affirmatively answered the question raised by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: *"Life's most persistent and urgent question is, 'What are you doing for others?'"*

We congratulate you and your honorees for a job well done.

Sincerely,

G. Michael Payton
Executive Director



CENTRAL OFFICE
30 East Broad Street
5th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215
(614) 466-2785 Phone
(888) 278-7101 Toll Free
(614) 466-7742 Fax
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C: OCRC Commissioners



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Room 108A, 1321 Plaza East
Charleston, WV 25301

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

Marykaye Jacquet
Acting Executive Director

February 26, 2015

As Chair of the West Virginia Human Rights Commissioners, it is truly an honor to be part of the Governor's Twelfth Annual Civil Rights Day Celebration. My congratulations go out to each of the honorees and the contributions they have made to the civil and humanitarian benefits of all West Virginians.

Each individual, regardless of race, creed, color or cultural background have proven their strength and capability to rise to the many challenges that face us as a people. They continue to take a stand and let their voices be heard in the face of opposition which attest to the validity of their being honored on today. These and individuals like them have given us a firm foundation on which we continue to build a better place for our continuing generations and the protection of those who follow in their footsteps.

Again, my personal congratulations go out to Marykaye Jacquet, Acting Executive Director, my fellow Commissioners and the Commission staff for the hard work they continue to do to eliminate discrimination for all West Virginians.

Truly yours,

Darrell Cummings

Rev. Dr. Darrell Cummings
Chair, WV Human Rights
Commission





STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

Room 108A, 1321 Plaza East
Charleston, WV 25301

Karen L. Bowling
Cabinet Secretary

Marykaye Jacquet
Acting Executive Director

February 26, 2015

On behalf of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, and Commissioners and Staff, I would like to welcome each of you to the Twelfth Annual Governor's Civil Rights Day Recognition ceremony. It is a personal joy to me to be a part of such a wonderful celebration in honor of those who have contributed to the cause of Civil and Human rights for all West Virginians. I am particularly pleased for the Commission's partnership with the Governor's in recognizing those persons who have dedicated themselves to the elimination of discrimination and discriminatory acts against all citizens within the State of West Virginia.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Governor Tomblin, Secretary Bowling and all those who continued to support the work of the Commission, without which this recognition celebration would not be possible.

I also extend my congratulations to all the honorees who continue to make a better and richer life for all West Virginia citizens. Your work is a testament to the principles of freedom and equality.

Sincerely,

Marykaye Jacquet

Acting Executive Director
WV Human Rights Commission



Meet Our Honorees

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





THE HONORABLE KIM AARON

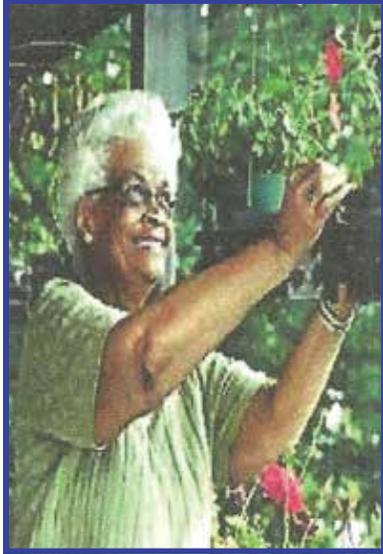
Kim Aaron has served as a Kanawha County Magistrate since February 2003 – additionally serving as Chief Magistrate in 2006. Magistrate Aaron has spent much of her judicial career as a five-year Magistrate Court Instructor at the WV State Police Academy, five years as a volunteer instructor - Kanawha 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.



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 Kathryn 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.



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.



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.



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 programming 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.

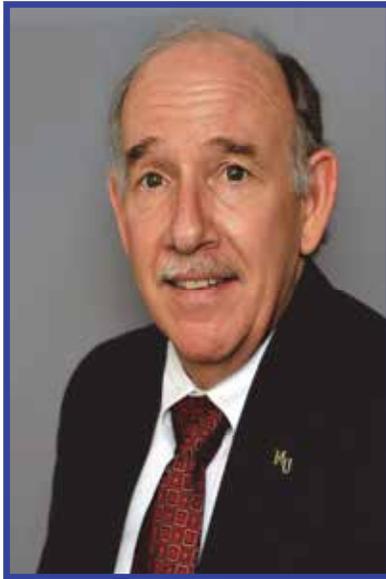
Mr. Cook began his career working as a Private Investigator, both nationally and internationally, with the Norman Jaspas Associates in New York City, NY, investigating corporate white collar crimes for Fortune 500 corporations, which were preliminary investigations for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. 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.



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.



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.



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.

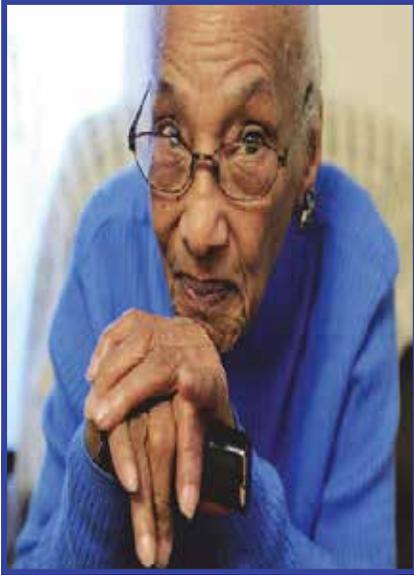
Another notable accomplishment is her leadership role as one of the co-founder's of the Health Sciences & Technology Academy (HSTA), a state-wide community outreach partnership program, designed to educate and inspire underserved youth to pursue careers in health science fields and STEM education. The 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.



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.

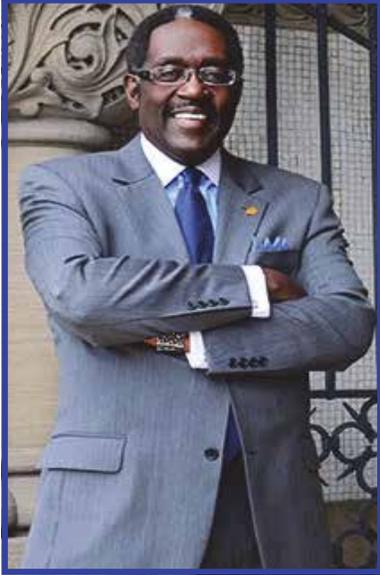
Dr. Foster is a consummate, detailed, intensely driven professional, with an extremely high level of analytical, leadership and non-profit management technological skills. She is the CEO of the Kanawha Institute for Social Research & Action, Inc. (KISRA) and has served in this capacity since 1998.

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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



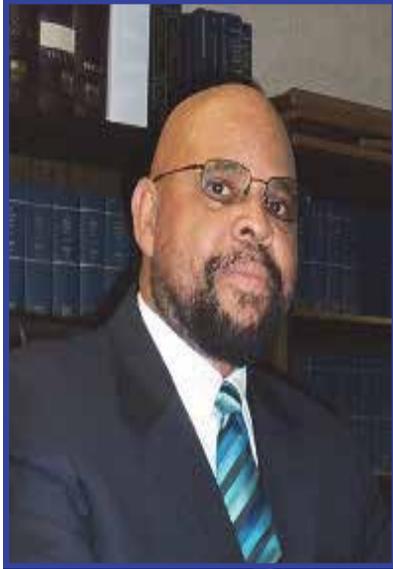
Jo Moss

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.

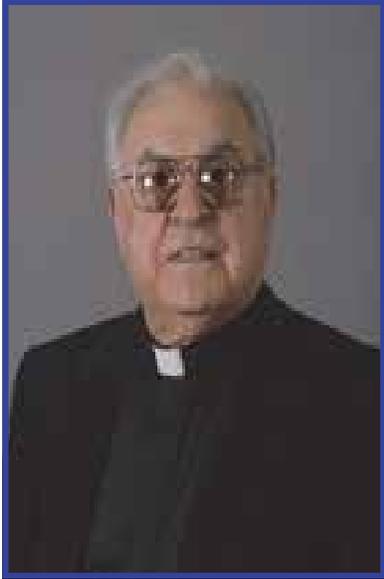
Ms. Ridgeway was an English teacher at Huntington High School from 1969 to 1975. She was also previously employed with Xerox Corporation in their Federal Jobs Corps Program.

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.



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.



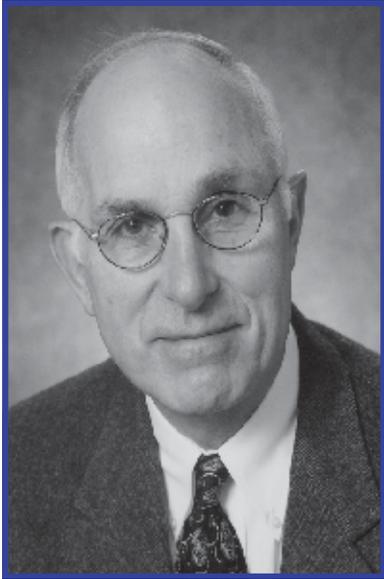
NORA SHEETS

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.



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 successful 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.



WILLETTE F. STINSON, PH.D

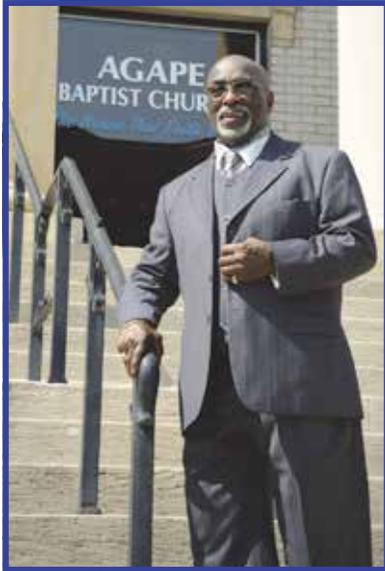
Dr. Willette F. Stinson was born in Wheeling, West Virginia in 1965, the daughter of Reverend Willie F. Stinson and Evangelist Ruth E. Stinson. Her secondary education was completed in New York and Pennsylvania, and she graduated from Trinity High School in Washington, Pennsylvania. While attending Saint 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.”



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.
Edward "Eddie" Belcher
Dr. Braxton Broady
Rev. Wesley Q. Dobbs
Paul L. Hamilton
Rosalean Hibbett
Norman Lindell
Dr. Rida Mazagri
Ralph D. Miller
Pastor Willie Nevels
Kathleen P. Reid
Monia S. Turley
Rabbi Victor Urecki
Lisa K. Younis

Dr. Ethel Caffie-Austin
Beni Kedem Shrine Temple
Rabbi Beth Jacowitz Chottiner
Karl S. Gattlieb, Esq.
Rt. Rev. Dr. Emanuel A. Heyliger
Rev. Dr. Lloyd A. Hill
Tara N. Martinez
John T. McFerrin, Esq.
The Honorable Sharon M. Mullens
Cpl. Errol Randle
William O. Ritchie, Sr. *
West Virginia Commission for the
Deaf and Hard of Hearing

2013

Carol A. Beattie
Randall Byrnside
Jan Derry
Reverend Ronald W. English
Robert L. Harrison, Ph.D.
The Honorable Tal Hutchins
Reverend Dr. Skyler K. Kershner
National Federation of the Blind of West Virginia
The Honorable Marie E. Redd
First Lady Joanne Jaeger Tomblin
Reverend Matthew J. Watts
Chief Brent L. Webster

The Honorable Irene C. Berger
Walter H. Chamberlain
Katherine "Kitty" L. Dooley, Esq.
Timothy L. Hairston
Cheryl L. Henderson, Esq.
Christopher D. Jackson
Reverend William Howard Law *
Curtis E. Price
Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Allen E. Tackett
Frank Veltri *
Dr. Rozelle Jenee Walker
The Honorable Patricia H. White

2012

Robert S. Baker, Esq.
Marion J. Capehart *
Earl Eugene "Gene" Corum *
Elmer H. Day, Jr.
Lt. Col. Kenneth Hale
Allan N. Karlin, Esq.
The Honorable Darrell W. McGraw
Charles G. Peters, Jr.
Jean E. Simpson
Richard F. "Dick" Smith
Dallas S. Staples
Gail Henderson-Staples, Esq.

The Honorable Bonnie Brown
Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
Rev. Dr. Darrell Cummings
James Lonnie Hagood *
Richard J. "Dick" Henderson *
Rev. Jim Lewis
Jane Moran, Esq.
Paul R. Sheridan, Esq.
Randall Reid Smith
Carolyn Elizabeth Smoot *
Dwight J. Staples, Esq.
Milford Ziegler

*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 Session, guests and dignitaries of honor spoke toward the reaffirmation of the Commission.

2010

Mary Frances Brammer
Helen Sutton Dobson*
Lieutenant Sidney Edward Frye
James A. Haught
Jada C. Hunter
Dr. Margaret Anne Cyrus Mills*
Dr. Minu Sabet
Catherine Dooley Taylor

Reverend Beatrice Ruth Burgess*
Patrolman Robert Edward Easley, Sr.*
The Hon. Joseph Robert Goodwin
Councilman James C. Hunt
Odith P. Jakes*
Brown Hugo Payne, Esquire*
First Sergeant James C. Spriggs, Jr.*

2009

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. White
Brian Williams*
Claude Williams
Thomas Zerbe, J.D.

2008

The Seventeen Black Railroad Yardmen
C. O. Baumgardner
Thomas H. Mack
Rabbi Helen Bar-Yaacov
William Anthony "Tony" Brown
The Charleston Women's Improvement
League, Inc.
James A. Griffin
James Arthur Jackson*
Gertrude Diana Campbell Jackson*

Charles Howell James, II*
The Hon. A. Andrew MacQueen, III
Attorney James E. Parker
Richard H. Payne
Benjamin Clyde Perkins, Jr.*
The Silver Leaf Club
The West Virginia Tuskegee Airmen
Quewanncoii "Que" C. Stephens, Sr.
The Hon. Justice Margaret L. Workman
Eugene K. Young

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.

*honored posthumously

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. Moses 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



WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:



- ◆ GOVERNOR EARL RAY TOMBLIN
- ◆ THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF AND PHOTOGRAPHER
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DR. CAROLYN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
- ◆ SECRETARY KAREN L. BOWLING AND STAFF
- ◆ ASSISTANT CABINET SECRETARY, NANCY SULLIVAN
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- ◆ NATALIE TENNANT, SECRETARY OF STATE
- ◆ DR. ROBERT HARRISON
- ◆ CRYSTAL GOODE, POETRY SELECTION
- ◆ STEPHEN SPOTTSWOOD, VIOLINIST
- ◆ REV. DONTE' JACKSON, SOLOIST
- ◆ REV. B. J. ROBERTS, SOLOIST
- ◆ STANDLEY GREEN, VIDEOGRAPHER
- ◆ WEST VIRGINIA HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
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- ◆ VOLUNTEERS:
 - WILMA DIXON
 - MALVA CAREY
 - ESTHER HUPP
 - JACKIE LAWSON





“Lift Every Voice and Sing”

(Negro National Anthem by James Weldon Johnson)

Lift every voice and sing, till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise, high as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song, full of faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song, full of hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun, of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast’ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet, with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered
We have come, treading our path thru’ the blood of the slaughtered,
Out from the glooming past, till new we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who has by Thy might, led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee.
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee.
Shadowed beneath Thy hand, may we forever stand,
True to our God, true to our native land.



