

"From Whence We Came"

MEET OUR HONOREES

West Virginia Civil Rights Day



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2004
12 NOON
CHARLESTON JOB CORPS CENTER
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA



Sponsored By:

State of West Virginia, Office of the Governor
Charleston Job Corps Center
West Virginia State College
West Virginia Human Rights Commission



MY VISION

I believe that the people of this state are the greatest resource in the world. The very foundation upon which this state was founded supports the belief that we are all created equal and should not be discriminated against because of color, race, nationality, religion, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, blindness or familial status.

I believe that affordable, clean and descent housing is a right. Access to a quality education is crucial to the economic, social and moral growth of our great state. Education promotes tolerance of the many diverse cultures, racial, ethnic and religious groups that make our state great.

I believe that No-one should be discriminated against in employment, housing and public accommodation.

My vision is that this state will continue on its path of greatness. As the only state born out of the War Between the States, every day I renew my commitment to do all I can to perpetuate an atmosphere of harmony and fairness, equality and access for all West Virginians. This is my vision.

May God save the precious state of West Virginia.

Ivin B. Lee
Executive Director
West Virginia Human Rights Commission

Ivin B. Lee

Ivin B. Lee has had a long and outstanding career in the field of law enforcement, criminal justice, human and civil rights. Currently, she is the Executive Director of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. She was initially appointed to this position by Governor Cecil Underwood and reappointed by Governor Bob Wise. Prior to this appointment, she served as the Deputy Director for Corrections of the West Virginia Division of Juvenile Services. She has received numerous gubernatorial appointments, namely, an appointment to the Governor's Law Enforcement Training Subcommittee and the Governor's Health Care Advisory Council. Recently she was appointed to serve on the Supreme Court's Taskforce to Study Perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System.

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

Ivin Lee is a native of Kanawha County. She attended Charleston public schools and graduated from Garnet High School. She received her Bachelor of Science degree from West Virginia State College and has received specialized training in many facets of the law. She is a graduate of the State Police Academy, basic training program.

Her public service affiliations are numerous. She is a member of the West Virginia Black Law Enforcement United (WV BLEU); the Fraternal Order of Police-Capitol City Lodge; West Virginia Women's Club of Dunbar; the West Virginia Chiefs Of Police Association; the Kanawha -Charleston Neighborhood Congress and the NAACP.

She is the recipient of numerous award and honors: African American Women of Distinction, West Virginia Women's Commission, June 23, 2002; YWCA Woman of Achievement in Government, February 1, 1998; West Virginia Trial Lawyers Outstanding Law Enforcement Award, June 1997; NAACP Woman of the Decade, 1986-1996; Appalachian Women of West Virginia, Smithsonian Institute, 1996; and Charleston Woman's Improvement League, Inc.-100 Year Anniversary Community Service Award.

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

Proclamation
by
Governor Bob Wise

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Bob Wise, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *February 26, 2004*, as:

Civil Rights Day

in West Virginia.

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 First day of December, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Three and in the One Hundred Forty-first year of the State.





Bob Wise
Governor

By the Governor:



Joe Manchin III
Secretary of State



Dr. Elayne Crozier Abnathy

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

In 1956, Dr. Abnathy graduated magna cum laude from West Virginia State College. Following graduation, she taught in the public school system in Cleveland, Ohio. After returning to West Virginia, Dr. Abnathy taught in Kanawha County Schools and continued her own education at West Virginia and Marshall Universities. In 1962, she received her Masters Degree from Marshall University.

Dr. Abnathy was a devoted member of CORE and participated in numerous sit-ins and demonstrations in Charleston during the sixties. She actually participated in the sit-ins at the Diamond Department Store, which ultimately resulted in African-Americans being able to shop and eat there.

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

Dr. Abnathy was employed as a Reading Clinician at the Kanawha County Reading Clinic. After three years in that position, she was offered a dual position at West Virginia State College as an instructor in the Department of Education and director of The Reading Clinic.

In 1976, Dr. Abnathy received a Doctor of Philosophy Degree from Union Graduate School at Yellow Springs, Ohio. In 1994, she received The Kanawha County International Reading Association Award for Outstanding and Dedicated Service in the field of reading.

Dr. Abnathy holds memberships in Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, Delta Kappa Gamma, Literacy Volunteers of America, Literacy Volunteers of Kanawha County, Women Praying for the Peach Initiative and MAACK (Maximizing Achievement for African American Children in Kanawha County Schools). She is also a member of the First Baptist Church of Charleston.

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



Mildred Mitchell-Bateman

Dr. Mildred Mitchell-Bateman is a native of Brunswick, Georgia, the daughter of a minister and registered nurse. She attended Barber-Scotia College in Concord, North Carolina, and graduated from Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte, North Carolina. She received an M.D. from Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania.

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

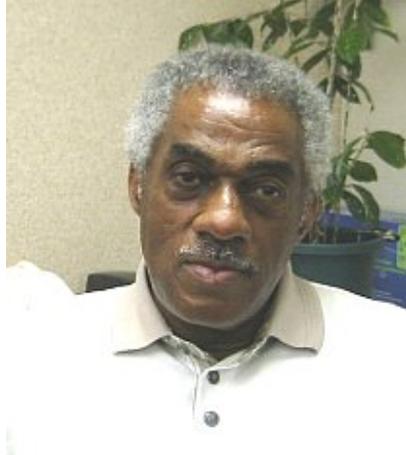
Three years later, the Superintendent invited Dr. Bateman returned to Lakin because of insufficient medical staff. After a year, the Superintendent helped Dr. Bateman to obtain a fellowship and residency at the Menniger School of Psychiatry in Topeka, Kansas. Upon completion of this training, she returned to Lakin in August, 1955 as Clinical Director. She was later promoted to superintendent of the hospital. In 1960, Dr. Bateman was named Supervisor of Professional Services for the State Department of Mental Health. In 1962, Governor Wallace "Wally" Baron named her director of the Department of Mental Health. She became the first African-American woman to be named to a high ranking office in West Virginia.

Dr. Bateman is an advocate for mentally ill patients in West Virginia. She developed a program entitled "Breaking the Disability Cycle." Dr. Bateman advocated placing mentally ill patients at facilities near their homes and taking advantage of the federal assistance available to develop community mental health centers. Her program gave hope to patients that were previously labeled as untreatable. She is famous for her statement "No one has the right to decide that patients aren't going to get any better." In 1973, Dr. Bateman became the first African-American to serve as vice-president of the American Psychiatric Association. In 1977 she became one of four psychiatrists on the President's Commission on Mental Health. This Commission was responsible for the Mental Health Systems Act, passed in 1980.

In 1977, Dr. Bateman became the first chair of the Psychiatric Department of Marshall University's new Medical School. When Dr. Bateman stepped down as chair of the Department, she became a part of the effort to work for accreditation of Huntington

State Hospital. When Dr. Roy Edwards retired, Dr. Bateman succeeded him as Clinical Director at Huntington. Thus she came full circle, back to the public psychiatric hospital, but with one major difference—helping to prepare medical students to become advocates for high quality treatment for persons with mental illness. On October 2, 1999, Huntington Hospital was celebrating one hundred years of operation when Governor Cecil Underwood read a proclamation changing the hospital's name to the Mildred Mitchell-Bateman Hospital.

Dr. Bateman retired in February, 2000. She still sees patients ½ day a week in the University Psychiatric outpatient clinic and she still presides over an occasional teaching case conference with medical students.



Hollie James Brown

Hollie James Brown was born in Dakota, West Virginia to Jesse Brown, a coal miner, and his wife Alice Ruth Brown. He attended public schools in Kanawha County and graduated from East Bank High School. In 1960, he joined the Army. After three years, he returned to West Virginia and worked in the coal mines and at a hospital. He also attended West Virginia State College where he majored in political science.

Mr. Brown was instrumental in the Garbage Strike of 1972 against the City of Charleston. While working in the incinerator department, Mr. Brown strived for changes in the working conditions that the mostly minority workers were enduring. Garbage bags were not used and the workers were forced to carry heavy garbage cans. The workers had no grievance procedure and the pay was low. The strike lasted ten months during which time workers walked off the job. The strike resulted in requiring Charleston residents to use garbage bags; the creation of a grievance procedure; and, better pay.

In 1974, some white parents protested books written by African-American authors in the Kanawha County School System. Mr. Brown marched in protest against that protest. He spoke to the County Board of Education regarding this issue. He felt that African-American children were being alienated and that this issue needed to be addressed.

Mr. Brown's motto is "If you try, there's a possibility you will win, if you don't try at all, defeat is looking you in the face."

He has worked for the United States Postal Service for twenty-seven years. He and his wife Gloria had five children, two of whom are deceased. He attends Mt. Zion United Holiness Church in St. Albans. He is a member of the NAACP and a contributor to the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. He also contributes to the United Negro College Fund, the Kanawha County Schools Shoe Program and Feed the Children.



Madrith Chambers

In 1954, Madrith Chambers graduated from Stratton High School in Beckley. She went on to graduate from Bluefield State College with a B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration and an A.S. in Law Enforcement.

Ms. Chambers previously held the position of 2nd Vice President of the Raleigh County Branch of the NAACP; she served for 9 years as Chairwoman for the City of Beckley Human Rights Commission, and was a member of the Beckley Community Housing Resource Board, and a Chair for the Mayors Committee on Disability Accessibility.

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

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

Ms. Chamber's love for children motivated her to organize the annual City of Beckley "Kid's Classic Festival;" now in its 11th year. The purpose of this event was to develop and promote family unity between parents and children. Over 500 parents and children attend this back to school event in September of each year.

Ms. Chambers has served City of Beckley in the capacity of Councilwoman for the past 12 years. She is currently a member of the Community Health Systems Board of Directors, Heart of God Ministries, and the Raleigh County Branch of the NAACP. She is the mother of five children, Stephanie, Gregory, Patrick, Jennifer and Sharri and the grandmother of seven and great-grandmother of two.



Reverend David C. Chappell (Posthumously)

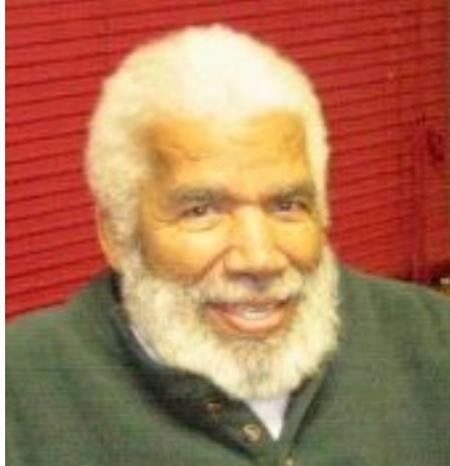
Reverend David C. Chappell was born on January 16, 1922, to the Reverend Settie B. Chappell and Beatrice Hendricks Chappell of Vulcan, West Virginia. He joined the African Methodist Episcopal Church at an early age. After many years of Christian experience, he was called into the ministry. He began serving as pastor of Bethel AME Church in 1973.

Reverend Chappell was especially known for his successful work in prison ministry. He was highly respected in the community for his ability to counsel. He was a spiritual father to a number of young men and women in the Third Episcopal District.

Reverend Chappell participated in civil rights marches throughout the southern part of the United States. He organized and led a group that marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Washington D.C.

Reverend Chappell was very active in labor management affairs. At the time of his retirement, he was field coordinator for the AFL-CIO Appalachian Council. He served in advisor capacity for many organizations in the community. He also served on many boards and committees as a respected leader of the West Virginia Annual Conference.

He and his wife Sara were the parents of one daughter, Carol Edwards and the grandparents of two grandsons, Eric and Timothy Edwards. Reverend Chappell passed away on October 30, 1989.



Retired Sergeant Edward Clark, Jr.

Edward Clark, Sr. is a legend at the City of Charleston Police Department. He set the standard for African American police officers and the standard is high. Sergeant Clark joined the Force in 1956, a time when African American officers assigned to beats in predominately white areas of town, were not allowed to eat in or use the public restrooms in these restaurants. African American police officers were usually assigned to the paddy wagon and “Triangle District” where most African Americans lived. Furthermore, African American officers could not join the Fraternal Order of Police. These officers could protect and serve, but, could not exercise the rights guaranteed them under the United States Constitution.

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

Using the legal system, Sergeant Clark filed a lawsuit against the City of Charleston Police Department that resulted in, after a 16 year battle, African American officers’ admission to the Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) in 1973. He is a member of the FOP and played basketball on the Police Officers team. He sued the Mayor, Police Chief, and the City of Charleston Police Civil Service Commission, won and subsequently, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant.

During his tenure on the Force, Sergeant Clark mentored many African American officers and continued to protest against unfair treatment by the Department. He spearheaded policy changes that ended discrimination in promotions and duty assignments. Sgt. Clark received commendation letters that salute him for defusing racial tensions in the riot filled 60’s. He was a good officer; tough but fair. He is committed to justice and believes in the importance of family. Often, he reminds youth to honor their parents.

After his retirement from the City of Charleston Police Department, Sergeant Clark became the Chief of Campus Police at West Virginia State College. He later retired in 1986.

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

person. His life started with the people he came in contact with as a kid. Sgt. Clark says that people can make or break you, and the people...made me.

Sergeant Clark was born on June 2, 1925 in Charleston, West Virginia on 7th Avenue next to Patrick Street. His grandfather was a Holiness Preacher. His parents were Edward and Madge Clark and his father cooked for George Gas at the 24 Summers Street Lunch. He is a graduate of Garnett High School. One of the defining factors in Sgt. Clark's life was when he went to work for Emmett Bowen, who sold meat all over town. Another major revelation came to Sgt. Clark when he joined the Army and traveled to England and Scotland and realized that racism was not a common feeling around the world. He was married for many years to Barbara Clark, a professor at West Virginia State College in Institute, West Virginia. She is now deceased. He had two sons by a previous marriage, one of whom is now deceased.



Rabbi Samuel Cooper

There are those persons who will leave a legacy of love, respect, dignity, and a sincere affection for his fellow man. Rabbi Cooper, who served the B'nai Jacob Congregation of Charleston for 40 years, is one such person.

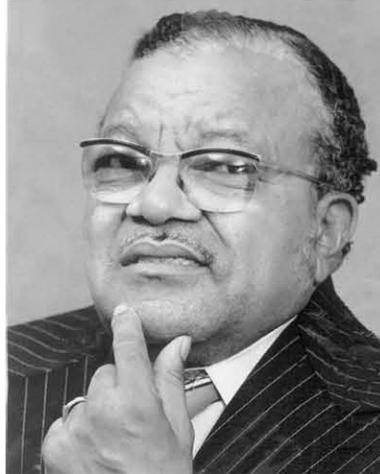
Born in Toronto, Canada to Joseph and Alta Cooper, he assumed his studies at the renowned Talmudical Academy in New York at the tender age of twelve. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the College of the City of New York and his ordination as Rabbi at the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He came to Charleston at the age of 22 years on temporary assignment and so impressed the congregation that he was invited back to assume a permanent position and stayed 40 years.

During his many years in Charleston, West Virginia, he served on the Human Rights Commission; the Mayor's Citizens Advisory Committee for Community Improvement; the Charleston Job Corps Relations Council; and the Social Studies Advisory Curriculum for the State Department of Education. Also, he served on the Board of Directors of the American Red Cross and the National Council of the American Israeli Public Affairs Committee.

He likes to think that his most noteworthy effort occurred in 1950 when he was summoned by one of the American Jewish Congress to intercede on behalf of the 103 Jewish displaced persons to stay their departure from this country back to their European homes of origin. So successful was he in this endeavor that the Congress in a most praiseworthy article wrote, "We know you were not motivated by any desire for commendation, but we wish we had an award to bestow upon you for the service rendered over and beyond the call of duty."

But, he is likewise remembered for his support of civil rights in the Charleston area. In 1967, the Charleston Gazette recognized him as one of the four outstanding West Virginians of the year. Morris Harvey College conferred an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree upon him.

He and wife, Rebbetzin have three sons.



Howard Jefferson Crump

Howard Jefferson Crump was born on April 24, 1915 in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia, one of the most rigidly racially segregated places in West Virginia. Mr. Crump has spent his life actively promoting racial equality. He lived through almost the entire twentieth century. The only place he could attend high school was the Bolling School in Lewisburg, nine miles from his home. Greenbrier County would not provide a school bus, so Mr. Crump and other black students walked the nine miles to Lewisburg to go to Bolling. As the Great Depression hit, he had to drop out of high school in 1929 to join his father's business, J. F. Crump & Sons Hauling. He worked in his father's business and, when work was available, worked on the New Deal program, Works Progress Administration (WPA). In 1932, Mr. Crump began working part time at The Greenbrier Resort. He worked at The Greenbrier for 52 years. His poor eyesight caused him to be rejected by the U. S. Army during World War II, so he worked at Ashford General Hospital, in the converted Greenbrier hotel.

The Greenbrier Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was organized in 1954. Mr. Crump served as president from 1955 until 1979. May 1954 saw the beginnings of the 1960s civil rights movement with the U.S. Supreme Court decision, Brown v. Board of Education, that overturned "separate but equal." In November 1954, at the request of attorney T. G. Nutter, Thurgood Marshall, then General Counsel NAACP Legal Defense Fund, came to speak at First Baptist Church in White Sulphur Springs.

Greenbrier County schools were racially segregated. Attorneys Nutter and Williard Brown, chair of the state NAACP legal redress committee, argued in Federal Court under Judge Moore in Lewisburg that Brown v. Board of Education required Greenbrier County to desegregate its public schools. They won. White Sulphur Springs' white students rioted when black students enrolled. Mr. Crump shuttled between his job at The Greenbrier and downtown White Sulphur Springs to help black people get their children into the school and to keep them safe.

Mr. Crump and the Greenbrier Branch helped people in neighboring counties of Monroe County and Pocahontas County. He helped get bus driver job in Monroe; helped settle discrimination cases where black people would have lost without his and the NAACP's representation; and helped negotiate Greenbrier area school desegregation.

During the turbulent days of the 1960s, Howard Crump and others in The Greenbrier's labor unions and the Greenbrier Branch NAACP helped people in other states. When sharecroppers were put out of their homes and set up a tent city in Hayward and Fayette Counties, Tennessee, they took food to them. When the Memphis, Tennessee, garbage collectors went on strike with the slogan, "I Am a Man," Mr. Crump failed to get someone from Charleston to help, so he and his groups took food and other supplies. They collected money from Greenbrier churches and canned goods. He was in Memphis the week in 1968 when Dr. King was assassinated, and had stayed at the Lorraine Motel just days before Dr. King was shot on the Lorraine's balcony. Mr. Crump continues to promote the goals of civil rights.



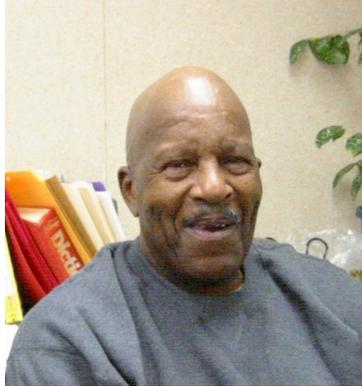
Roger Forman

Roger Forman was born and raised in New Rochelle, New York, but he has always felt that he was meant to live in West Virginia. He has spent much of his life focusing on the civil rights movement.

As a child, he helped to prepare and sell chicken dinners to fund school desegregation cases. In 1964, civil rights activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner were murdered in Mississippi. The mother of Mickey Schwerner was a teacher at the junior high that Mr. Forman attended. He and his classmates committed their energies to fighting for civil rights and raising money for freedom riders.

After graduating from the University of Michigan in 1970, Mr. Forman attended Antioch School of Law. In law school, he worked at the civil rights division of the attorney general's office and participated in two southern school desegregation cases which went to trial.

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



Robert Jackson Guerrant

Robert Guerrant was born in 1923 in the coal community of Winding Gulf, West Virginia. In 1943, he became one of the first African-Americans to join the United States Marine Corp. He went directly overseas to the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific. After spending close to three years in the military, he returned to Winding Gulf and applied to West Virginia State College, but his father became disabled and he had to go to work full time in the coal mines to care for his immediate family. After working in the mines for 25 years, he developed black lung and was let go.

Mr. Guerrant was an advocate for rights of children in public schools. He became interested in desegregation. His goal was to make schools more open to black students who were attending white schools. He traveled between New York, Boston, Washington D.C. and West Virginia to gather and develop information on the similarities between inner city schools and rural area schools. He supervised VISTA (Volunteers in Service To America) volunteers in the Raleigh County area dealing with rural issues such as road, water, housing, education and transportation issues.

Robert Guerrant applied to go to Beckley Junior college and was initially turned down because of his race. He was subsequently accepted and there he studied psychology and social problems. He went on to attend the University of Pittsburgh and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1971, he received his master's degree in education from Harvard Graduate School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

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

He is a member of the United Mine Workers of America local 1946, he has served on the Committee on Rural Transportation in Washington, D.C., the Committee for Support of Public Schools in Washington, D.C., the transportation System Committee in Raleigh County and was the organizer of Spate, a community watchdog newspaper. He was a member of the Parents Board, Title I, E.S.E.A., the chairman of the Headstart Advisory Committee in Raleigh County, a daycare and child development consultant and chairman of the Coalition for Day Care Services. He is presently a member of the National Association for Community Development and a member of the West Virginia Welfare Advisory Committee, Area 17.

Robert and his wife Marybelle are the parents of Maxine, Carson "Slim", Cynthia, Linda, Paula, Barbara, Robert Jr., Terry, Mary, Byron, Bryant, Anthony, Diane and

Jennifer Guerrant. Nine of their children are college graduates. They currently reside in Charleston.



Betty Agsten Hamilton

Betty Agsten Hamilton grew up in and around Charleston, West Virginia and was the older of two children born to Mr. and Mrs. John Agsten. She graduated from Stonewall Jackson High School and Sullins Jr. Women's College, in Bristol, Virginia where she studied piano and was President of the student body. She graduated from West Virginia University with a degree in Public School Music.

Mrs. Hamilton has touched many lives through her dedication to the advancement of civil rights from the 1950's through today. Early on, she lobbied and marched for civil rights and for the passage of Human Rights Act. She sat in at the Diamond lunch counter in order to facilitate integration in Charleston in the 1950's. Ms. Hamilton was the President of the Kanawha Valley Council on Human Rights; Co-founder of Panel of American Women; a volunteer at the day care center at Coal Branch Heights; part of a group that tried to locate housing for people living in the Triangle District who were displaced by the interstate; and a member of the National Bi-Racial Bi-Centennial Commission.

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

Ms. Hamilton appeared in the media hundreds of times; was a twenty year member of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission; was on the State Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; was on a Special Committee to investigate health care at Alderson Federal Prison Camp for Women; appeared on Phil Donahue twice, once to talk about mental health; and once in support of books in the Kanawha County Textbook Controversy. She was also a

member of the Selection Committee to recommend books to the Kanawha County School Board during the textbook controversy. Betty Hamilton was also on the National Board for the Depressive/Manic Depressive Association and the National Board for “NARSAD”, the National Alliance for Research in Schizophrenia & Depression.



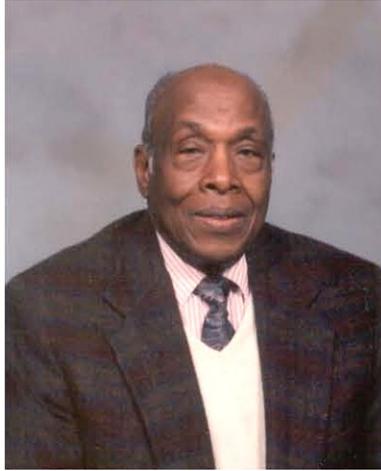
The Honorable Gail Marie Jackson Ferguson

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

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

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

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



Allen Edward Lee

Mr. Allen Edward Lee was born in 1921 in Clarksburg West Virginia. One of three children, he attended segregated schools in Clarksburg and graduated from Kelly Miller High School in 1939. After finishing high school, he joined the U.S. Army and served in World War II in the South Pacific. In 1947 Allen returned to Clarksburg. He tried to use his veteran status to get a job at the local veterans' hospital, but, was unsuccessful. Eventually, he went to work for Sears & Roebuck Department Store.

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

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

After retirement in 1991 he returned to West Virginia. A devoted husband Mr. Lee cared for his wife until her death.

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



Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus (Posthumously)

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

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus became an active member of the Kanawha Valley Council on Human Relations. Her activism in the civil rights struggle began during the time when the triangle district in Charleston, West Virginia was being torn apart to make way for industrial development, displacing small businesses and lower income families, largely black, who could not find housing.

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

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

Jean F. Loewenstein Lazarus was a member of the congregation of Temple Israel and served on the board of the Charleston Section of the National Council of Jewish Women. She and her first husband Stanley were patrons of the arts.

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



Lucille Meadows

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

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

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

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

Ms. Meadows was recognized by the Fayetteville Women's Club in 1985, for her support of education. She received the Appreciation for Humanitarian Service in Southern WV presented by St. Matthews A.M.E. Church of Beckley, WV in 1986. In 1988, she received the T.G. Nutter Award for outstanding service and humanity.

Ms. Meadows had several appointments by Senator Jay D. Rockefeller, such

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

Ms. Meadows was the mother of one daughter, Benita Luanne Austin, and two grandchildren, Jeri Monique, and Jerome Wayne Austin. Ms. Meadows passed away in 1997.



Reverend Moses Newsome (Posthumously)

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

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

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

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

Reverend Newsome was born in Ahoskie, North Carolina, November 15, 1914. He attended public schools in Ahoskie. He received his B.A. and B.D. degrees from Shaw University in Raleigh North Carolina. He was also awarded another B.D. and S.T.M. degrees from the Graduate School of Theology at Oberlin College.

in Ohio. In 1941, at the age of 26, he was called to the pastorate of First Baptist Church. He married Ruth Bass of Raleigh, North Carolina in 1942. To this union were born four children.

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

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

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



Dr. Virgil A. Peterson (Posthumously)

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

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



Dr. Sophia Peterson

Dr. Sophia Peterson also served as a member of the ACLU and the NAACP. She has worked diligently in the field of women and civil rights.

Soon after she received a position in the Department of Political Science in 1966, she protested the location the student honorary dinner at a restaurant that did not admit African Americans to her department chairman. Although the dinner location was not changed, this would not be the first time she would protest the double standard of racism in Morgantown.

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



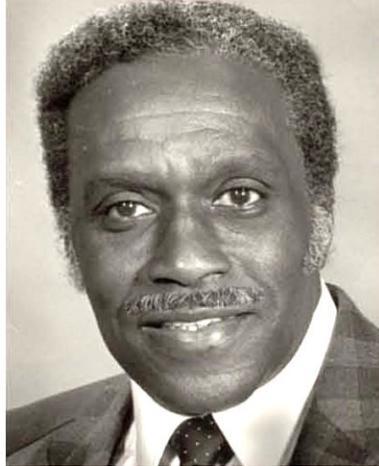
Lucille Pianfetti

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

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

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

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



Charles Emmett Price (Posthumously)

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

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

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

He was a member of Simpson Memorial United Methodist Church, where he served with his time, talent and other resources. He was also affiliated with Humphreys Memorial United Methodist Church. He also served his church in a larger capacity as West Virginia Conference President of United Methodist Men.

He and his wife Christine are the parents of three children; Karen Williams of Charleston; Lois Price of Roswell, Georgia; and, Charles L. Price of Columbus, Ohio. Charles Emmett Price passed away in 1991 at the age of 70.



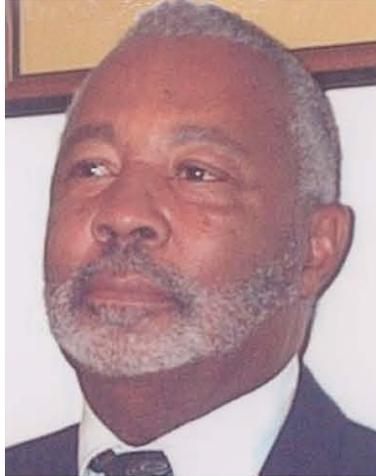
**Josephine Morris Rayford
(Posthumously)**

Josephine Morris Rayford grew up in Pennsylvania. She was the youngest daughter of the Reverend Joseph Edward and Emma Gilkerson Morris. After completing a 3 year commercial teacher training course a year early, she began her teaching career at the minority-only Garnet High School in Charleston in 1924. During her 35 years of teaching in Kanawha County schools, she was well known for inspiring her students in a fun and fair atmosphere. Her students included Tony Brown and Leon Sullivan. She was named “Outstanding Business Education Teacher” by Bluefield State College seven times. She was the faculty sponsor of the school newspaper “The Eye,” which won First Place in state competition.

After voluntarily retiring, she continued to teach adult education at the State Police and Charleston Police Department. She was called upon to teach at West Virginia State College from 1963 to 1970. In 1971 she was recommended for “Outstanding Educator in America.” Mrs. Rayford also continued her own education throughout her lifetime, receiving degrees from West Virginia State College, Ohio State University and University of Dayton. She actively supported Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and participated in marches, meetings and discussions. She protested against the injustices of discrimination.

Mrs. Rayford was the first African American affiliated with the Kanawha County Business Education Association, serving of the Board of Directors. Mrs. Rayford was a member of many organizations and served on the State and County Curriculum Revision Committee. She was named Alumni of the Year by the West Virginia State College Alumni Association. Mrs. Rayford’s work with Meals on Wheels got her named “Hometown Hero” by the television WSAZ. She was a member of the St. Paul A.M.E. Church and a Sunday school teacher. She was recognized as a “Valiant Woman” by the national body of Church Women United. She was a life member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and a member of the Charleston -Institute Alumnae Chapter.

Josephine Morris Rayford shared her life with her husband of 41 years, George B. Rayford, who died in 1983. In 1993 at the age of 89, she was honored by the Henry Highland Garnett Foundation for years of dedication and service. She passed away in December 2001.



George Rutherford

A true champion of civil rights in West Virginia, Mr. George Rutherford served as a member of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission for 19 years and as its chair for 8 for those years. He has assisted many persons in filing complaints of discrimination at the state and federal level for more than 40 years.

Mr. Rutherford has served as the President of the Jefferson County Branch of the NAACP since 1974. He is currently the longest serving NAACP president in West Virginia. He is the recipient of the Eighth T. G. Nutter Award, the highest award given by the West Virginia State NAACP for exceptional and outstanding service to the State and National NAACP. In 2000, he received the Roland Alexander Branch President of the Year in the Midwest Region III.

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

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

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

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

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

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



Steve Rutledge

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

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

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

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

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

Steve Rutledge came to live in West Virginia in the early 1970s where he continues to work for the Civil Rights Movement's highest principles. Currently helping low and moderate income people obtain affordable, decent housing through the Greenbrier County Housing Authority, he has worked as an investigator for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission and as a labor organizer for the AFSCME. He is a mainstay of the Greenbrier Martin Luther King Day Committee. He speaks of the day by saying, "For me, the holiday honoring the life and beliefs of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. is the only one that was created in our lifetime to place equality, justice and peace at the top of our list of what is important. It is a day on, not off, because it gives each of us a chance to unite with one or more other persons to make something better - it could be our family, our school, our job, or our community."



Mary Snow

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

She was the first female elected editor of the West Virginia State College newspaper, the Yellow Jacket. Her education career evidences a multitude of significant records. These records include fifty-two years in the teaching and administrative fields in Kanawha County Schools (believed to be the longest tenure in the state's history.) In addition to that record, she was the first African-American exchange teacher from West Virginia sent to Great Britain. While there, she was selected as one of the ten most outstanding exchange teachers and was honored by being selected to have tea with Queen Mary, Queen Mother of Britain.

Her educational leadership skills have been encompassed in various positions such as: president of the Board of Regents Block Grant Advisory Board; member of the Board of Advisors of West Virginia State College; Director of Kanawha County Schools Creative Expression Center; and, first black supervising principal of an integrated school in Kanawha County. She served as a principal for 35 years.

Ms. Snow is a longtime commissioner on the Charleston Human Rights Commission. She is a Hall of Fame inductee in the Henry Highland Garnett Foundation and a board and newsletter editor. She is the President of the Charleston Women's Improvement Council and a member of several other organizations. She is the past president of three public service Greek Letter organizations: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; Delta Kappa Gamma Society; and, Epsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Phi.

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



The Honorable Nancy A. Starks (Posthumously)

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

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

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

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

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



The Honorable Booker T. Stephens

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

In February, 1985, then Supreme Court Chief Justice Richard Neely appointed Judge Stephens to serve with a panel of four other judges, on the West Virginia Supreme Court to hear a case in which the then Supreme Court disqualified itself from hearing. As a result, Judge Stephens became the first African American judge in the history of the state to sit on the Supreme Court of Appeals. Since 1985, Judge Stephens has been designated to sit on the Supreme Court of Appeals on nine separate occasions. He is a member of the prestigious Mass Litigation Panel which consists of six judges who hear all complex mass litigation in the State of West Virginia. He is also a member of the Supreme Court's Taskforce on Self Representation and the Taskforce to Study perceived Racial Disparity in the Juvenile Justice System in West Virginia.

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

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

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

Judge Stephens served two terms in the West Virginia Legislature as a member of the House of Delegates, where in 1980 he became Chairman of the Standing Committee on Political Subdivisions. He takes great pride in being a co-sponsor and floor leader of the bill that made Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday a state holiday in West Virginia.

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



Reverend Julian G. Sulgit, Jr.

The Rev. Dr. Julian G. Sulgit, Jr., became immersed in the 1960s Civil Rights Movement when in his hometown of Chicago. Julian joined Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in marches to protest segregated and slum housing in the face of tens of thousands of hecklers who threw rocks, bottles, cherry bombs, and eggs, hitting Dr. King and those marching with him.

In 1965, Chicago's black citizens attended racially segregated schools that received about a third the financial resources of white schools. They lived in racially defined ghettos in deplorable housing, and had little access to employment or economic opportunity. All hell broke loose when Dr. King moved into Chicago to begin the Chicago phase of the civil rights movement. Protest marches against housing discrimination led to riots. The Illinois National Guard went on riot duty.

Young Julian Sulgit, a deeply spiritual high school student and college student, was active in social justice efforts. In high school and while completing a B.S. in Philosophy at Loyola University, Julian worked as student coordinator of Young Christian Students and in the Pilsen Neighborhood Community Credit Union. He volunteered with the East Garfield Park Community Organization and trained at the Urban Training Center for Christian Mission. When Dr. King came to Chicago, Julian participated in the open housing marches led by Dr. King and Rev. Jesse Jackson. He continued working in Chicago with the Catholic Worker Movement, where he helped hundreds of Mexican immigrants find jobs. As a seminary student in Indianapolis, he participated in and helped organize protest marches.

Julian Sulgit continued to try to accomplish the civil rights movement's highest ideals throughout his life and work in the pastoral ministry. His commitment to the diversity and spiritual life of the church is demonstrated in his substantial ecumenical experience with Methodist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Christian, Baptist, and Muslim religions. After completing a M.Div. at Christian Theological Seminary in 1969, he and his wife, West Virginian Patricia A. Jarvis, taught English and Bible for three years at Jaiama Secondary School, Private Bag-Koidu Town, Sierra Leone, West Africa. They returned to West Virginia in the early 1970s where Dr. Sulgit served as Director of the Charleston District Outreach

Ministries. He was a founding Board member of Covenant House and served on the board of Manna Meal. As Glenville State College's campus pastor, he organized housing and relief for flood victims. He helped Thomson United Methodist Church in Wheeling tithe to churches in need. At Trinity United Methodist Church in Bluefield, which he co-pastored with his wife, the Rev. Dr. Patricia A. Jarvis, he initiated services for at-risk pregnant women and a safe Friday night gathering place for teens.

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

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



Leon Howard Sullivan

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

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

In 1950, Reverend Sullivan became the pastor of Zion Baptist Church in Philadelphia where he organized an economic boycott that opened jobs to 3000 African Americans in 1961. Later, Reverend Sullivan organized the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (O.I.C.) in 1964, which provided training to disadvantaged African American youths. At one time, more than 75 centers throughout the United States and 33 centers in 18 countries. Also, he and the members of his church formed the Zion Investment Associates, which eventually led to the creation of Progress Aerospace Enterprises, a business that manufactured parts for the aerospace program and created many jobs for the unemployed.

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

In 1977, Reverend Leon Sullivan redeveloped the “Sullivan Principles,” a code of conduct for human rights and equal economic opportunities for corporations operating in South Africa. These Principles are credited to have been one of the most influential and effective efforts that dismantled apartheid in South Africa. Later Reverend Sullivan expanded these Principles to human rights and

economic development for all communities with the creation of the “Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility.” The basis of the work of Reverend Sullivan was built on the principle of “self-help” to provide the tools to the people to allow themselves to overcome the barriers of poverty. In 1999, the “Global Sullivan Principles of Social Responsibility” were issued at the United Nations to call for multinational companies to be responsible for the advancement of human rights and economic social justice. These principles have become the international standard for businesses that operate throughout the world.

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



**West Virginia Human Rights Commission
2004**

