

From Whence We Came



Meet Our Honorees

8th Annual

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Thursday, February 25, 2010

11:30A.M.

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



Posting of the Colors

West Virginia State University's ROTC

National Anthem

West Virginia State University Band Ensemble

Pledge of Allegiance

Led by Jack Rossi
Arnett & Foster

Invocation

Bishop David Stockton
Office of Student Activities, West Virginia State University

Welcome and Purpose

Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
President, West Virginia State University

HONOREES' ENTRANCE

Solo

Walter Pannell

Introduction of Governor

Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
President, West Virginia State University

Remarks and Presentation of Awards

The Honorable Joe Manchin, III
Governor of West Virginia

Musical Selection from the WVSU Band Ensemble

LUNCH

Thanks and Recognition

Ivin B. Lee
Executive Director, WV Human Rights Commission

Closing Remarks

Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr.
President, West Virginia State University

Negro National Anthem

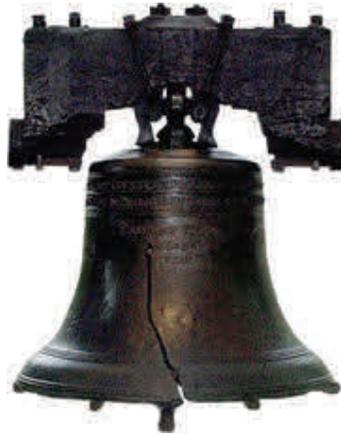
West Virginia State University Band Ensemble

Benediction

Bishop David Stockton
Office of Student Activities, West Virginia State University



“From Whence We Came”



West Virginia Civil Rights Day
February 25, 2010



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

PROCLAMATION
by
Governor Joe Manchin III

- Whereas,** equal rights and opportunities for all West Virginians are fundamental to our well-being, and these rights and opportunities are protected in our Declaration of Independence and in our state's Constitution; and,
- Whereas,** equal opportunities in employment, public accommodations and housing are public policy in West Virginia; and,
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Legislature created the Human Rights Act prohibiting discrimination in employment and in places of public accommodations based on race, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, age or disability; and,
- Whereas,** the West Virginia Human Rights Commission encourages mutual respect among all racial, religious and ethnic groups within the state; and,
- Whereas,** it works cooperatively with government agencies, community and civic organizations and representatives of minority groups to promote programs and campaigns devoted to the achievement of tolerance, understanding and equal protection of the law;

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim **February 25, 2010**, as:

Civil Rights Day

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to join me in this observance.

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 Thirteenth day of January, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Ten and in the One Hundred Forty-seventh year of the State.




Joe Manchin III
Governor

By the Governor:

Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State



February 9, 2010

West Virginia Human Rights Commission
1321 Plaza East Room 108A
Charleston, WV 25301-1400

Re: Civil Rights Day Awards Luncheon

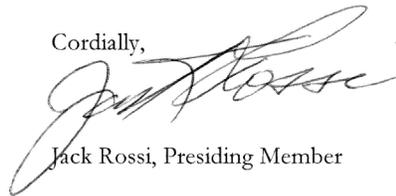
Arnett & Foster, along with West Virginia State University, is proud to be a sponsor of the 2010 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Awards Luncheon and activities. This year's group of 15 honorees, both men and women, has used their free time to help better those in need, regardless of their background, including but not limited to, minorities, women, and the elderly. They have sought to ensure that every person, regardless of race, religion, age or gender is treated fairly and justly.

Also we would like to congratulate the 2010 West Virginia Civil Rights Day honorees, and members of their families gathered here today, for their selfless gifts of time and effort to come to the aid of those much less fortunate.

We applaud the Commission on its goals of encouraging mutual respect among all racial, religious, and ethnic groups in West Virginia and promoting tolerance, understanding, and equal protection under the law.

We feel that the Civil Rights Day is a commendable event. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this great Day!

Cordially,

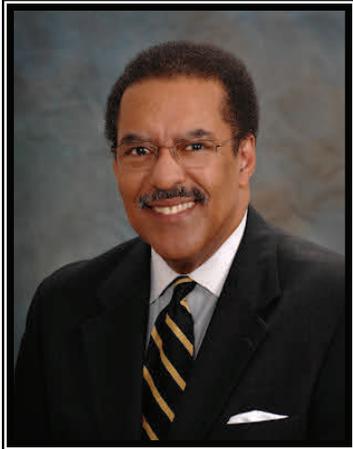


Jack Rossi, Presiding Member

JR/cal

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MASTER OF CEREMONIES

DR. HAZO W. CARTER, JR.

Dr. Hazo W. Carter, Jr. began his service as West Virginia State College's ninth president in 1987. He became the first President of West Virginia State University in 2004. For 25 years he has been a chief executive officer at a higher education institution. Prior to coming to West Virginia, he was President and Professor of Education at Philander Smith College in Little Rock, AR.

Dr. Carter holds a B.S. in English from Tennessee State University; an M.S. in Journalism from University of Illinois; and a Doctorate of Education in Higher Education Administration from George Peabody College for Teachers of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

Throughout his tenure at West Virginia State, he has worked tirelessly to articulate the institution's economic impact and presence as the largest institution of higher education in the Kanawha Valley. President Carter successfully led a 12-year quest to regain the institution's 1890 land-grant status by encouraging local community leaders, legislators, and alumni to support having this status restored at the State level and recognized and funded at the federal level. In addition, Dr. Carter provided the leadership that resulted in West Virginia State College being designated as West Virginia State University. On April 7, 2004, Governor Bob Wise signed the bill that officially changed the institution's status to that of a university.

President Carter is also an active participant on various local and national boards. He is a member of the boards of directors of: Advantage Valley; Chemical Alliance Zone; United Way of Central West Virginia; College Summit; and, the West Virginia Intercollegiate Athletic Conference. He is a member of the Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation Board of Trustees; the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission; and the Council of 1890 Presidents and Chancellors. He serves on the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges Board of Directors and is a founding member of the West Virginia Association of Land-Grant Institutions, a cooperative venture between WVSU and West Virginia University. He is also a member of the White House Initiative's Board of Advisors for Historically Black Colleges and Universities and the Board of Directors of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

President Carter has received many awards and accolades in recognition of his distinguished service. Among the most cherished are: "Distinguished West Virginian" awards by former Governors Gaston Caperton and Bob Wise; "Honorary West Virginian" awarded by Governor Joe Manchin, III; and designation as "President of the Century" by the West Virginia State College (University) National Alumni Association in 2000.

Dr. Carter is married to Phyllis W. (Harden) Carter who is currently the Chief Administrative Law Judge for the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. The Carters have one daughter, Angela, who is pursuing her Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration at North Carolina State University.

West Virginia Civil Rights Day

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

MARY FRANCES BRAMMER

REVEREND BEATRICE RUTH BURGESS*

HELEN SUTTON DOBSON*

PATROLMAN ROBERT EDWARD EASLEY, SR.*

LIEUTENANT SIDNEY EDWARD FRYE

THE HONORABLE JOSEPH ROBERT GOODWIN

JAMES A. HAUGHT

COUNCILMAN JAMES C. HUNT

JADA C. HUNTER

ODITH P. JAKES*

DR. MARGARET ANNE CYRUS MILLS*

BROWN HUGO PAYNE, ESQUIRE*

DR. MINU SABET

FIRST SERGEANT JAMES C. SPRIGGS, JR.*

CATHERINE DOOLEY TAYLOR

*honored posthumously



MARY FRANCES BRAMMER

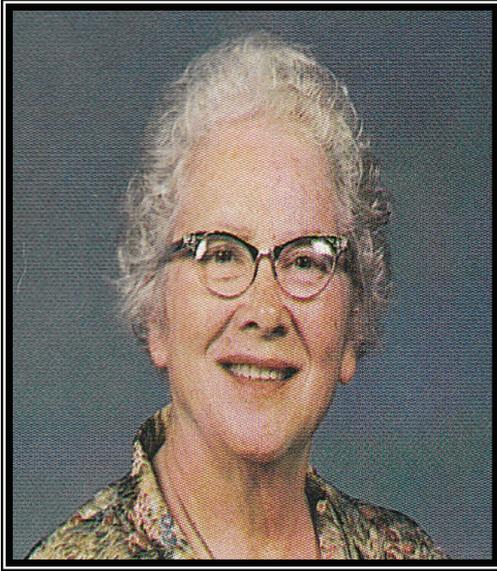
Mary Frances Brammer was the first African American female elected to the Bluefield City Board and the first African American female to hold many teaching positions throughout the state of West Virginia.

Raised and educated in Bluefield, West Virginia at a time when segregation was still very much a way of life, Brammer always had high aspirations for helping people, believing that “everybody is somebody.” The only child of a single parent, she credits her education, church life, and ability to make good choices for placing her in the profession she continues to enjoy - teaching.

As a teacher Brammer faced some of the most difficult challenges of her life. As one of the first African Americans placed in a predominately white school, Brammer felt the sting of discrimination when only one teacher from the all-white faculty would speak to her. Nonetheless, her attitude about the situation was to “teach harder” and to make her students “the best” in the school. By the end of the second year she had gained the respect and adoration of those around her. A self-proclaimed “transient African American teacher,” many of her following teaching positions took her from one county to another, many times placing her in the position as the first African American female to hold teaching position in those counties. Brammer continued to blaze a trail through diligence and perseverance and was sought out by integrated school systems to bridge the gap between white and African American families and communities.

Brammer’s teaching extended far beyond the classroom. As her life carried her through Genoa Junior High School, Park Central High School, Bluefield State College, and Jones Street United Methodist Church, Brammer sought out programs in which she could work as a mentor and counselor to the people of the community. She began the first clothing and shoe closet for underprivileged children in Bluefield and worked extensively with at-risk students in Mercer County. She worked with both students and their parents to provide personal support and counseling with court hearings, meetings with probationary officers, and other personal issues outside of the classroom setting. Her work led to the creation of what is now the Alternative Schools of Princeton and Bluefield, which provide day and night classes for student support.

Brammer was married to the late Rudolph Brammer, the first African American Mayor of Bluefield, West Virginia. Together they have one son Rudy, who resides in Atlanta, Georgia and carries on his mother’s legacy of caring for others. Brammer has won many awards and titles including the Chapter I Regional Teacher of the Year in 1985 and the Bluefield College Award for commitment, dedication and service to the African Community in 2003. She has worked with the NAACP in Mercer County and is a member of Links, Inc. and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.’s Bluefield Alumnae Chapter.



REVEREND
BEATRICE RUTH BURGESS
(1923-1993)

Beatrice Ruth Burgess was a life long advocate for the less fortunate. Born on September 13, 1923, in Crandall, Indiana, to Chester and Elsie Burgess, she was the eldest of three sisters and three brothers. After graduating from Bowling Green High School in Kentucky, she served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps from 1944-1946, attaining the rank of Sergeant. Following her military service, she graduated from Western State Teacher's College and in 1957, received a master's degree in Religious Education from Scarritt College.

From 1957 to 1968, Beatrice Burgess was the Director of Religious Education for the United Methodist Church (UMC). Following her assignment at Fort Hill UMC until 1971, she served as Dean of Women at Brevard College, North Carolina. In 1971, Monroe County West Virginia became her home where she served as a Church and Community Worker sent by the National Division, Board of Global Ministries, UMC. She took up the cause of the needy to anyone who would listen and who had the potential to make a difference including the legislature. These causes included Senior Citizens, Transportation, Health Care, and the Disabled.

In the early 80's, her service in the Methodist Church in West Virginia changed to Oak Hill where she was the Church and Community Worker until 1985. Beginning in 1986 she became a Diaconal Minister until her death. The life work of Bea Burgess was to serve as a Girl Scouts Executive, a Director of Religious Education in several United Methodist churches, a Deaconess, a Dean of Women at Brevard College in North Carolina, and a Church and Community Worker for the National Division, Board of Global ministries of the United Methodist Church. Her strong advocacy allowed her to serve on many committees appointed by the Governor, including Governor's Committee on Aging and the Governor's Committee on Transportation. She was instrumental in development of Monroe Mobil Inc., Monroe County Transportation System for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program, and the Meals on Wheels Program. In addition to serving as pastor for several churches in southern West Virginia, Reverend Burgess also served as President of the Coalition on Legislation for the Aged and the Jurisdiction Deaconess and as a member of the Home Missionary Association and was appointed to the Statewide Health Coordination Council and the West Virginia Governor's Council for Health Care. In June of 1980, Reverend Burgess received the Anise Floyd Memorial Award for her work as Vice President of the Board of Directors of the Health Care System Agency in Monroe County. Her legacy of advocacy and empowerment lives on through the Burgess Center for West Virginia Families and Communities through the Division of Social Work at West Virginia University, established in 1994.



HELEN SUTTON DOBSON (1926-2002)

Helen Sutton Dobson was best known throughout West Virginia for her beautiful voice. She sung at the inaugurations of former governors Jay Rockefeller and Gaston Caperton. Dobson's commitment to the people of West Virginia went far beyond her songs, into the classrooms where she was a beloved teacher as well as the churches and community organizations with which she was involved.

Born January 6, 1926, in Wheeling, WV, Dobson began her education in the Springfield public school system in Ohio. The only girl born to Zeddy Sutton and Edwina Watkins Sutton, she left school after completing the tenth grade to marry Robert J. Dobson, a soldier stationed at Patterson Field Air Base in Ohio. The couple moved to Beckley, West Virginia the following year. Several years later, while attending the National Baptist Singing Convention, Dobson was elected the 5th Vice President of the convention. The honor was bittersweet for Dobson, who felt she wasn't qualified for the position. At the age of 27, she returned to Stratton High School in Beckley and, two years later, earned her high school diploma. In 1959, she graduated from Bluefield State College with a Bachelor's Degree in English, Social Studies, and Elementary Education.

Dobson was an active member of the Raleigh County branch of the NAACP, a member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and a caring and loving teacher for over 30 years. She received numerous awards and recognitions including Who's Who Among Black Americans, the United to Serve America Diamond Award, and the Congressional Award presented by Congressman Nick J. Rahall. She was appointed the West Virginia Ambassador of Christian Endeavors Among All People by, then Secretary of State, A. James Manchin.

Dobson was also a faithful member of the Central Baptist Church in Beckley for over 53 years. She participated in the Women's Club and the Women's Choir. She also hosted, with the late Reverend Andrew Durgan, Sr., the "Sweet Hour of Prayer" television program, as well as a weekly Gospel radio program airing every Sunday morning for over 30 years.

Helen sang at many programs and special occasions throughout West Virginia, including the Jefferson/Jackson Day Dinners and the Mine and Safety Academy Programs. Her humble, sweet spirit made her a joy to be around and she never missed the opportunity to witness for the Lord. Helen was always careful to give God praise for everything she had accomplished over her life; being most thankful for the opportunity to be a faithful wife and a loving mother and grandmother. Helen's life was most represented by the words of one of her favorite songs:

"If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain."



PATROLMAN ROBERT EDWARD EASLEY, SR.
(1934–1997)

Patrolman Robert E Easley, Sr. was a native of Charleston, West Virginia. He joined the police force under Chief Dallas Bias, during a time when racial tension was high and there were only a few black police officers in the Charleston Police Department. In a effort to ease that tension and decrease the high arrest rate among young black teens, Chief Bias appointed Officer Easley, along with others, to spearhead a project aimed at providing better relations between the community and police.

Officer Easley supervised the project, better known as “The Canteen,” a youth center that sought to provide supervised activities to keep local youth off the streets and out of trouble. Located in a section of buildings next to the current First Baptist Annex on Shrewsbury Street in the Charleston Triangle District, The Canteen provided recreation, character building, and discipline with life skills to hundreds of disadvantaged youths, many of whom remember Easley fondly to this day. From drill corps, drum corps, dances, and basketball games to volunteer tutoring services from instructors at the then, West Virginia State University, The Canteen helped to nurture and shape the character of young girls and boys in the community. (See “Remembering The Block” on pages 22-23)

This human relations project closely coordinated with other organizations such as: Triangle Improvement Council; Appalachian Acting for Youth and Community Development; Job Corps recruiting Division; the NAACP; and the Kanawha County Board of Education. Through Officer Easley’s untiring efforts, and the efforts of all involved, the crime rate among young blacks was cut nearly in half. The members of these organizations gave hope to disadvantaged youths, black and white, with Officer Easley’s slogan, “Striving to Excel”.

Officer Easley, known as the “peacemaker,” transcended race, color, creed, and gender as he identified the need, and found solutions to social problems. In 1963, the local Jaycees awarded Easley their Police Officer of the Year award. He was awarded the medal of valor and was twice named Police Officer of the Month. His legacy continues through his eldest son, retired Army Sergeant Robert E. Easley, Jr. who also works with inner-city youth.

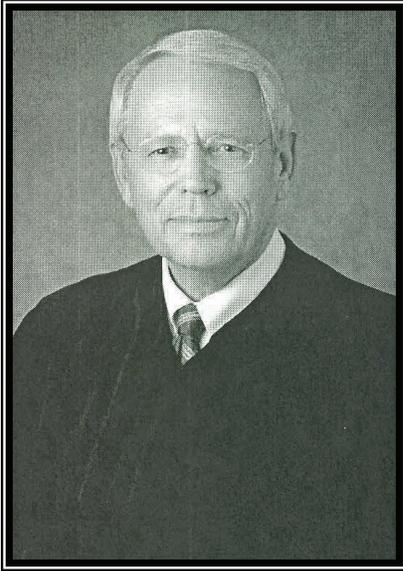


LIEUTENANT SIDNEY EDWARD FRYE

Lieutenant Sidney Edward Frye is a 20 year veteran of the Charleston Police Department, having retired as Lieutenant in 1979. A lifelong resident of Charleston, Frye attended Charleston High School. Following graduation he attended Morris Harvey College and West Virginia State University, where he received his degree in Criminal Justice in an effort to fulfill his life-long dream of becoming a police officer.

Frye, along with fellow officer and friend Patrolman Robert Easley, Sr., worked tirelessly and volunteered his time at a local Community place for youth known as “The Canteen” located on Shrewsbury Street, in Charleston. The Canteen was a place where young people could go to find mentoring, tutoring, and activities that provided a safe alternative to life on the streets. Basketball, boxing, ping-pong, art, drill corps, drum corps and dancing kept the young people of Charleston connected with other youth and the community and out of trouble. Enlisting assistance from volunteer instructors from West Virginia State College (now University), one-on-one tutoring gave young students the chance to receive both help and encouragement so they might succeed in the classrooms and go on to college, an opportunity that, for many, seemed out of reach prior to the help offered by the volunteers at The Canteen. According to Frye, the community was very appreciative of the services they provided and hated to see it close.” (See “Remembering The Block” on pages 22-23)

Currently retired, Lieutenant Frye drives a Courtesy Van for Burt Wolfe Ford. During his runs throughout the city of Charleston, he is often stopped by people on the street who recognize him from his days volunteering at The Canteen and want to thank him for the contribution he has made to their lives. He is married and has children that live out of state.



THE HONORABLE JOSEPH ROBERT GOODWIN

The Honorable Joseph Robert Goodwin has earned his reputation for being “firm, but fair” based on decisions he has handed down from the bench. Intent on seeking out the truth, regardless of race, color, nationality, gender, or religion of the parties involved, Judge Goodwin provides access to the law for every West Virginian.

Born and raised in Ripley, West Virginia, Judge Goodwin received his Bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University in 1965. He served on active duty in the United States Army and was honorably discharged as a Captain.

Judge Goodwin graduated Order of the Coif from West Virginia College of Law in 1970. While at the College of Law, he was Editor-in-Chief of the West Virginia Law Review and President of the Moot Court Board. Upon graduation, he opened a private law practice with his younger brother Tom. Goodwin & Goodwin focused on civil litigation in the state of West Virginia.

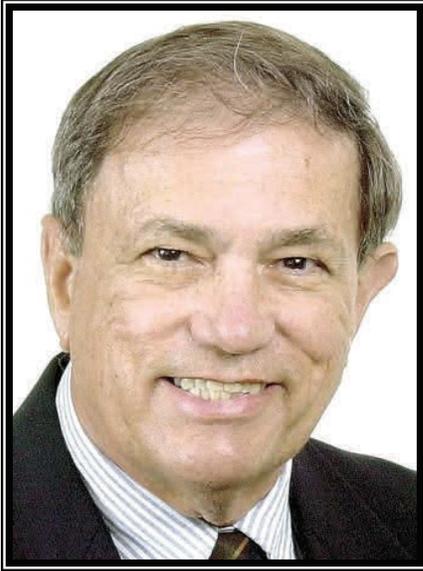
In 1995, Judge Goodwin was appointed to the federal bench for the Southern District of West Virginia by former President Bill Clinton, based on a recommendation from Senator Robert C. Byrd. He has served as Chief Judge since 2007.

Judge Goodwin primarily holds court in Charleston, West Virginia but occasionally has matters in Parkersburg, Huntington or Beckley. He is also on occasion called upon to cover for other judges outside the Southern District of West Virginia; such as in Baltimore, MD, Martinsburg, WV or by designation on the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, VA.

Off the bench, Judge Goodwin has often offered counseling and guidance to at-risk youth. He has volunteered his time on many occasions to sit down with students and warn them of the consequences they could face, both legally and in life, if they continue down the destructive path they are currently on. He offers suggestions for alternative paths and activities that might help them succeed in life and become active participants in the West Virginia community and the world.

He has many honors and awards to his acclaim including Justitia Officium in May of 2006. He is a former member of the Federal Defender Services Committee of the National Judicial Conference and a current member of Fellows of the American Bar Association.

The Judge and his wife Kay currently reside in Charleston. They are the parents of Robert Booth Goodwin II, who was recently nominated by President Barack Obama as the US Attorney for the Southern District of West Virginia.



JAMES A. HAUGHT

Since 1953, James A. Haught has been lending his voice to the underrepresented in his quest to find the truth through investigative reporting.

Born in 1932 in a small West Virginia farm town that had no electricity or paved streets, Haught graduated from a rural high school with 13 other students in his graduating class. He came to Charleston and worked as a delivery boy until he took an apprenticeship with the printers at the Charleston Daily Mail in 1951. The bustle of reporters surrounding him gave Haught a yen to become a journalist. He volunteered to work, without pay, in the Daily Mail newsroom on his days off. Months later, the Charleston Gazette offered him a full-time paid news reporting position.

He has been working for the Gazette since, except for a brief stint in 1959 when he acted as press aide to Senator Robert C. Byrd.

During his half-century in newspaper life, he has been police reporter, religion columnist, feature writer and night city editor. He was an investigative reporter for 13 years, whose reports led to several corruption convictions. In 1983 he was named associate editor, and in 1992 he became editor. He writes nearly 400 Gazette editorials a year, plus occasional personal columns and news articles. Haught has won 20 national news-writing awards, and is author of eight books and 60 national magazine articles. Thirty of his columns have been distributed by national syndicates. He also is a senior editor of Free Inquiry magazine and is listed in Who's Who in America and Contemporary Authors.

Haught's favorite story in his long career of Gazette reporting was the revelation that a historic romance created the African American community of Institute when a fiery Dixie plantation owner fell in love with one of his slave women. The couple had 13 children before the plantation owner was murdered by white neighbors. Upon his death it was discovered that he had written several handwritten wills leaving his land in the Kanawha Valley to his lover and their children.

Personally, he enjoys hiking with Kanawha Trail Club, participating in a philosophy group at Edgewood Summit, and taking grandchildren swimming off his old sailboat at Lake Chaweva, where he lives. He is a longtime member of Charleston's Unitarian Universalist Congregation. He has four children, 12 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Haught credits the Gazette and the Chilton family for their continual crusade for human rights and fairness long before his arrival in the 1950s.



COUNCILMAN JAMES C. HUNT

Councilman James C. Hunt is a councilman, former Mayor of Clarksburg, and the Executive Director of the Sunnyside Up Campus Neighborhood Revitalization Corporation. Born in Clarksburg, Hunt attended West Virginia University, graduating in 1973. Following graduation, he worked as a learning disabilities specialist in the Harrison County School System with a passion for shaping young people's lives that he maintains to this day.

In 1999, Councilman Hunt co-founded "The Unity Project," a civil rights organization involved in community education on issues of racial unity and diversity issues. That same year, he worked with Rev. David Kates, the first African American mayor of Clarksburg, to organize an alternative rally to the Ku Klux Klan's march in the city. When the KKK petitioned Mayor Kates for the right to hold a rally in Clarksburg, he granted the request immediately, unwilling to deny any citizen their right to freedom of speech. Hunt worked with Kates to develop the "Get Real Rally" aimed at uniting the community in their diversity and avoiding conflicts with the KKK march scheduled the same day. The "Get Real Rally" attracted over 300 community members; only a handful attended the Klan march.

He is a past-president of the National League of Cities (NLC) and was a leader in their "Undoing Racism" program. He was also appointed to serve as U. S. Army Reserve Ambassador for the state, raising awareness of the Army Reserve's role as citizen soldiers. He led the Race Equality forum in Washington, D.C. in 2005, and worked with Mayor James Perkins, Jr., the first African-American mayor of Salem, Alabama, to develop a community plan to address the effects of racism and poverty in the city.

Hunt previously served as manager of the Clarksburg Field Office of the West Virginia Housing Development and has been involved in many of the major economic development projects in Northern West Virginia. He has worked with the local Habitat for Humanity, building houses for hurricane victims at the 2005 Congress of Cities and traveled to Poland and Hungary to build homes for needy families as part of the Global Village Program of Habitat for Humanity. In 2006, he was named in American City and County Magazine as Municipal Leader of the Year.

In 2009, Councilman Hunt co-authored "Bottom Line Green-How America's Cities Saving the Planet (And Money Too!)" a book on energy efficiency. The book was released nationally at the Congress of Cities in San Francisco, Texas.

Hunt and his wife Pam have two children: Sarah, a professor at the University of South Carolina in Lancaster, and Jason, an officer with the Clarksburg Police Department.



JADA C. HUNTER

Jada Chicquitla Hunter was born and raised in Chattaroy, West Virginia. Until the 6th grade, she attended a two-room “colored” school. It wasn’t until her 8th grade year that she experienced first-hand the controversy surrounding school integration. As she approached school that first day, she recalls that the building was surrounded by a large crowd of white people. Henry Justice, the school’s principal, ordered all students and faculty to the gymnasium and stated simply, “I want all of the white boys and girls to respect the colored boys and girls, and I want all of the colored boys and girls to respect the white boys and girls.” According to Hunter, the message worked and integration at Chattaroy High School proceeded peacefully.

Hunter graduated from West Virginia State College (now University) in 1965 with a degree in Business and French, but was unable to obtain a teaching position in Mingo County after being told “*these children here don’t need to learn French.*” Hunter realized that the faculty of Mingo County Schools had not received the same integration, and the “Colored” schools had been kept open, despite low enrollment, in order to maintain faculty segregation. Hunter made an appointment with the Civil Rights Commission to lodge a formal complaint against the school system, an act that, her parents told her some time later, prompted phone threats to her parents’ home. The schools eventually complied.

In 1968, Hunter was the first African American to win the Miss Eastern West Virginia Beauty Pageant, and the first African American to compete in the Miss West Virginia Pageant. After brief stints in Connecticut and Texas, Hunter moved back home and took a teaching position in Mingo County. She soon became Dean of Students at Williamson Jr. High School. Hunter served as both the first African American principal in Mingo County and the first female Principal of a Mingo County Senior High School. She is currently the principal of Burch High School in Delbarton, a member of Links, Inc, and a tutor for Action for Youth. Hunter is the mother of Luciana Jackson and has four granddaughters.

Hunter serves on many boards and with many community groups, but her fondest thoughts are of a phone call she received early in 2009 from one of her Piedmont High school students thanking her for how much she had meant to them and the impact she had made in his life. The student was Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., now a professor at Harvard University.



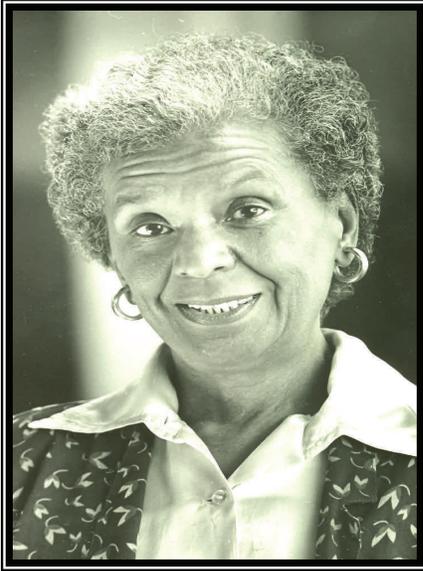
ODITH P. JAKES
(1926 - 1999)

Odith P. Jakes was born on March 25, 1926 to Richard and Susie Patton in Marion, Alabama. She was one of 15 children, the seventh girl and the eleventh child. In her thirst for knowledge and education, Jakes graduated from high school at the age of 15. She continued her quest for learning and received a Bachelor of Science degree in History and Home Economics, graduating from Tuskegee University in three years. During the 1980s, Jakes worked towards a degree in Special Education from West Virginia College of Graduate Studies. Her specific emphasis was Special Learning Disabilities.

emphasis was Special Learning Disabilities.

As an educator, she taught in Muncie, Indiana; Hattiesburg, Mississippi and Charleston, West Virginia. Jakes, later employed as a representative for the Employment Office of Equal Opportunity for the State of West Virginia, became well-known for expert job placement skills. She loved helping those with a desire to better themselves economically through employment. When Jakes joined the Job Service Employment Office, she set to change a system that only referred minorities to menial jobs, regardless of their skill. Yodora P. Booth, Director of Operations of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission, personally remembers Jakes during her tenure with the West Virginia Job Service Employment Office. "It was known throughout the African American community that if you wanted to get a good job through the WV Job Service Office, you needed to talk to Mrs. Jakes, and if you wanted a professional position, you had to convince her that you had the skills and were sincere about giving it your best. All she asked in return is that you acted, looked, and did your very best," said Booth.

Jakes and her late husband, the Rev. Ernest L. Jakes Sr., had two sons, Ernest L. Jakes, Jr. (Sharon), Bishop T.D. Jakes (Serita), one daughter, Jacqueline Jakes, eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.



DR. MARGARET ANNE CYRUS MILLS
(1922 - 1997)

Dr. Margaret Anne Cyrus Mills, cared for the people of West Virginia. She worked diligently to improve the rights of West Virginians in the areas of education, human rights and civil rights, but liked giving credit to others.

Mills grew up in Charleston. She graduated from Garnet High School in 1939 and went on to attend American University, West Virginia State College, Harvard University, and the University of Southern California. She earned a Master's Degree in Educational Supervision and a Doctorate's in Education from West Virginia University. She began her teaching career in the Los Angeles City

Schools, teaching English, Drama and Minority Studies.

In West Virginia, Mills worked as administrative assistant to the West Virginia State Superintendent of Schools, joining the department in 1970 as a Technical Assistant. She worked diligently to develop and implement programs designed to provide better human relations and equal educational opportunities for all people. She served as the state director of the Foster Grandparents Program for 11 years and was a leader in establishing the Martin Luther King, Jr. state holiday as recognizing the rights of all people.

She was an active member of First Baptist Church, in Charleston where a host of friends recall her love and diligence in serving the people of West Virginia. Dr. Mills was active in the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), the Panel of American Women, and the NAACP. She also served as a judge for the Charleston Daily Mail Regional Spelling Bee for 16 years.

She once said during a Daily Mail interview, "I really believe everything happens because groups of people are involved, not an individual."

Just weeks before her death, Mills flew to Charleston to present a \$50,000 check to establish the Dr. Margaret Anne Cyrus Mills Endowed Scholarship Fund at West Virginia State (College) University. It was a lasting gesture of her love for education and the state of West Virginia.

Dr. Mills and her husband, Theodore Mills, had three children: Nikki Mills-Richardson, Alison Mills-Newman, and Theodore Mills, Jr.



BROWN HUGO PAYNE, ESQUIRE
(1915 - 1993)

Attorney Brown Hugo Payne, was born in Buffalo Gap, Virginia, January 27, 1915. “Hugo” as he was affectionately referred to, spent his formative years in Beckley, West Virginia. Following his graduation from high school, he served in the U. S. Army as a Warrant Officer from 1941 to 1943 when he received an honorable discharge. After graduating from Bluefield State College, he received his Juris Doctor (J.D.) from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1948 and his L.L.M. (Master of Law) degree from The National University (now National University School of Law at George Washington

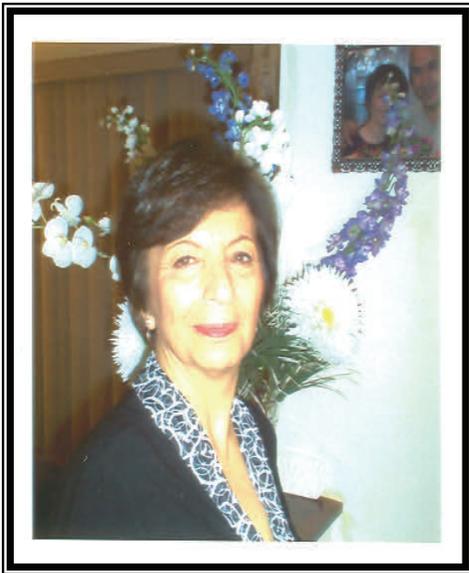
University) in 1951.

Payne maintained a private law practice in Beckley until retirement in July 1992. He also served as Assistant Professor of Law at Florida A&M University from 1963-1965 and Associate Professor of Law at North Carolina Central University at Durham from 1965-1970.

Payne occupied a number of key appointments and positions. In 1961, he served on the National Labor Relations Board. He was the attorney for the State Tax Department of West Virginia. From 1970 to 1975 he was an investigator for the West Virginia Workman’s Compensation Fund. Additionally, in 1970 he was a loan closer for the Veteran’s Administration. He also served on the Raleigh County Civil Service Commission from 1974-1979.

Payne was an active member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. He was a member of and instrumental in reactivating the Mountain State Bar Association, one of the oldest African American Bar Associations in the country and an acknowledged leader in providing educational opportunities for minorities and high-quality continuing legal education for its members. He was a member of the North Carolina Black Bar Association, the Raleigh County Bar Association and the National Bar Association, the American Legion Post #70, the Elks-Prince Hall Free and Accepted Masons of West Virginia and King Hiram Abiff No. of Beckley.

He was an active member of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Beckley where he faithfully attended with his wife, the late Ruth E. Boyd-Payne. Together they had four children, one of whom, Wilbert A. Payne, followed in his father’s footsteps and became his law partner.



DR. MINU SABET

Dr. Minu Sabet's interest in human rights issues stem from intimate and personal life experiences. She was born into the Baha'i faith, a religion whose primary principles include: equality between men and women; elimination of racial prejudice; equality of all major world religions as originating from a common author; necessity of equal education for all members of society; and rights of every individual to an independent investigation of truth. She internalized these principles at a young age and they became a core of her identity. Ironically, these were the same principles for

which members of her faith faced persecution, discrimination, and death in her native country of Iran.

Despite the perils, she pursued her education in medicine, obtaining M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, and went on to serve in an academic position at the University of Tehran. As the pressures and atrocities increased, her family fled and found refuge in the United States, where she became a naturalized citizen. Here she found that the principles of freedom and human rights resonated strongly with her innermost convictions and beliefs. Her experiences gave her a very unique and profound insight and understanding of the founding principles of the United States.

Sabet lectured at the School of Medicine at the University of Michigan for five years and conducted research at Oakland University in the Biology Department in histology and embryology. She then moved to West Virginia and completed the requirements to practice medicine with a residency at CAMC and a pathology residency at Marshall University. She supports the practices of her husband, currently as a Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for the state of West Virginia, and her son, an ophthalmologist in Washington, D.C.

Sabet has chaired the Race Unity Committee for the Baha'is of Charleston and has supported Race Unity Day celebrations for several years. She continues to speak out against religious persecution both at home and abroad through radio programs, conferences, and publications. She translated and edited a book about "TAHIRIH," a pioneer of women's rights, and translated other books from English to Persian.



**FIRST SERGEANT
JAMES C. SPRIGGS, JR.
(1952 - 2003)**

First Sergeant, James C. Spriggs was born January 8, 1952 to James Sr. and Alice Spriggs of Parkersburg. He graduated from Parkersburg High in 1969 and joined the WV State Police in 1979. Spriggs received numerous honors, awards, commendations and recommendations during his time of service as a West Virginia State Trooper.

He was well known for performing his duties meritoriously, courteously and professionally. He often provided hands-on assistance to stranded motorists, local county emergency personnel and other public safety officials. One motorist wrote a letter to Spriggs' commanding officer, informing him that First Sergeant Spriggs helped him in a time of need. Noticing a truck and camper stranded at a rest stop, the motorist pulled aside to provide assistance. The two were soon approached by Spriggs who spent several hours with them locating the necessary part to fix the vehicle, and helping to install the part once it was picked up. "I was amazed to see Spriggs don his coveralls, slide under their pickup truck and assist Mr. Brown with installation of the part."

Spriggs provided training on the issues of sexual harassment with the WV Administrative Division of Personnel and provided a panel presentation on employment at the 50th Annual Convention of the NAACP. He donated his time and expertise in conducting training classes, even if it meant working on his day off or surrendering a vacation day, as in the case of providing chaperone assistance to the WV Human Rights Youth Advisory Board, working under the direction of Governor Bob Wise.

Spriggs often provided workshops and created presentations for the Legislative Interim Committee, sometimes on short notice. He was well versed on the topics of EEO, sexual harassment, hate crimes, cultural diversity, and discrimination. His presentations were also extended to various correctional facilities through the state. Governors, state superintendents, volunteer fire departments, and elementary school teachers have written to his superiors at the State Police Headquarters, commending Spriggs for his service and dedication above and beyond the call of duty.



CATHERINE DOOLEY TAYLOR

Catherine Dooley Taylor has provided support to many, including minorities relocating to West Virginia, families in financial need, and the elderly. During the early 1970s, Taylor was involved in the marches and Civil Rights activities occurring in Fairmont.

A lifelong resident of Fairmont, West Virginia, Taylor is the widow of Arthur J. Taylor. She was born to the late Rev. James & Kitty Dooley and is the ninth child of ten. She has 16 grandchildren, two of which still reside with her, and eight great-grandchildren.

Taylor is known as a compassionate and loving individual who strives to promote others as much as she can. She believes in “standing up for rights.” Her focus is on helping anyone and everyone, a trait that has gained her the admiration and esteem of many. When minorities were relocating from Washington D.C. to Fairmont, Taylor provided the support, counseling, and assistance they needed for the adjustment. She has helped those who have fallen on hard times, providing a meal, a ride to the grocery store or doctor, or even just lending an ear to listen to their problems and concerns. She has been a mentor, a babysitter, and a nurse maid for the elderly.

During the late 60’s and early 70s, Taylor was involved in the picketing at Hartley’s Department Store to ensure that African Americans were allowed employment consideration as counter clerks, instead of only being allowed to work in the positions of elevator operator and janitorial staff. She attended meetings held at various local churches having to do with different civil rights issues and, most recently, she participated in the march in front of the Marion County Courthouse to have the two white teenagers who confessed to the murder of J.R. Warren, an African American, to be tried as adults.

Taylor had a soft spot in her heart for the elderly and often makes herself available to area nursing homes, attending to their special needs. She attends various community and church related events, serving in various capacities throughout the years, including, Chairman of the Trustee Board, Vice President of the Tygart Valley Baptist Women’s convention and a member of Church Women United.

In addition to her own four children, Taylor has nourished nieces, nephews and grandchildren in her home; which accounts for why she is lovingly referred to as “Granny.” Catherine, says her priority in life is to cultivate a personal relationship with God and to be a shining example of a friend and servant to all people.

Remembering The Block

It has gone by several names, chief among these are The Block and The Triangle District, but the general sentiment of an area of Charleston around Washington Street and Shrewsbury Street remains the same. At a time when many American cities were segregated either by law, or by common acceptance and economic status, the African American community clung to a section of town that was all their own.^[1] Many African American businessmen and professionals, as well as middle class families, built homes and businesses in the few blocks surrounding Garnet High School.^[5] It came to be known, informally, as The Block, and housed a thriving African American community that would raise the business leaders of yesterday and today.



Student body, Garnet School, Charleston, circa 1914-15
Photo from WV State Archives, James Randall Collection

At the turn of the century, a Black high school was organized under the leadership of C.W. Boyd, named Garnett High School, named after Henry Highland Garnett, a Maryland slave that escaped with his parents and settled in New York City, educated himself and later became a leader in the abolitionist movement. In 1908, the student population had grown, and a separate building was constructed on Jacob Street next to the grade school building. Growth caused new construction again 20 years later, and the new

building was set to be built on a corner plot on Shrewsbury and Lewis Streets. In 1928, construction began on the new three story Garnet High School. Constructed by the architectural firm of Warne, Tucker, Spilling and Hutchinson, the building was finished and dedicated December 2-4, 1929.^[2] The school was one of three schools in the Kanawha Valley meant to educate the African American children in Charleston before *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954) segregated public school systems.

As the high school was built without a campus and opened directly onto the street, an attachment formed for the Shrewsbury Street area, and local African Americans began to set up shop. The area around Washington and Shrewsbury Street became home to movie theatres, hotels, restaurants, beauty and barber shops, and several other businesses throughout the decades that followed.^[5] As the area grew, a community formed and The Block was born. Students would walk to the M&S Mart after school while waiting for the buses to pick them up (buses which had to first deliver the white students home from school before they could service the black students) and grab a hot dog.^[1]

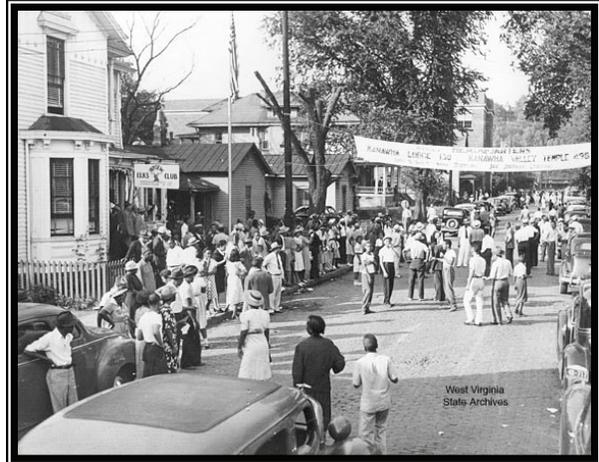


Garnet School, Charleston, at lunchtime, circa 1938-39
Photo from WV State Archives, James Randall Collection

Seeing the growing demand for building space, Attorney Anderson H. Brown (A.H. Brown) opened several more shops along Washington and Shrewsbury Streets to house doctors, dentists, lawyers, banks, insurance companies, real estate offices, repair shops, print shops, tailoring shops, beer joints and local hang-outs.^[3] The community gathered around one another and, on several occasions, would close down the streets to host large events or block parties for celebrations.

In 1967, Mr. Brown aided the Charleston Police Department in setting up a local Youth Center in a vacant building on Shrewsbury Street. Robert E. Easley, Sr.

and Sidney Edward Frye helped to organize “The Canteen,” a center intended to keep the youth of the area off the streets and out of trouble. The position for Easley and Frye was unpaid, and several volunteers in the Valley helped to nurture the young minds of a generation within the walls of the center. From participation in drum corps, drill corps, dances, basketball games, and ping-pong matches, to receiving tutoring and guidance from local community leaders and teachers, The Canteen provided a safe haven for members of the African American community that were centered around The Block. Teachers from West Virginia State College (now University) volunteered tutoring services free of charge.



*The 1933 Benevolent Protective Order of the Elks of the World convention in Charleston included many activities at The Block.”
Photo from WV State Archives, Archie Robertson Collection*



*Patrolman Robert Easley (Left) shows Mayor Dodson and others an abstract drawing on the wall of The Canteen
Photo from the Our Black Past by James Randall and Anna Gilmer*

In 1956, two years after the Supreme Court decided that “separate but equal” was unconstitutional and demanded the desegregation of all public schools in the United States, Garnet High School graduated its final senior class. Garnet became the home of John Adams Junior High before a new John Adams was built in the South Hills area. Garnet then became home to an Adult Education Center, and remains Garnet Career Center to this day. The building has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places and the 1928 archway still stands. It is one of the few remaining buildings of a once thriving block.

In the 1960’s, fires and urban renewal brought an end to The Block, replacing age-old buildings with parking lots, tearing down the old in favor of the new, and replacing small shops with large hotels and businesses. The building that once housed The Canteen is no more, replaced by a parking lot between the First Baptist Annex building and a hotel on the corner of Washington Street. What remains is very little, a fact that has sent a surge in the African American community to designate it as a historic area to preserve what is left.^[4]

Story by Esther Hupp. For Sources, see page 27.

Past Honorees

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 Honorable 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 Honorable 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.

2006

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

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

2005

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

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

2004

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

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

2003

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

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

*honored posthumously

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CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

THE CIVIL RIGHTS DAY PLANNING COMMITTEE

THE GOVERNOR'S STAFF AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Information on The Block from:

¹Haight, James A. "Local history Remembering 'The Block'." *Charleston Gazette* 28 Dec 2009, Print.

²Collins, Rodney S., and James D. Randall. "United States Department of Interior National Park Service National Register for Historic Places Registration Form." *West Virginia Archives: Kanawha County*. 20 Apr 1990. West Virginia Culture and History, Web. 8 Feb 2010. <<http://www.wvculture.org/shpo/nr/pdf/kanawha/90001068.pdf>>

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⁴Balow, Jim. "Man hopes to preserve 'The Block'." *Charleston Gazette* 23 Nov 2009, Print.

⁵Waters, Jerry. "Shrewsbury Street." *My West Virginia Home in Photos*. 2009. Web. 1 Feb 2010.

As well as interviews with and inquiries to: Anna Gilmer, Debra Bashem, Archiver, WV Cultural Center Archives; Billy Joe Peyton, History Professor, West Virginia State University; Anthony Kinzer, Executive Director, West Virginia Center for African American Art & Culture, Inc.; Kathryn Gregory, Staff Writer, The Charleston Gazette; and several others along the way.



“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.



