

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

PROGRAMME

FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BANQUET AND INDUCTION CEREMONY Saturday, March 28, 2009

Introduction of MC

Mr. Richard Dawkins
Lincoln High

PARADE OF PAST INDUCTEES

The Occasion

Mr. Ernest Hamilton

The Jackie Robinson Story:

Beck High

“An American Dream Come True”

Grace

SPECIAL RECOGNITION: REV. J.W. JOHNSON

DINNER

PRESENTATION OF INDUCTEES

The Great & Legendary Beck High School Panthers

Minnie Trap Davis
Sharley Hill
Carolyn “Pete” Ashmore Griffin

The Great & Legendary Washington High School Falcons

Simone Devlin
Frank Lowell Moultrie

The Great & Legendary Lincoln High School Rattlers

Shirley Greer Fulton
Margarett Gregory Turner
Eugene G. Benson

The Great & Legendary Bryson High School Hurricanes

Samuel M. Bailey
Virgil L. Sullivan
William H. McElrath

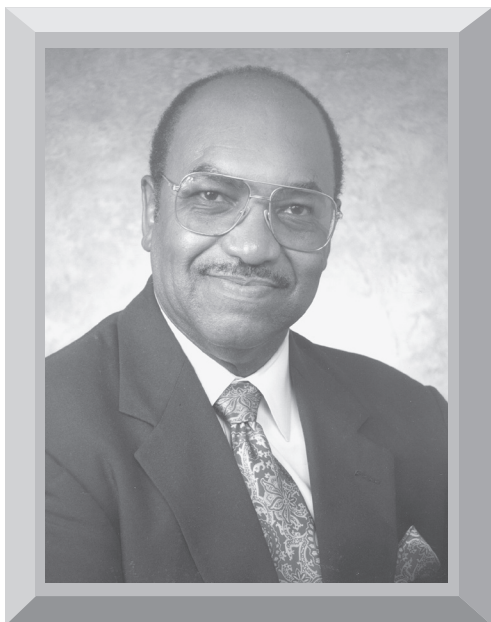
The Mighty Great & Legendary Sterling High School Tigers

Marvin Page
Thomas Charles Downs
Charles Albert Haywood

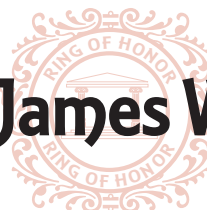
Good Night and Thanks for Coming

MAKE PLANS FOR THE 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY 2011 EVENT!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION



Reverend James W. Johnson



Reverend James W. Johnson is a native of Greenville, South Carolina and an honor graduate of Fountain Inn High School (Bryson High), class of 1954. Rev. Johnson is a graduate of Benedict College, where he received an A.B. Degree in English and Social Studies and additional graduate work in Guidance and Counseling from Clemson University.

Rev. Johnson is certified by the South Carolina Department of Education to teach English and Social Studies, Vocational Education and as a Secondary Guidance Counselor. He has been a teacher of English and Social Studies at Bonds-Wilson High School, Charleston, South Carolina and Washington High School, Director of Student Activities, Advisor to the Student Council, Chairman of Homecoming parade and activities, and Advisor to the Yearbook staff. He also served as administrative assistant for the football team that won the 1965 South Carolina State 1A Championship under Coach Eddie Jones. Rev. Johnson is now a retired Guidance Counselor from Greenville County Schools with 30 years of service.

Rev. Johnson's community involvement includes serving as President of Woodmont High School PTA in 1981. He was instrumental in getting the Greenville County Redevelopment Authority to build 105 new homes and a new Community Center in the Freetown Community at a cost of 13 million dollars.

Rev. Johnson's religious work includes serving as President of the Enoree River Baptist Congress of Christian Education for five years and Moderator of the Enoree River Baptist Association for five years. During Rev. Johnson's tenure, the Association purchased the former Laurel Creek School Building and 12 acres to be used as the Association Headquarters. He has served as pastor of Friendship Baptist Church in the Freetown Community for the past 27 years.

Married to the former Miss Earnestine Bennett and they are the parents of 2 sons and 1 daughter, grandparents of eight grandsons and granddaughters, and 1 great grandchild.

Rev. Johnson is proud and grateful to God for the opportunity to be a part of the glorious history of Greenville, South Carolina.

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



MARGARETT GREGORY TURNER

Margarett Gregory Turner was born and raised in Greer, South Carolina. She is the daughter of the late John Wesley and Grace Bious Gregory. As a young girl she attended Dunbar Elementary and High school through the ninth grade. Thereafter, she matriculated to Lincoln High School from which she graduated with honors in 1958. While at Lincoln, she lettered in basketball.



After graduating from Lincoln, Margarett attended Friendship Junior College, a two year academic institution. While attending Friendship she was elected the "Tiger Sweetheart" for two consecutive years. This honor was bestowed upon her by the Friendship football team. She was also captain of the basketball team.

After successfully completing Friendship she was accepted at Morris College to continue her academic pursuits. After Margarett left Morris she married her life partner, Claude Bass Turner, Sr. This union was blessed with its first child, Claude Bass

Turner, Jr. in September 1966. Despite starting a family, Margarett was determined to complete her academic career. She transferred from Morris to Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina from which she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree in business education.

After graduating from Benedict, Margarett accepted a position with the Greenville County School District in elementary education at Morton Elementary School in Mauldin, South Carolina. This began Margarett's professional life. It was also during this time in her life that Margarett and Claude were blessed with their second child, Shakeria Grace Turner on July 11, 1970.

Margarett retired from the Greenville County School system in 1987. However, her blessings continued to flow. She and Claude were blessed with the birth of four grandchildren, Drayton and Brandon, the children of Claude "Chip", Jr. and Jordon and Andre, the children of Shakeria "Kia" Turner McCullough.

Tragically, Margarett lost her partner Claude on October 16, 2008 but that has not stopped her from being active in the community of Greer.

Margarett's community services include Greer Alliances, Torch Bearers Club, Lincoln Ministerial Alliance, Board of Trust for Greer City Hall and Courthouse and Greer Historic Committee Zoning Board.

Our coaches were our guiding force during our youth.



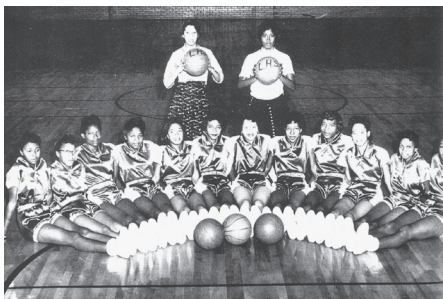
Mr. Nathaniel Hartman
Head Coach and Leader



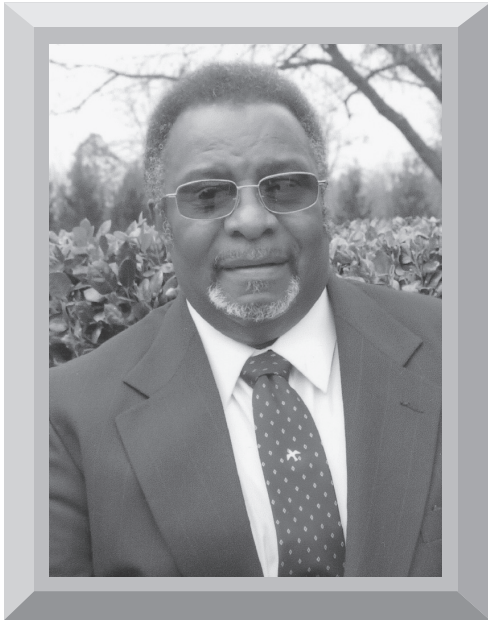
Mr. Thomas Williams
Assistant Coach



Mrs. Doris (Heard) Fowler
Girls Coach



INDUCTEES



EUGENE G. BENSON

“Lover”

Eugene G. Benson graduated from Lincoln High School in 1963. While there he played 2nd base in baseball, as guard in basketball and as a quarterback in football. He has always loved sports and has fond memories of winning a state championship in baseball and being runners up in football and basketball.

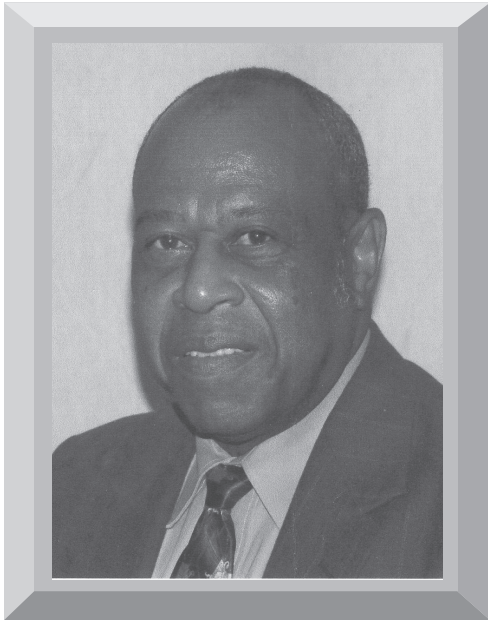
Eugene is married and the father of two children. He still actively enjoys sports and supports area high school and college sports.



MOST ATHLETIC
Patricia Bennett - Eugene Benson

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



VIRGIL L. SULLIVAN

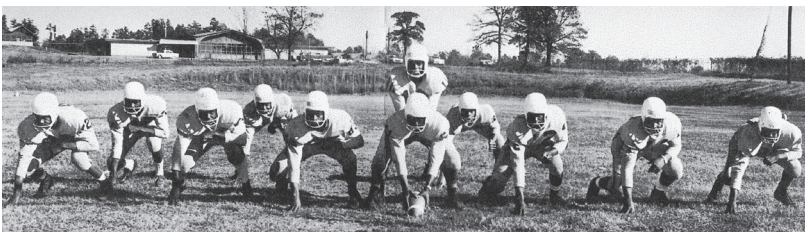
Virgil L. Sullivan was born in 1944, in Greenville County, South Carolina, and graduated from Bryson High School in 1962. While attending Bryson, he was captain of the football team for 3 years and also lettered in basketball, baseball and track and field. Dr. Sullivan is married to Alice Jean Sullivan and they are the parents of Gary L. and Virgil Sullivan, Jr.

Dr. Virgil L. Sullivan is President of the Martin-Webb Baptist Learning Center Inc. and Pastor of Faith Tabernacle Baptist Church in Greenville, South Carolina. He was awarded the Bachelor of Theology degree in May 1988. He was awarded the Honorary Doctor of Divinity Degree May 2006 from the N.J. Brockman School of Religion, Greenville, South Carolina. Dr. Sullivan has pursued additional studies at North Greenville College, Tigerville, South Carolina and The American Baptist Theological Seminary Extension, Greenville, South Carolina. He completed Practical Ethnic Missions Training, Home Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention; Leadership Development Training, Phyllis Wheatley Center and Greenville Technical College and Plant Engineering Training, Fiber Industries, Inc.

Dr. Sullivan is an active and dedicated pastor and administrator. His ministry, talent and pastoral focus transcend the Greenville area and South Carolina. Under his tutelage, many students and graduates of the Martin-Webb Baptist Learning Center have become successful in their religious endeavors. He is a provocative and visionary leader, who lectures, preaches and facilitates many church related workshops, training sessions, and community oriented programs. While serving as chairperson of the Greenville Housing Authority Task Force; Most Worshipful Master, Laurel Creek Masonic Lodge #332; and Board member, Meals on Wheels, these organizations enhanced their visibility in the community.

An avid supporter of and participant in the Reedy River Baptist Association and Congress of Christian Education, Dr. Sullivan has served extensively in various capacities: Moderator of the Union; Chairperson of Finance; Secretary and Clerk of the Ordination Council; Supervisor of the Ushers Union and Instructor, Assistant Dean and Dean of the Congress.

Included among his former and present positions, memberships and affiliations are: Treasurer, Parliamentarian, and Secretary of the Baptist Ministers' Fellowship of Greenville and Vicinity; Facility Member of American Baptist College Extension Unit, Greenville, South Carolina and of Morris College School of Religion Extension, Greenville, South Carolina; First Vice resident of the Great Commission State Baptist Convention of South Carolina; Leadership Development Group Post Fellowship; The Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; NAACP; Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina; South Carolina Baptist Congress of Christian Education and the Executive Board, of the Progressive National Baptist Convention Inc.



INDUCTEES



SHARLEY HILL

“Stan”

Sharley discovered, quite by accident, that she had a God-given ability “to run”. Her amazing talent was discovered by her brother, John, before she had any formal training. Under the tutelage and coaching of Mr. Louie Golden, Sharley realized that she could soar, like the wind, with little or no effort. It was just something that was within her and something that she loved to do. She was an all-conference runner. Her events were the 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, 440 yard dash and 440 relay. The track team needed a runner and Sharley was the runner with agility, ability and speed.

After graduating from Joseph E. Beck High School in 1970, Sharley no longer continued to run on the race track but rather turned her attention to running the race of life. She moved to San Antonio, Texas in 1984 and continues to live there to this day. She has been employed by San Antonio City Public Service Energy (the nation’s largest municipally owned energy company) since 1984 and currently serves in the customer service department.



Best Dressed
Sharley Hill

Sharley is an active member of New Birth Baptist Church in San Antonio and volunteers her time as financial secretary, is a member of the Virtuous Women’s Missionary Auxiliary, and a volunteer for the “Under the Bridge Ministry” which is instrumental in feeding the homeless and “Nursing Home Care Ministry” a ministry giving prayer, comfort and needed items to the aged.

Her Motto: “If I can help somebody, as I pass, then my living will not be in vain.”



Most Popular
Phillip Mosley and Sharley Hill

Favorite Scripture: Philippians 4:13; “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Sharley would like to dedicate her Hall of Fame Day, March 28, 2009, in memory of her deceased brother John Robert “Juice” Hill who was inducted into Piedmont Athletic Association’s Hall of Fame on February 16, 2002.



Best All Around
Lavanda Sweeney and Sharley Hill

INDUCTEES



CAROLYN ASHMORE GRIFFIN

“Pete”

Carolyn Ashmore Griffin is a lifelong native of Greenville, South Carolina. She is well known to family and friends as Pete, Ms Pete, Aunt Pete and even Sister Pete and was born July 24, 1949, the first of five children to James and Frances Ashmore. She attended Nicholtown Elementary School and attended two years of high school at Sterling and was a member of the 1967 graduating class of J.E. Beck High School.



Pete was active in high school as a cheerleader. She was captain of the first Drill Team and also a member of the first Cosmetology class.

After high school, Pete was the first African-American waitress to be hired by Howard Johnson's Restaurant in Greenville. She was a 17 year employee of Stone Manufactory and played softball for 15 years as a short-stop and made the Industrial Allstar Team five years as a short-stop. In 1985 she was employed by Digital Equipment for 17 years as a teamleader and played softball for 10 years. She also played softball four years for the VFW Post. She is now an eight year employee for H&R Block as a Tax Specialist.



DRILL TEAM

Pete joined the Young Laymen CME Church in 1975 under the Pastorial of Coach Rev. J.D. Mathis where she has served as secretary for 31 years. She is a member of the Gospel Choir and the Stewardess Board. She is a 33 year member of the well known Nicholtown Community Choir.



COSMOTOLOGY

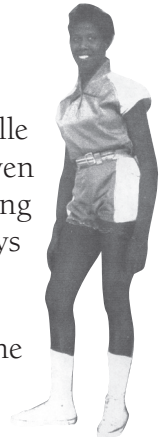
Carolyn (Pete) feels special and very blessed in raising two children, Donna and Cotillius. She also enjoys four grandchildren, Janssen, Fatiah, Vycktorya and Jonay. She is the proud great-grandmother of three, JaKobe, JaKyri and JaBori-Maliq. Pete is equally blessed with two sisters, Mary and Alice and a brother Henry. Her family is five generations strong and believes all is well with THE ALMIGHTY.



INDUCTEES



SHIRLEY GREER FULTON "The Goose"



Shirley Greer Fulton was born and raised in Greenville County. She is the second oldest daughter of seven children raised by Garlin and Lillian Greer. Growing up, Shirley was a very athletic individual who always had a interest in the sport of basketball.

She began her high school basketball career at the former Dunbar High School and later, transferred to Lincoln High School under the leadership of Coach Hartman, Coach Williams, and Coach Heard. Despite her father's motives to prevent her from playing basketball, Shirley was determined to continue playing the sport she loved.

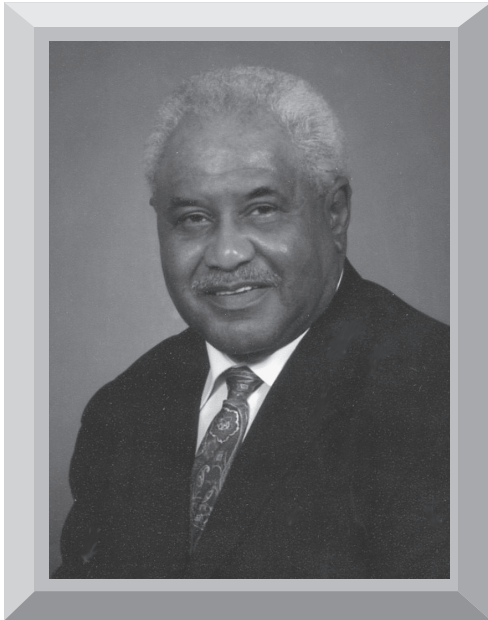
Shirley had a very successful career at Lincoln High averaging approximately fifteen points per game and leading her team to the District One Title with seventeen points in 1957, and was All-District 3 years in a row. Her skills were no match for any of her opponents. She earned the nickname "The Goose" for her tall physique and athletic abilities on the court. In addition, she was an excellent dominator inside the paint.

After graduating from Lincoln High, Shirley later married James Fulton, Sr. and traveled around the world and country raising three children. After a life of traveling, Shirley and her family settled back in Greenville County where she has worked and resided since. In addition to her three children, Shirley has eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Basketball definitely runs through the bloodline of Shirley's family. Her participation in the sport has influenced her son and several of her grandchildren to enjoy and play the sport she loves.

Shirley is currently retired from Greenville County Food and Services Association and spends her free-time cooking, gardening, and spending time with family. Shirley Greer Fulton is honored to be inducted into the Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame and is thankful to those who have supported her throughout her athletic career and throughout her life.

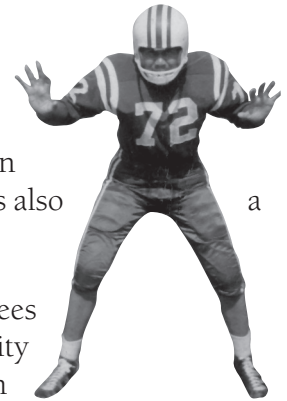


INDUCTEES



CHARLES ALBERT HAYWOOD “Chee-Chee”

Charles Albert Haywood is the son of the late General and Sadie Haywood. He is a native of Greenville, SC and a 1959 graduate of Sterling High School. Albert was a letterman on the Sterling Tiger baseball team. He was also a member of the basketball team.



Upon graduation Albert attended Voorhees College in Denmark, SC. His athletic ability was quickly noticed as a coach observed him playing a pick-up game of football. He was invited to practice and following the first game he was offered a scholarship. Albert also played baseball while a student at Voorhees.

In addition to attending Voorhees, Albert was also a student at Denmark Area Trade School and SC State College. In 1964 he returned to Greenville and was employed with Fiber Industries where he became their first black supervisor. He worked at Fiber for 32 years and retired in 1996.

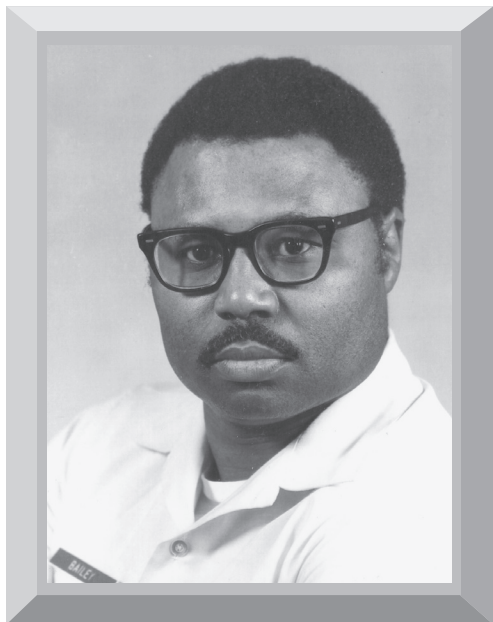
Albert is married to the former Edith Ellison of Greenville and they are proud parents and grandparents of 2 daughters, 1 son in law and 3 wonderful grandchildren. An active, lifelong member of Rocky Mount Missionary Baptist Church, Albert serves as a trustee and Chairman of Finance.

Sharing his love of athletics, Albert served as little league football and baseball coach for many years. Several of this players went on to have outstanding high school and college careers.

“I would like to thank PAA for this honor and for your efforts to make a difference in the lives of young athletes today.”



INDUCTEES



SAMUEL M. BAILEY “Sammy”

Samuel Martin Bailey was born in Greenville and raised in Fountain Inn, South Carolina. Sammy was a member amongst the first graduating class of Bryson High school in 1955. While attending Bryson, Sammy served as class president, captain of the football team and a member of the basketball team. Bryson High school was very underfunded and as a result the football team wore “hand me down” uniforms but this did not deter their spirits.



After graduation, Sammy entered the United States Air Force on June 9, 1955. With many thanks to teachers like Mr. Wright and Mr. Duckett, just to name a few, Sammy had been trained on all

of the military moves which allowed him to advance in basic training class thus resulting in his immediate promotion to a squad leader. Once reaching his permanent duty station as a cook, Sammy climbed the ranks and was promoted to shift leader, dining hall supervisor then food service supervisor. In 1976, Sammy retired from the United States Air Force classified as E7 Food Service Superintendent.

Upon retiring from the United States Air Force after 21 years of service, Sammy was immediately employed by Michelin Tire Company in Spartanburg, SC. His leadership skills were confirmed once again as he was promoted to first line supervisor. Sammy retired from Michelin Tire Company in 1993.

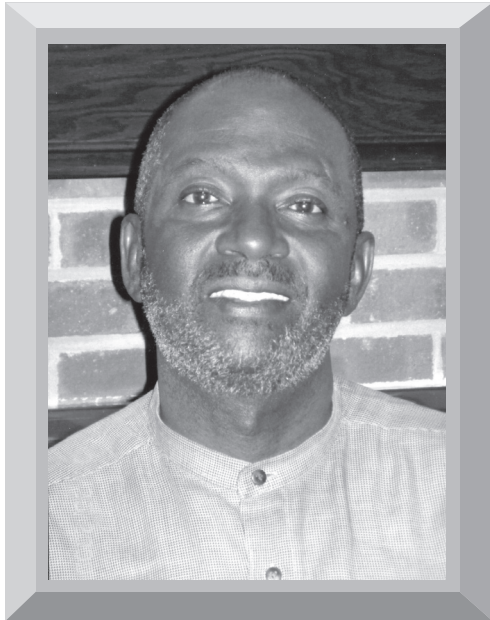
Sammy is happily married to the former Alice Jackson and together they have seven children, seventeen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. After retiring from Michelin, Sammy and Alice bought an 18 acre farm in Pelzer, SC where Alice grows plants, flowers, vegetables and grandchildren and Sammy raises goats, emus and donkeys. They enjoy sharing their blessings with their family, friends and neighbors.

Sammy is an active member of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Simpsonville, SC where he is a member of the senior choir, former president of the usher’s ministry, culinary ministry, brotherhood and pastor’s aide. Sammy would like to express many thanks to his loving family and friends for supporting him in this endeavor.



PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



FRANK LOWELL MOULTRIE "Po Mout"

Frank Lowell Moultrie was a 1967 graduate of Washington High School. He lettered in football three years and won three trophies for most improved player, sportsmanship and best blocker. He was also captain of his football team in 1967.

After graduating Frank attended the University of South Carolina for three years.

His community service includes Little League Football Coach for the "Cherrydale Cardinals" and Community Canvasser for the "Elect Obama Campaign Committee." His is also a Master Mason and an Usher at Gethsemane Baptist Church.

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ALWAYS REFRESHING,
THAT'S WHY THINGS
GO BETTER WITH COKE
AFTER COKE
AFTER COKE

WASHINGTON

No.	Name	Position	Wt.	Class
62	Adams, Thomas	G	160	10
83	Allen, Marshall	G	165	11
31	Beaty, David	HB	125	9
21	Belton, Willie	QB	180	12
24	Bell, John	HB	160	12
70	Dunbar, Richard	C	173	12
50	Edwards, William	C	152	11
80	Fleming, Charles	E	142	9
25	Hewins, J. E.	HB	138	9
61	Irby, Howard	G	167	11
23	Major, Carl	HB	170	12
72	McCollough, Donald	T	190	12
04	Moultrie, Frank	G	150	12
40	Patton, John	G	175	10
85	Perry, William	G	154	9
52	Phelps, Charles	HB	145	9
82	Poole, Bob	E	150	12
51	Robinson, Benjamin	C	147	3A
12	Rosemond, Tony	HB	115	10
81	Smith, Richard	E	135	10
75	Walker, Thomas	T	203	9
74	Williams, Jacob	T	229	12
30	Williams, Jimmy	FB	180	11
60	Williams, Thomas	G	148	12
10	Williams, James	QB	142	10
	Kinard, Ira	G	160	9

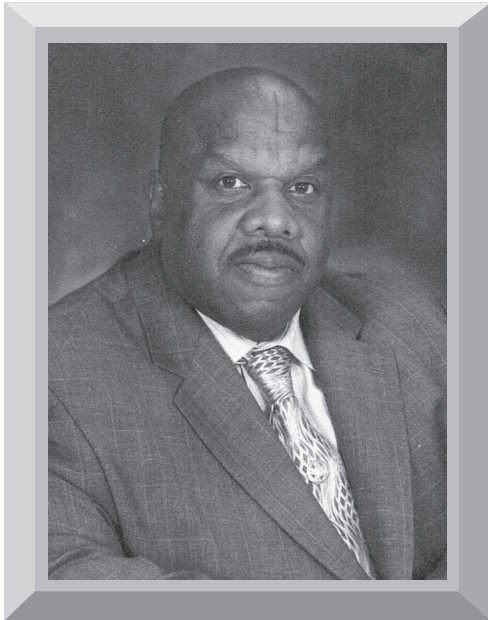
Head Coach: Robert Hudnell
Asst. Coach: F. Martin
Captains: Frank Moultrie, Willie Belton
Colors: Red and Blue

REFEREES' SIGNALS

Illegal position or procedure.
Illegal forward handling.
Offside or violation of freekick rules.
Illegal motion.
Illegal shift, both hands.
Personal foul.
Unsportsmanlike conduct. Delay start of half. Illegal participation.
Clipping.
Illegal use of hand or arm.
Roughing the kicker.
Grasping face mask.
Intentional grounding.
Illegal forward pass.
Interference with fair catch or forward pass.
Illegal forward pass.
Intentional grounding.

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



THOMAS CHARLES DOWNS "Puddin"

In the spring of 1961, his first year at Sterling High School, Thomas went to the gym to sign up for the baseball team. He arrived late, and the coach would not allow him to sign up.

Coach Giles Edwards, who was signing up candidates for track and field, asked Thomas if he wanted to sign up for track. Thomas, who had played Little League basketball under the leadership of coaches J.D. Mathis, Alfred Leamon, and James Chapman, told the coach that he didn't know anything about track. Coach Edwards explained some of the track and field events and said that tryouts would be held at Mayberry Park. Thomas signed up and went to the tryouts.

The first day of tryouts featured the mile run. Mayberry Park's track was small and required 16 laps to equal a mile. Thomas knew that he could run, for he had participated in neighborhood competitions. He had learned a lot by competing with older neighbors Richard Kerns, Irvin Thompson, and Alvin Billups. He outran all the other candidates on his first trial.

Some of the candidates were unhappy upon learning that their race was over and that Thomas had lapped most of them once or twice. Tempers cooled, however, when the candidates learned they would run the mile again on the next training day.

When the candidates met again, Thomas outran them again. He won numerous mile events during his first season on the team. He also won some half-mile events.

Coach Edwards, who often related the discipline of competing in sports to life lessons, noticed that Thomas was running just fast enough to beat his competitors. He advised him to strive to improve his time. Following the coach's advice, Thomas broke the Sterling High School record for the mile run. Running the mile in slightly more than 5 minutes, he beat the 5 minutes, 5 seconds record that Pete Jones or Harry Bobo had set.

During the next years' track events, Thomas broke his own record 7 or 8 times, ending his track career with a 4 minutes, 17 seconds mile record, 21-23 seconds more than the world record held by Jim Ryun in the mid-sixties. (The current world record for the mile was set July 7, 1999, at 3 minutes, 43 seconds)

Thomas' mile run record at Sterling High School was never broken; therefore there are those who still talk about Thomas "Puddin" Downs who ran track for the Sterling High School Tigers.

Thomas also played defensive back and running back positions on the Sterling High School football team from 1963-1964.

Thomas Downs has been employed by the Greenville County Sheriff's Office for 35 years. He has been assigned to the U.S. marshal's Fugitive Task Force as Special Deputy U.S. Marshal for the past 22 years. Thomas, who retired in 2004, is currently working full time under the Terry Program.

Until age 40, he competed in the annual Law Enforcement Track and Field Events held at Furman University, often winning events in his age group.

A member of the Greenville branch of the NAACP, he served as Executive Board Member under five different branch presidents.

In 1975 Thomas graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy in Columbia, SC. He then went on to train at the FBI Academy in Quantico, VA in 1977. Being named one of five members of Greenville County's first SWAT Team Thomas went on to serve the Greenville Area for ten years.

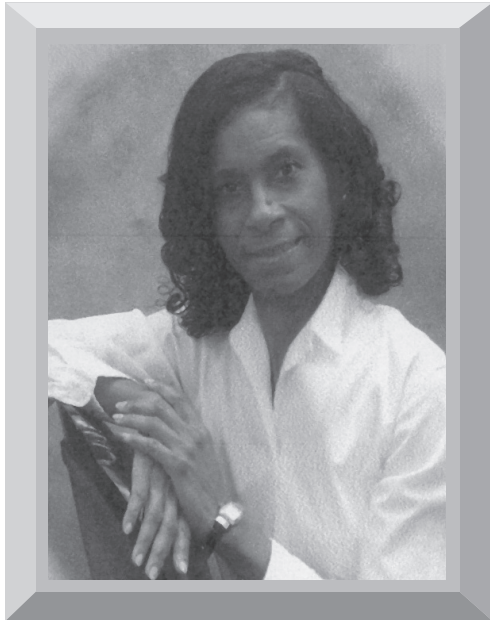
Thomas received several awards for combating vice and narcotics violations and in 1995 received Officer of the Year Award from the Greenville County Sheriff's Office. He is presently a member of the U.S. Marshal's Operation Intercept Team and has received several awards from the U.S. Marshal's Service for apprehension of fugitives.

Thomas Charles Downs dates his high school sweetheart, Shirley Ann Brooks, for three years before they were married in 1966. They have three children: Tracy Laverne Downs, Greenville, SC; Thomas Charles Downs, Jr., Atlanta, GA; Tia Latrese Downs, student at USC Upstate. His grandson, Thomas Charles Downs III, is a student at USC Columbia.



PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



SIMONE DEVLIN "Choo Choo"

Simone Devlin graduated Washington High School in 1966. While at Washington she lettered in Girls Varsity Basketball, Track and Field, and Cheerleading.

After graduating Simone attended Furman University, Greenville Technical College, Living Waters Bible College, MACEA, and NJ Brockman School of Religion.

Simone is an HIV/AIDS Activist/Educator, an accomplished dramatic actress known locally as "Sojourner Truth" and "The Bag Lady", NAACP, and The SC Children's Theatre. She is a licensed Baptist Minister, Founder of "The FOLD" Ministry for Women,

Mentor for Graduate Greenville, and *Reflections* Ministry for Women. Simone is also a Basketball Coach with Potential Sports.



District 3
AA Champs
1965-66



Simone Devlin
"Choo-Choo"

INDUCTEES



WILLIAM HENRY McELRATH *“Mac”*

William Henry McElrath is a proud graduate of Bryson High School, Class of 1958. While attending Bryson he lettered in football, baseball and track. He was All Conference for two years in football during that time.

William has two sons, Jaracz L. McElrath and Marco McElrath and 5 grandchildren.

Retiring from Celanesc after 29 years of service, William is characterized as a dependable, honorable, and spiritual person.

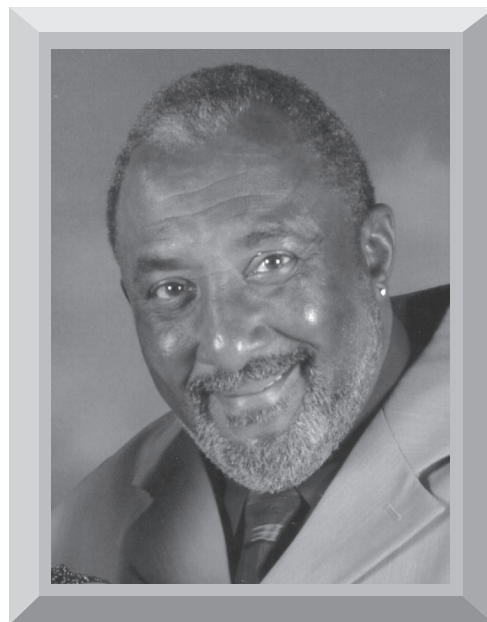
He would like to thank Piedmont Athletic Association for this honor.

MARVIN PAGE, JR. *“Mop Boy”*

Marvin Page is a 1963 graduate of Sterling High School. While attending Sterling he lettered in track.

After high school, Marvin attended Greenville Technical College. He also ran track and played semi pro football.

Marvins community services include Sterling Alumni Vice President, VFW Post 6734 and Chairman of Trustee Board and Usher at his church.



PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

INDUCTEES



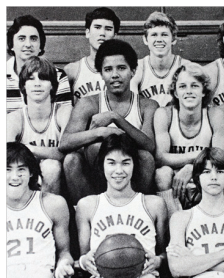
MINNIE DAVIS



Girls' Track Team



Panther Cheering Squad



President Obama, center, with the JV team at Punahou School, Hawaii, 1977.

BARACK OBAMA

Barack Hussein Obama, Jr. (born August 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii) is the 44th President of the United States. He is a former Senator from Illinois. In addition, he is a pretty fair baller, according to the New York Times (June 1, 2007). The lanky 6'2" Obama reportedly uses his good conditioning and knowledge of the game to contribute on the court. Obama began playing as a child. He had a Dr. J poster on his bedroom wall. His nickname was "Barry O'Bomber." He played for his high school, the Punahou School, which won the 1979 Hawaii state championship. Though a good ballplayer, the team was loaded with talent, and Obama contributed only two points in the state championship game.

As a law student at Harvard University he learned to play under pressure. He played on a team of law students who took on a team of prisoners. The cons who lined the prison yard court loudly reminded the Harvard boys that they had cigarettes riding on the outcome.

Basketball deeply shaped his life. Yes, it was a refuge from the world for him, a place where he was judged by what he could do and how he did, rather than by who his Daddy was. More importantly, though, it was the acid test that set him on the road to marriage.

Obama had just met Michelle Robinson, the future Mrs. Obama. A wise woman, she recruited her brother, Craig Robinson, to take the young man to the playground for some streetball. Miss Robinson wanted to know whether this new fella called too many fouls, or hogged the ball. Her brother had some expertise in playing ball; he is still the fourth-leading career scorer at Princeton University and is currently the head basketball coach at Oregon State University. Obviously his assessment was a positive one.

Obama has had the chance to play at some of the toniest health clubs in America. But when he lived in Chicago he also played at the local courts in Hyde Park, near the University of Chicago. There, you might be running with a future Nobel Prize winner, or with the boyz from the hood...or even a future U.S. President.

If you ever get the chance to go up against him, here's the book on The President:

- He's a natural leftie, who likes to fake right and go left. (Liberal Democrats may hope that there is metaphorical significance to this tendency.)
- Quick, self-confident, good wind, nice left-handed jumper.
- On defense, he is not shy about tugging on a shirt or using his elbows.
- When Obama makes several shots in succession, he readily points it out to his opponents.
- Known to call fouls on himself.
- While he is not in the same league with some of his opponents (did we mention his brother-in-law?), he compensates with his smarts and unselfish play.

The Times interviewed former NBA All-Star Rickey Green, who has played with Obama. His assessment: "He's above average," for a pickup player. "He's got a nice little left-hand shot and some knowledge of the game."

...And I could play basketball, with a consuming passion that would always exceed my limited talent....

--Barack Obama, from his autobiography Dreams from My Father



The PAA Story: What a Great Idea

In 1970, for the most part all of the five black high schools were closed as high schools in Greenville county. Progress in moving toward better education also left an empty place in the memories and hearts of those that grew up in that era and attended those schools.



THE FIRST CLASS

Years later the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame was founded in 1972. Great athletes from around the state were selected and inducted into the Hall of Fame. After a few years the question was asked...why are there not more athletes and coaches from the upstate considered for induction into the Hall of Fame? People like Bill Thompson, Ernie Brock, Coach Joe Mathis and so forth.

That question led to another question of why can't we create a hall of fame that would embrace the Upstate's athletic programs and recognize with dignity, glamour and prestige, those athletes and coaches who are so deserving?

That question became an idea. From that idea came a purpose. Alumni from Sterling, Bryson, Beck, Lincoln and Washington High were called together. From the moment anyone hear this idea and purpose, they would say that this is something great. After a number of noon day lunch meetings at the Ramada on Church Street, late night telephone conferences with many people; another meeting was held in the latter part of 1991 at Phyllis Weatley Center. A representative from each school was present.

There, at the meeting, the final question was asked and answered. What will we call this Hall of Fame that would embrace all the schools and it's area of interest. Somebody said "The Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame".

The rest, as they say, is History. Clyde Mayes was made Executive Director and following the first class of inductees in 1992, Clyde spent the next two years organizing the PAA's structure and building a formulation for perpetual existence:

- ◆ Articles of incorporation and by laws
- ◆ Registration with the Secretary of State office
- ◆ Tax status under 501(C)(3)
- ◆ Creation of Hall of Fame logo, symbol and stationary
- ◆ Scholarship program guidelines and criteria

With the organization structurally in place Mr. Emanuel Sullivan became the PAA Hall of Fame second Executive Director in 1995. Emanuel added present day community sports programs to the PAA's agenda; (1) High School Basketball Player of the Week; (2) County Basketball All Star Game; (3) Membership Appreciation Night; and (4) the including of Women Athletes for induction into the Hall of Fame.



THE SECOND CLASS

Over the past 18 years seven coaches were inducted into the Hall of Fame under the Clyde Mayes administration and presently 135 coaches, players and supporters have been inducted under the Emanuel Sullivan administration.

Forever thankful, the PAA is mindful of the public support the people of the Upstate has given the Hall of Fame. This did turn out to be a good idea and a lot of fun.

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS HALL of FAME RESOURCE AND HISTORICAL CENTER

11724 Plaza Circle / P.O. Box 20626 / Kansas City, Missouri 64195 / 816-464-5400

Brice B. Durbin
Executive Director
NATIONAL FEDERATION

July 23, 1992

Mr. Ernest Hamilton
Piedmont Athletic Association
Hall of Fame
P.O. Box 10672
Greenville, SC 29603

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

On behalf of the National Federation of State High School Associations and its National High School Sports Hall of Fame, we offer our congratulations to your first class of inductees into the Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

Our congratulations to Louie Golden, Al Duckett, Thomas "Sporty" Williams, Rev. J.D. Mathis, James T. Floyd, Eddie Jones and Dewey Tullis for their accomplishments and contributions to high school coaching.

I applaud your efforts in launching the Piedmont Hall of Fame as a way of recognizing outstanding coaches and educators in Greenville County, South Carolina. I wish you the best in the years to come as you continue to salute additional worthy individuals.

If there is ever anything I can do to assist you from a national perspective, please let me know.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce L. Howard
Bruce L. Howard
Hall of Fame Director

BLH:pa

c: Louie Golden
Al Duckett
Thomas "Sporty" Williams
Rev. J.D. Mathis
James T. Floyd

LIZ PATTERSON
4TH DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA
230 CANNON BUILDING
202-225-6030
SENATOR OFFICE
P.O. Box 1330
SPARTANBURG, SC 29304
803-582-4922
P.O. Box 10458--FERRIS DIVISION
GREENVILLE, SC 29603
803-232-1141
P.O. Box 604
UNION, SC 29378
803-427-2208

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4004

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VETERANS AFFAIRS
SUBCOMMITTEE:
HOSPITALS AND HEALTH CARE
EDUCATION, TRAINING
AND EMPLOYMENT
SELECT COMMITTEE ON HUNGER

July 31, 1992

Mr. Eddie Jones
5 French Lane
Greenville, South Carolina 29605

Dear Mr. Jones:

I saw in the newspaper where you have been inducted into the Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame. Congratulations.

I am sure you must know that your teaching and coaching career has made a difference in people's lives. Your dedication to our young people is appreciated by many folks in our area.

Best wishes to you. Please let me know if there is ever any way that I can be of assistance to you.

Cordially,

Liz Patterson
Elizabeth J. Patterson
Member of Congress

EJP:bw

THIS STATIONERY PRINTED ON PAPER MADE OF RECYCLED FIBERS

TER, JR., PRESIDENT

WILLIAM M. TURNER, VICE PRESIDENT

South Carolina High School League

H.A. PETE AYOUS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
P.O. BOX 153
COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29202-0153
TELEPHONE (803) 777-3116



July 17, 1992

Mr. Thomas W. Williams
1002 Diggs Avenue
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Dear Thomas:

I read with great interest your induction into the Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame. It is a great honor and one I know you are extremely proud of. I would like to extend my congratulations to you for this honor and for what you have done to improve athletics in South Carolina. It is always good to recognize outstanding gentlemen and coaches for the positive input they have made on so many young people. Your guidance and leadership will never be forgotten by these athletes.

Again, congratulations for receiving this most deserved honor.

If I may ever be of service to you, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Ronnie Matthews
Ronnie Matthews
Assistant Executive Director

RM:bw



South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame

July 31, 1992

Mr. Ernest Hamilton
Piedmont Athletic Association
Hall of Fame
P. O. Box 10672
Greenville, SC 29603

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

We would like to congratulate the inductees recently inducted into the Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame. It is indeed a tremendous honor to be recognized for accomplishments in sports and the many contributions these individuals have made to the State of South Carolina.

Sincerely,

Grant Bennett
Grant Bennett
President

GB/tj

P.O. Box 21215 • Columbia, South Carolina 29221 • (803) 798-4270

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

➤ SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ➤

The Scholarship Award is set up to fill a needed void between the good high school players who played a big supporting role in most cases for their gifted teammates that get the full scholarships to colleges. Secondly, this type of grant encourages high school students to participate in athletics, to excel in class, to go to college. This unique scholarship awards athletic performance and class work. The criteria is that a student must have earned two letters in one or a single letter in a combination of two or more varsity sports and did not get a full scholarship, yet did enroll in a college after high school.

Funds for the scholarship award program are set aside yearly by the Board of Directors from our different fundraisers... ie, donations, membership dues, Senior Showcase Games proceeds and Banquet proceeds of the PAA's General fund. As can be expected, the number and amount of the awards are made possible by the availability of funds. To date the PAA scholarship award program has awarded over \$70,000.00 to Greenville county students. For the most part, most of the students enrolled into instate colleges.

	1996	
Corey Boggin	Riverside High School	Greenville Tec. College
	1997	
Terry Young	Travelers Rest High School	Benedict College
	1998	
William C. Staggs	Blue Ridge High School	USC-Spartanburg
LaShanda Maxwell	Carolina High School	Denmark Tec. College
Andre' D. Brantley	Wade Hampton High School	Benedict College
	1999	
Christopher H. Harvey	Blue Ridge High School	North Greenville College
Lakia N. Griffin	Greer High School	USC-Spartanburg
Adrian M. Harris	Hillcrest High School	Newberry College
Lynatte N. Jackson	Travelers Rest High School	Charleston Southern Uni.
Maya N. Grady	Greer High School	Lenior-Rhynne College
Latonya N. Davis	Hillcrest High School	Berea College
Michilla L. Jackson	Carolina High School	Anderson College
	2000	
Roderick Henderson	J.L. Mann High School	Wingate College
Charles Clark	Southside High School	Spartanburg Methodist College
John Phelps	Hillcrest High School	Voorhees College
Erie Williams	Greer High School	Wingate College
Craig Johnson	Greer High School	Greenville Tec. College
Barney Jackson	Berea High School	Pikeville College
David Little	Wade Hampton High School	North Greenville College
Demetrius Pepper	Greenville High School	Morris College
Kevin Allen	Carolina High School	Mars Hill College
Karen Hunt	Southside High School	Hiwassee College
La'trese Davis	Hillcrest High School	Spartanburg Methodist College
C.W. Bankhead	Mauldin High School	Spartanburg Methodist College
Natasha Morgan	Hillcrest High School	Johnson C. Smith University
Autumn Skelton	Greenville High School	Francis Marion College
Mathew Chasteen	Woodmont High School	Pfeiffer College
Veronica Thompson	Hillcrest High School	Johnson C. Smith University

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

❖ SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ❖

2001

Charlena Martin
Samuel Mattison
Charity Williams
Clayton Smith
Tiffany Jones
Jamario Twitty
Brandon Smith
Rodney Taylor
Jauron Martin
Stacey Mars
Danielle Welborn
Lakita Backum
Melissa Griffin
Herbert Brooks Jr.
Samuel Brown
Jada Blakely
Jada Sullivan
Crystal Pyles
Barry Wilder
Darin Jenkins
Ryan Hamilton
Erie Williams

Berea High School
Wade Hampton High School
Greer High School
Woodmont High School
Hillcrest High School
Berea High School
Wade Hampton High School
Carolina High School
Woodmont High School
Woodmont High School
Mauldin High School
Southside High School
Greenville High School
Southside High School
J.L. Mann High School
Carolina High School
Hillcrest High School
Hillcrest High School
Eastside High School
Carolina High School
J.L. Mann High School
Greer High School

Walter State Community College
Brevard College
Winthrop University
North Greenville College
University of South Carolina
Clemson University
University of South Carolina
South Carolina State University
Berea College
Erskine College
North Greenville College
Greensboro College
Greenville Technical College
East Tennessee State University
University of South Carolina
South Carolina State University
U.S.C. Spartanburg
U.S.C. Spartanburg
University of South Carolina
Johnson C. Smith University
Wake Forrest University
Wingate University

2002

David Gibson
Edward Strange
Maurice Brockington
Nakisha Bennett
Travis Irby
Tivarius Thompson
Timothy Carson
Jarvis Robinson
Martin Vernon
John Lawton
Travis Hawthorne
Kimberly Jamieson
Brandon Thomason
Michael Brockman, Jr.
Princess Putman

Southside High School
Travelers Rest High School
Riverside High School
Greenville High School
Hillcrest High School
Berea High School
Riverside High School
Southside High School
Carolina High School
Travelers Rest High School
Mauldin High School
Eastside High School
Woodmont High School
Woodmont High School
Hillcrest High School

Antoine Freeman
Chinnesia Lee
Jonathan Jones
Tiffany T. Jones
Kelly Westermeier
Benjamin Baily

2004

Allen University
Lander University
S.C. State
Limestone College
Clemson University
North Greenville College

2005

Southside High School
Greer High School

2006

Southside High School
Carolina High School
Mauldin High School
Southside High School
Greenville High School

2003

Brittany Whitaker
Julian Swinger
Koyett Miles
Zachary Grant
Victor Duck
Bobby Downs
Travis Morris
Jonathon Jackson
Margaret Williams
Brandon Williams
Lisa Jackson

Blue Ridge High School
Carolina High School
Southside High School
Eastside High School
Eastside High School
J.L. Mann High School
Berea High School
Hillcrest High School
Blue Ridge High School
Southside High School
Riverside High School

Amanda McKinney
Arthur Sitton

Nakiy Gardner
Jonathan Lee
Morgan McCain
Jarvis Pickering
Shadae Thompson

2007

Amber Joy Ryals Southern Wesleyan University \$1,000.00

2008

T.C. McGreen
Courtney Croft
Karman Gaffney
Lakia Mansell
Alex Jamison
Taylor Payne

Travelers Rest High School
Wade Hampton High School
Greer High School
Southside High School
Hillcrest High School
Riverside High School

❖ SCHOLARSHIP AWARD ❖



SUNDAY, JUNE 29, 2008 THE GREENVILLE NEWS

KEN OSBURN / Staff

Wade Hampton's Courtney Croft was among the Piedmont Athletic Association scholarship winners.

Scholarships pay tribute to history

Awards celebrate memory of city's black high schools

By Bob Castello
STAFF WRITER
bcastell@greenvillenews.com

Ernie Hamilton and his peers want more than just to remember Greenville's black high schools. They want reminders of what made those schools special.

Thus, the Piedmont Athletic Association Hall of Fame's annual scholarships have been named in honor of the five schools.

"We're joining the past with the present — and we're having fun doing it," said Hamilton, a member of the PAA's board of directors and the executive director of the Hall of Fame.

Each year since 1996, the PAA has provided scholarships for Greenville County student-athletes. Beginning this year, the scholarships are named in honor of Sterling, Bryson, Lincoln, Washington and Beck high schools.

"It forces us to come up with enough money for at least five scholarships," Hamilton said. "In the past, the number depended on how much money we got."

"It opens up a lot of things for us, as far as a reason you would give. You would give to help a young student, while at the same time keeping the legacy of (the black schools) alive."

This year, in addition, the PAA received a corporate donation from Wal-Mart to fund a sixth scholarship.

As for those named for the former black schools, Hamilton said the students help to recall the schools on an individual basis.

2008 PAA SCHOLARSHIPS

■ Beck High School Panthers Scholarship: T.C. McGreen, Travelers Rest (two letters in basketball, one in football, one in band; plans to attend South Carolina State University)

■ Lincoln High Rattlers Scholarship: Courtney Croft, Wade Hampton (four letters in football; plans to attend Benedict College)

■ Washington High School Falcons Scholarship: Karman Gaffney, Greer (two letters in basketball; plans to attend Johnson C. Smith University)

■ Sterling High School Tigers Scholarship: Lakia Mansell, Southside (four letters in basketball, four in track; plans to attend Claflin University)

■ Bryson High School Hurricanes Scholarship: Alex Jamison, Hillcrest (three letters in football, two in track; plans to attend South Carolina State University)

■ Wal-Mart Scholarship: Taylor Payne, Riverside (four letters in basketball; plans to attend Harding University in Searcy, Ark.)

"They represent the school," he said. "The student had the same 'stick-to-it-iveness,' ambition and desire and has overcome adversities."

"We get the info from the application, and we can say, 'We've had kids just like that at Beck, or at Lincoln, or at Sterling.' We can say, 'We've had a basketball player who had three letters and a desire to go to dental school.'"

Hamilton said the PAA also is excited about the fact it's approaching 100 scholarships awarded.

With this year's group, the PAA has donated 96 scholarships and more than \$70,000 to Greenville County student-athletes.

PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

of
The Great and Legendary
BECK HIGH SCHOOL

Est. 1965 thru 1970

The former High School is now
Beck Middle School
The Academy of Languages

The Black and Gold Panthers
School's Motto:
"Service, Simplicity, Sincerity"



Beck High Panthers

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

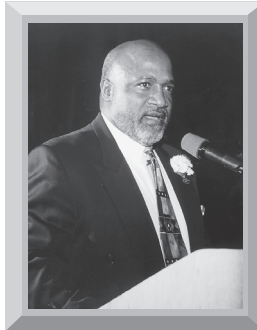
CLARENCE WHITTENBERG



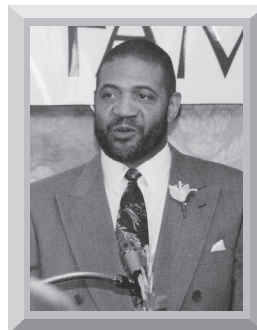
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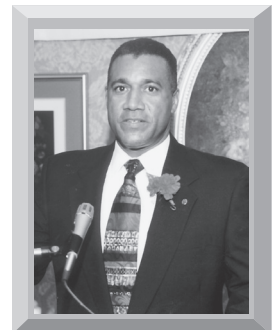
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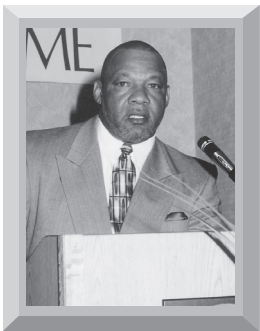
CLYDE MAYES



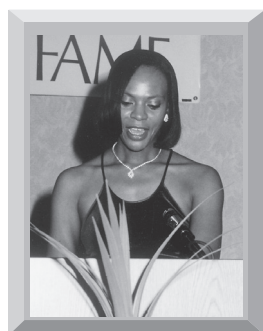
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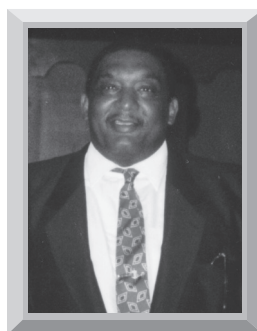
HERMAN ROBERTS



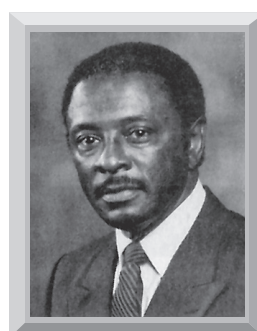
SHIRLEY TRAPP HARRIS



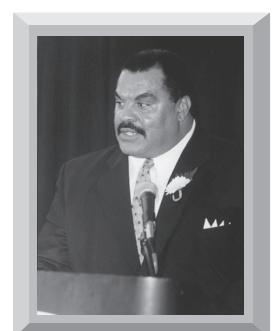
LOUIE GOLDEN



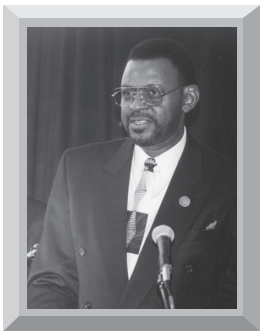
JAMES T. FLOYD



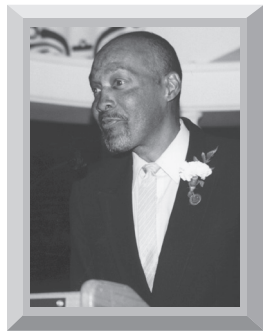
JAMES PERRY HARRISON



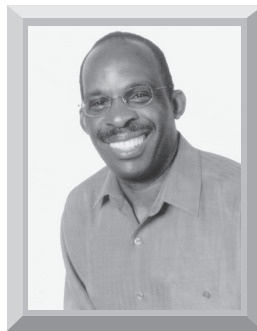
O'LOUIS McCULLOUGH



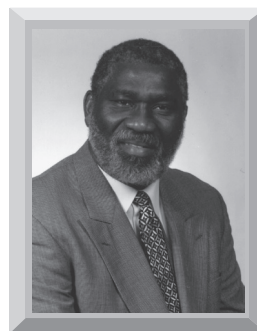
MICHAEL BOOKER



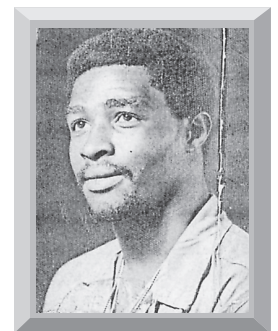
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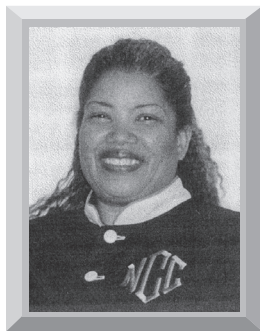
O'NEAL C. SEWARD



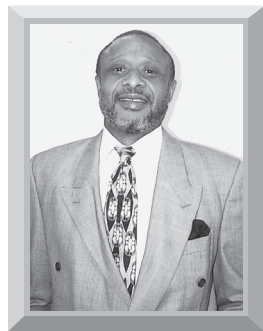
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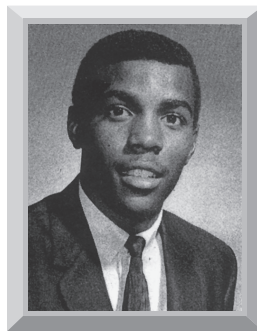
JOAN WILLIAMS-WALLACE



WILLIE D. NEAL



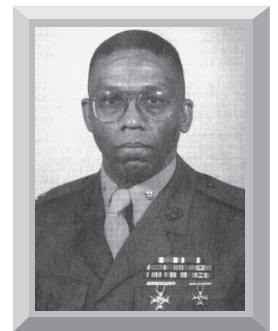
CHARLES E. BOOKER, JR.



WILLIAM E. LINDSEY



SAMUEL E. ROBERTS, SR.



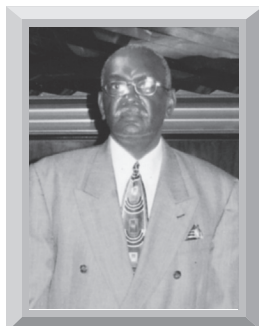
BECK HIGH SCHOOL



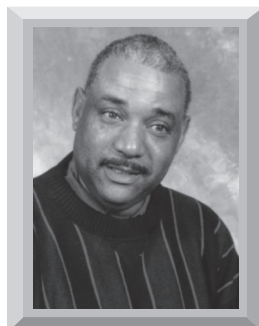
PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

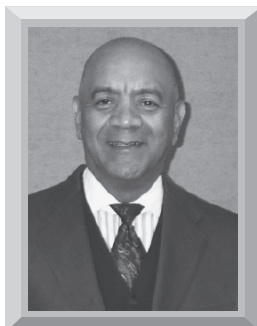
TERRY O. GAMBLE



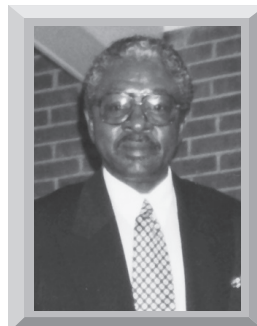
LURAIN YARBROUGH, JR.



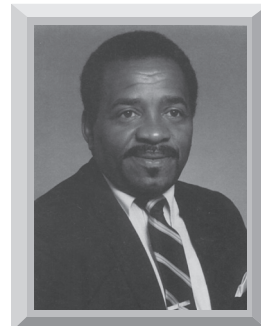
HARRY WALKER



JOSEPH FRANKLIN FLOYD



LONNIE C. HOLMAN, SR.



BECK HIGH SCHOOL



A History of Joseph E. Beck High School

1965-1969

On March 12, 1963, the Board of Trustees of the School District of Greenville County approved a site upon which was to be built a new school called the Nicholtown Junior-Senior High School. The site included twenty-six acres of land in the Green Forest Park area along McAlister Road and was to be purchased from the city of Greenville for the amount of \$75,000.

There were several reasons why Greenville County needed this new school. First of all, the site of the plant was located in the most thickly populated Negro section of Greenville, which at that time had no junior-senior high school in the community. Secondly, Sterling High School was operating on double and triple sessions and was badly in need of relief. Thirdly, the entire Nicholtown area was steadily increasing in population, and future need would increase the demands for a new school. Finally, a school was needed specifically to take care of students in the Nicholtown, Allen, Backer's Chapel, Roosevelt, and Fieldcrest areas of Greenville.

After a building committee was set up and the final plans for the school were approved, the contract to build the new plant was given to the Triangle Construction Company. In a meeting on November 10, 1964, the Board of Trustees of the Greenville County Schools voted to change the name of the new school from Nicholtown Junior-Senior High School to Joseph E. Beck High School in honor of the late Mr. Joseph Elbert Beck. Mr. Beck was an African-American educator who had spent thirty years in Greenville County school work including serving as principal of Sterling High School for twenty-one years.

The Joseph E. Beck High School was occupied for the first time in August of 1965. The new building's construction had cost \$1,425,715.65 and equipping the school brought the figure up to \$1,584,846.75. The McPherson Company served as the architect in the project.

The plant consisted of forty classrooms, library for 120 students, vocational shop complex, a 600 seat auditorium, science laboratories for science and home economics. The band, choral, and art departments were housed in areas that did not interfere with regular class activities. The gymnasium, which seated approximately 1500 people, was provided with an electrically operated panel that could divide the gym into two separate areas.

The principal chosen to lead Beck High School was Mr. Lemmon A Stevenson. His assistant was Mr. Albert A. Richburg, and the services of Mrs. Nancy G. Griggs were secured for the position of dean in charge of guidance.

Although Beck was built to serve at least a thousand students, only 700 were expected during the first year. However,

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

almost all of that one thousand students came that first year, and in the following years there were never less than that number. The first faculty consisted of thirty-nine teachers, but due to a consistently high enrollment, the number was increased in following years. J.E. Beck High School had a total of 253 graduates: twenty-eight the first year, 105 the second, and 120 in 1968.

A student council functioned as the parent club of the school. Its first action was to adopt a school motto ("Service, Simplicity, Sincerity"), colors (black and gold), and an alma mater. The council also produced a student handbook containing rules, guidance, and activities for the student body. Other products of the active council was a monitoring system, clean-up plans, an annual homecoming festivity, and charters for various clubs and organizations within the school.



A school choir began at Beck in 1965, and the Beck High School Band had its beginnings in 1966 under the direction of Mr. J. A. Devore. The first band had sixty members, but the following year it doubled in size and became known as the "Marching 12." During its brief history, the band won top honors in several contests and festivals and it was the first organization to bring a trophy into the school.

During the 1965-1966 school year Beck High School had both a football and basketball team. The next year track and baseball were added, and in the 1967-1968 school year two junior varsity teams began in basketball and football. Beck participated as a AAA conference school in 1968 with its basketball team that year becoming the Class AAA State Runner-up team.

The Panther, Beck's yearbook, was published in the spring of 1966. It continued during the following years under the leadership of various faculty members and student staffs. In 1968 the school added a completely equipped dark room and developing lab to its facilities. This was a great advantage to the yearbook staff since the audiovisuals director of Beck was engaged to take and develop all the pictures to be used for the yearbook.

J. E. Beck High School was always a forward looking institution, seeking to improve the quality and the quantity of the education available for its students. Each year there were improvements made in the school's facilities and in the courses offered. In its second year, Beck added for its students courses in band, art, auto mechanics, masonry, industrial art, trigonometry, shorthand, comparative government, advanced typing, and advanced cosmetology. In the 1967-1968 school year, Beck began offering a program in health education led by the school nurse. Further additions included courses in Spanish, business math, economics, and journalism. Later courses were added in developmental and remedial reading, driver education, office practice, speech, sociology, string music, advanced French and Spanish, business math, economics, and journalism.

During this time, school accreditation was not the only thought in the minds of the faculty and administration of Beck. They were becoming aware of national and local concern over the problem of school integration. Before 1967-1968 there were no white personnel at Beck. Preferring to achieve integration on a voluntary basis, Beck's staff began working toward another goal - integration of school personnel. In the fall of 1967, a part-time school nurse who was white was employed. In February of 1968 a white social studies teacher was added. Then, in the fall of 1968, Beck's staff included eleven white persons, all of who were employed before district pressures were placed on schools to have them integrate their faculties. This achievement was the outstanding one in the integration of school faculties in the state of South Carolina.

Beck's history was relatively short, having seen only four years of operation, but the advances the school made in its educational program and in the programs of the district and the state in such a short time had been remarkable. If past performance and effort could have been continued within the school and coupled by full administrative and financial support from the School District of Greenville County, Joseph E. Beck High School could not help but have become one of the outstanding high schools of South Carolina.



PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

of

The Great and Legendary

WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Est. 1962 thru 1970

The former High School is now
Washington Center

The Blue and Red Falcons



Washington High Falcons

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

ALFRED LEAMON



EDDIE JONES



MARY ANN BROOKS



ROSALIND G. BRYANT



ROSA LEE FLEMING BYRD



WILMA WATTS



EUGENE TATE



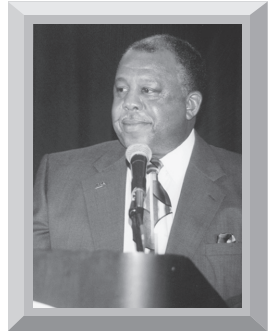
BENNY L. SMITH



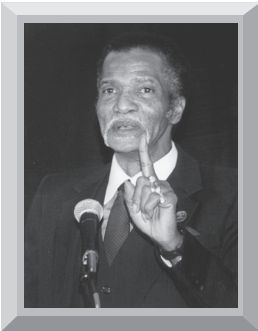
HILLIARD G. GLENN



LEON FERGUSON



JOHN DOUGLAS JONES



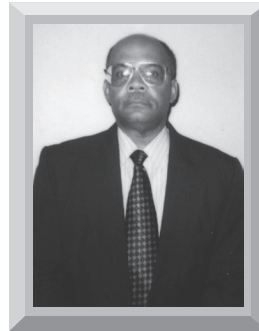
DR. JESSIE M.S. REEVES



PEGGY ADAMS ROBINSON



JESSE E. ALLEN, JR.



TERESA HILL



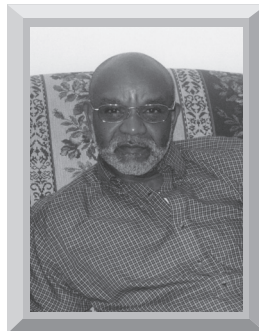
BOBBIE SUE KIRKSEY



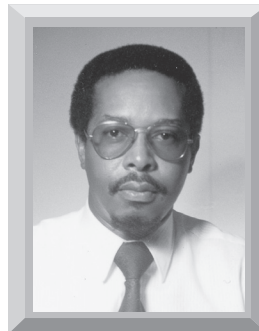
ESTHER FLEMING ROBINSON



BOB POOLE



DAN AVERY



ABBIE ODELL COLLINS



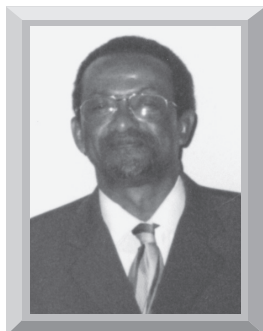
WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL



PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

EUGENE CLEVELAND



LEROY LEWIS



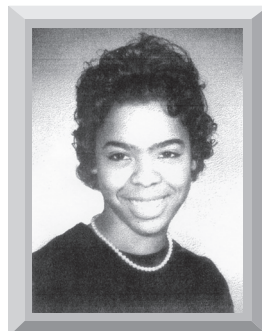
SHIRLEY "FAYE" FOWLER WILSON



BRENDA McBEE SCOTT



ETHEL TAYLOR



WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL



A History of Washington High School

1962-1970

Originally called "Happy Hearts" elementary and high school, it was later officially named Washington Elementary and High. In 1971 the building was abandoned as an elementary and high school. The building currently houses Special Education Services.



Washington High School Alma Mater

Washington, dear Washington
the pride of all our hearts

Washington dear Washington
to thee we'll never part

we will love and cherish thee
as long as we shall live

so, give three cheers to our dear
school, dear Wash-ing-ton



PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

of
The Great and Legendary
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL

Est. 1955 thru 1970

The former High School is now
Foothills Vocational Center

The Green and Gold Rattlers

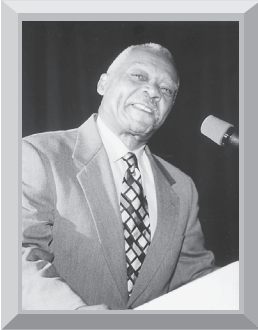


Lincoln High Rattlers

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

DEWEY TULLIS



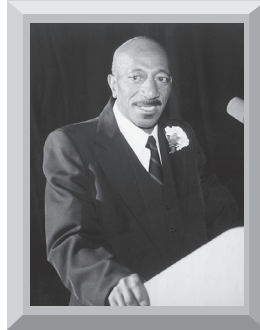
TOMMIE ANDERSON BROOKS



MARVIN DRUMMOND



EDDIE L. DRUMMOND



CONNIE MAYFIELD WILLIAMS



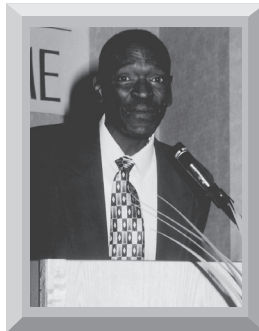
JOHN McCARROLL



ALENE BENNETT BAETY



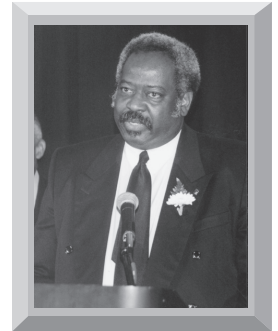
BOBBY JOE JONES



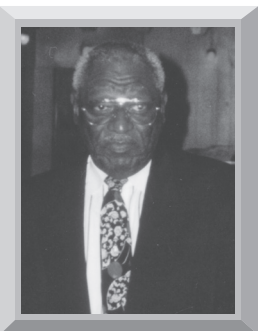
WALTER McCRAY



EMANUEL MONROE



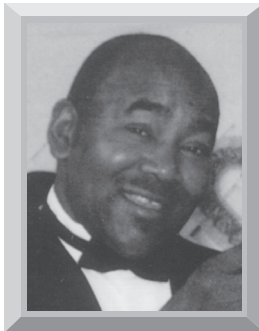
THOMAS M. WILLIAMS



BETTY WASHINGTON GOLDEN



RICHARD BYRD



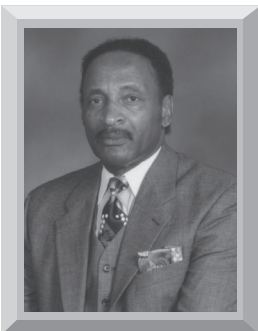
LULA YEARGIN WILLIAMS



WILLIE B. KIRKSEY



CHARLES DAWKINS



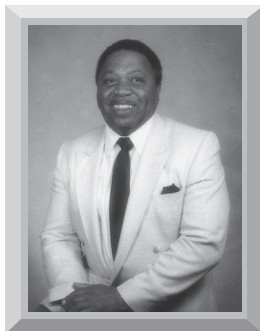
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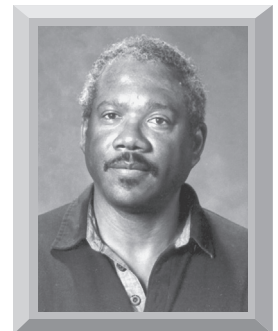
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CLARENCE CLINE



WILLIAM GASTON FLEMING



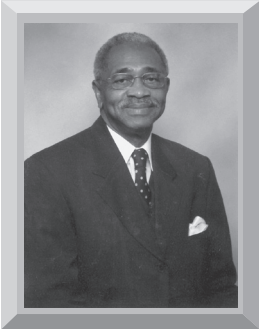
LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



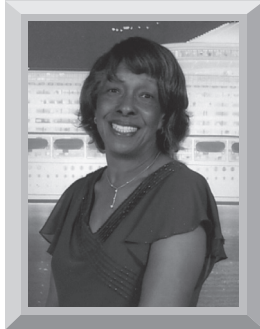
PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

WENDELL L. THOMPSON



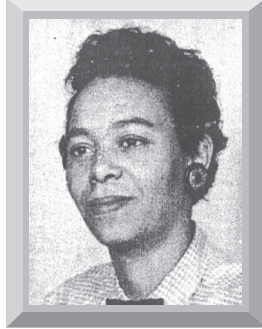
FERRIA MALEDA LAKE GOODWIN



SMILEY COX



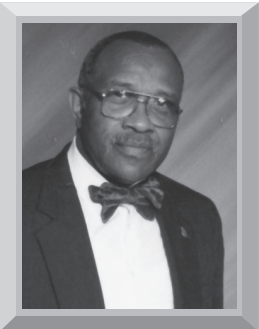
DORIS HEARD FOWLER



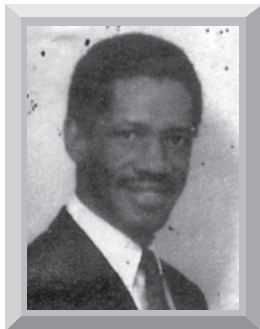
ELIZABETH BENETT SMITH



LAMAR RUDY PEARSON



WILLIAM R. DRUMMOND



LINCOLN HIGH SCHOOL



A History of Lincoln High School

“Rattlers”

1954 - 1970



PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

of
The Great and Legendary
BRYSON HIGH SCHOOL
Est. 1954 thru 1970

The former High School is now
torn down and
Bryson Middle sits on its campus

The Maroon and Gold Hurricanes

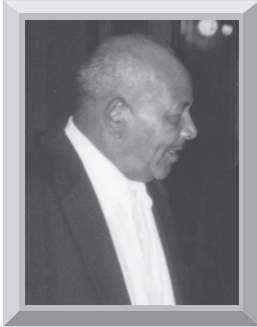


Bryson High Hurricanes

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

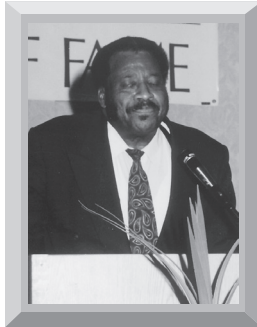
AL DUCKETT



QUEEN BERRY BRAILEY



FRED A. DEAN



ERNEST M. BROCK



NANCY D. PINCKNEY



EARL DANIELS



PAULINE WILLIAMS YOUNG



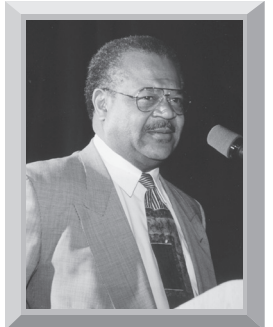
EZELL SULLIVAN



JOHN B. HALLUMS



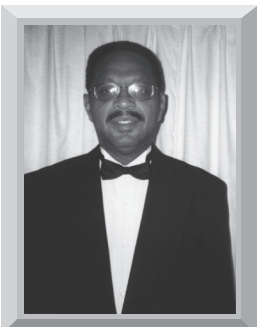
HAROLD W. SULLIVAN



CLARA ETTA KILGORE



WILLIE L. STEPHENS



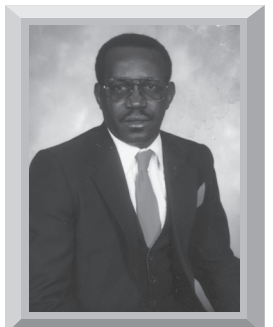
BETTY S. SULLIVAN



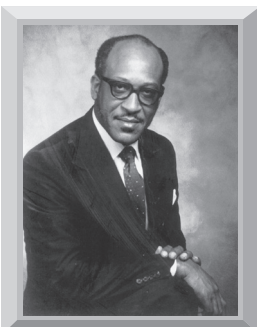
BETTY MEEKINS TARRANT



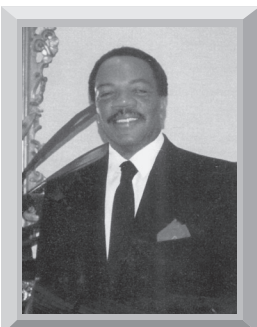
WILLIE BOYD



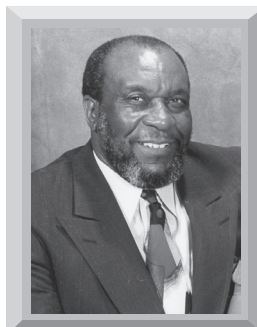
GRADY R. COOLEY



RODGER LEWIS BURTON, SR.



GEORGE LEE STODDARD



YVONNE BERRY TAYLOR



DAVID SHARPERSON



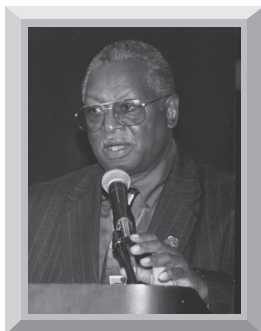
BRYSON HIGH SCHOOL



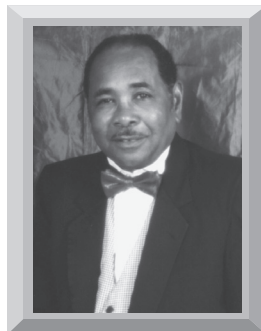
PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

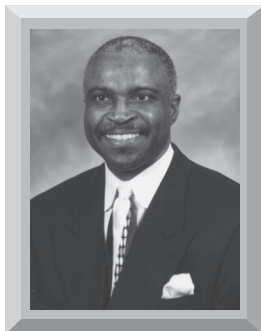
EMANUEL SULLIVAN



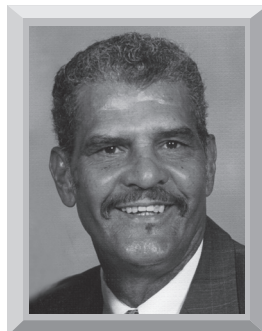
WILLIAM DACUS BROWN



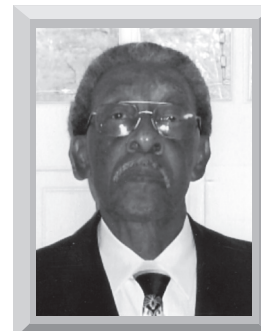
WILLIE MARION CHANDLER



REXELL JACKSON



WILLIE LEE HENDERSON



BRYSON HIGH SCHOOL



ALMA MATER

(Tune: "Sweet Genevieve")

Dear Bryson High, Our Bryson High
Our hopes reach high up to the sky.
The more we think of you it's true,
We bring to you, all our love.

Chorus

And as we stand before thy doors,
Sons and daughters arms unfold;
To welcome those who have not told,
That our hearts are made of gold.

Oh Bryson High, Dear Bryson High,
We'll love thee more as days go by.
And as the years go passing by
Your memories will never die.

A History of Bryson High School

1954 - 1970

In 1868 the South Carolina General Assembly enacted legislation providing for a state superintendent of education, who would be elected biennially, and who would have general supervision of the state's public school system. The act by the General Assembly wisely put the people of Greenville County in control by providing that a commissioner of education in each county be elected by popular vote, along with a local board of trustees for each school district.

The people of Greenville County elected a county commissioner of education biennially until 1896 following the action of the general assembly. It is interesting to note that the city of Greenville did not establish a free school system until 18 years after the General Assembly enacted legislation providing for a state superintendent of education. Mr. A. D. Asbury, in his paper, "The Little Red Schoolhouse," dated March, 1961 stated that the first public school system was established in Greenville on May 3,

1866, with school board composed of five members, one of who was black (S. S. Thompson).

It might also be interesting to mention briefly that some two years before the action by the General Assembly, black people in Greenville County had begun efforts to establish the first private school for their children. Their efforts were led by a black man from the lower part of the state named Charles Hopkins. An ordained minister, Hopkins raised \$300 from among black and white citizens of Greenville County and purchased a storehouse that was no longer needed by the army. He later took a three-year lease on land that was located on the outskirts of Greenville and build a schoolhouse there from materials taken from the abandoned army storehouse. (Asa H. Gordon, *Sketches of Negro Life and History in South Carolina*, Univ. of SC Press, 1971, p. 103).

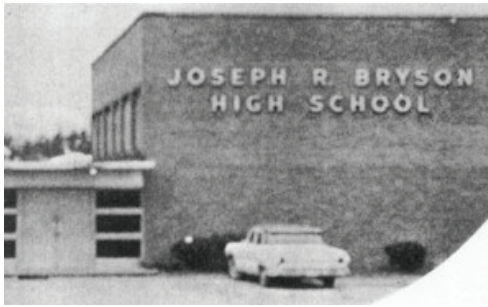
Correspondence between Hopkins and various officers of the Freedmen's Bureau indicated that the school's enrollment eventually reached 300, and the school's staff grew to five, including two white teachers. The school started by the black man is believed to have become Allen Elementary School and was taken in the city school system.

Annual reports of the state superintendent of education in 1870 Greenville County had seventy-eight free common schools with an enrollment of 2,060 white pupils and 597 'colored' pupils. By 1878 the county reported 136 schools with an enrollment of 5,274 white and 2,697 black pupils.

- the previous information came from Dr. J. Floyd Hall's *Highlights of Education in Greenville County: 1811 to 1975*.

Upon the recommendation of the John's Survey that a study be made of school facilities for the Greenville County and outlying attendance areas of surrounding counties, Englehardt, Englehardt and Leggett was employed to make a study of the building needs to accommodate the school district. This study recommended that two high schools for Negroes be established outside the city of Greenville and that one would serve the lower part of our county. It was recommended that this school be located in about the center of the area which it would serve.

PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME



The administrative staff and board of education Greenville County began to seek a location for a high school in the lower part of the county. After considering several locations, the present site was selected because of the utilities that were available on what is known as the "Golden Strip." The school was located off State Highway 14 between Simpsonville and Fountain Inn. The school was named by the County Board of Education for the late Joseph Raleigh Bryson, who served as a United States Representative from this Congressional District from January 3, 1939 to March 10, 1953.

Bryson High School opened its doors for the first time on Sept. 3, 1954. Five hundred and sixty-seven students were enrolled in grades seven through twelve. This enrollment represented a combination of five small inadequate high schools that served this area. Growth in student population made it necessary in the fall of 1958 to have only grades eight through twelve. The feeder schools were Bryson, Burgess, Laurel Creek, and Morton.

In 1954 in Greenville County, there were four high schools serving the African American population. Lincoln High served the upper part of Greenville County, Sterling and Washington High served the city of Greenville, and Bryson served the lower part of the county. Beck High School was later added in 1966 to serve the Fieldcrest and Nicholtown areas.

Bryson High School was built fully equipped with a gymnasium, auditorium, administrative area, vocational, agriculture and industrial education shops, three home economics laboratories, two science laboratories, music room, cafeteria, business laboratory and library with modern furniture and equipment in all these areas. The adopted mascot was the Hurricane and the school's newspaper was officially named *The Hurricane Times*.

The late Dr. A.M. Anderson served as principal during the entire existence of Bryson High School's 14.5 year history. Known by many names: "Chief", "Prof", "Mr. or Dr. Anderson", this man was the school's leader. He inspired his students and his teachers to become the best that they could. During his tenure, students were encouraged to think of high school as a stepping stone to greater heights. The evidence can be found in the many directions students took in positions of leadership in their diverse fields. Not only have Brysonians become good citizens, but also teachers, preachers, musicians, medical doctors, educational doctors, lawyers, business professionals, service men and women, and areas beyond. Much of this success can be attributed to the inspiration of Dr. Anderson. When integration of schools occurred in 1970, the teachers from Bryson who were placed in other schools were most often the holders of Master's degrees in the schools to which they were assigned. From Bryson High eight teachers became principals, five became assistant principals, one became Associate Superintendent for Greenville Country Schools and one became State Supervisor of Librarians. All of these person give credit to Dr. Anderson for inspiring them to a professionalism that caused their promotions.

The school was staffed with quality educators, who were dedicated to their profession. This all Black school represented an outstanding part of the Fountain Inn and surrounding Black communities. Graduating over 1,000 students, instilling in them self motivation, a will to succeed, and a challenge to improve upon the quality of life for all Black Americans. Making Bryson High School a proud chapter of the Black American History.

As a direct result of the 1960s civil rights movement for a racial equality and a right to a quality education in this country, the United States Supreme Court in the winter of 1969 ruled that "Segregation of public schools in unconstitutional" and "Separate but Equal" does not work. The Supreme Court ordered that all public schools be desegregated in this country, and the school district of Greenville County, South Carolina be the first to comply with this court order, with implementation beginning by spring of 1970.

In the spring of 1970 Bryson High School ceased to exist as a high school. All students enrolled except for 9th and 12th graders were transferred to Hillcrest of Woodmont High, both tradition all white high schools. The seniors were allowed to graduate from Bryson, making the class of 1970 the last graduating class of Bryson High School.

With emphases on high standards of education, social behavior and a belief in God as the creator was a positive image set and executed by parents and faculty, giving Bryson High Alumni Family a proud tradition of winning during school years and after graduation. The success of these efforts are given proof by the outstanding accomplishments of individual alumnus in their various professions, as they continue to achieve goals that were inspired at Bryson High. Today Bryson remains a s a middle school, but the Joseph R. Bryson High School Hurricane spirit will remain forever carved in the page of a proud history.

Materials from this article reprinted from the 1993 Bryson Alumni Association Souvenir



PREVIOUS INDUCTEES

of
The Great and Legendary
STERLING HIGH SCHOOL
Est. 1896

The former High School was destroyed by fire in 1967 and moved to the old Greenville Junior High building until 1970. The original Gym still stands and is regularly used today for all types of community activities and games

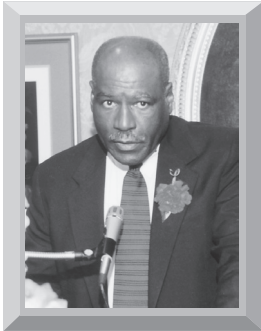
The Blue and White Tigers



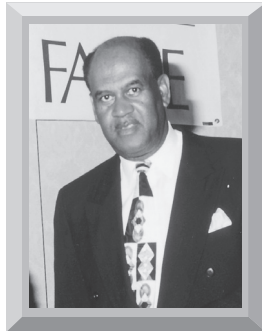
PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

LEROY GREGGS



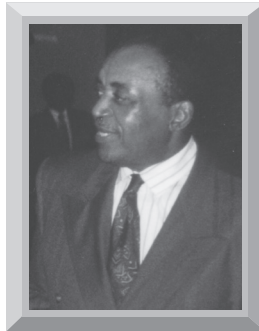
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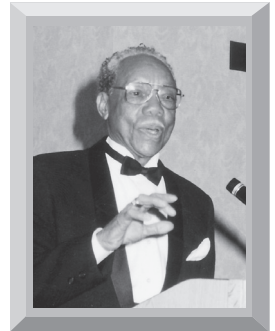
RUBY JONES



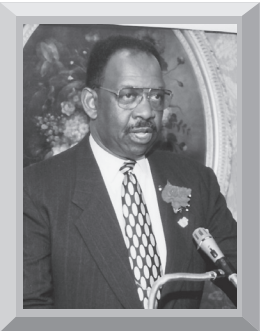
JOE MATHIS



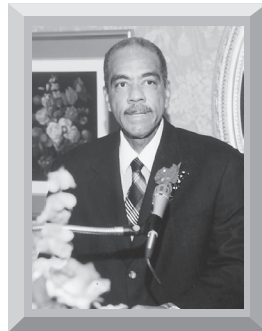
WILFRED J. WALKER, SR.



IRVIN THOMPSON, JR.



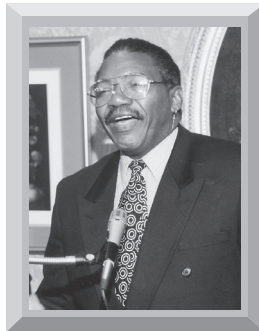
PETE JONES



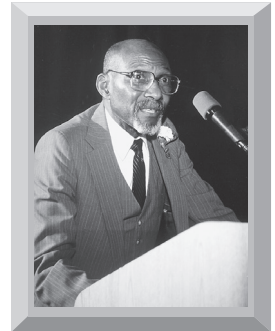
AGNES DAVIS YOUNG



NATHANIAL BOSTON



JAMES SMITH



WILLIAM H. CLEMENT



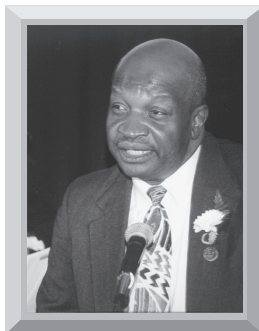
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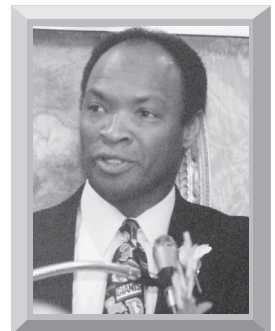
MARY PINSON CORNER



OWEN PERKINS



WILLIAM BILL THOMPSON



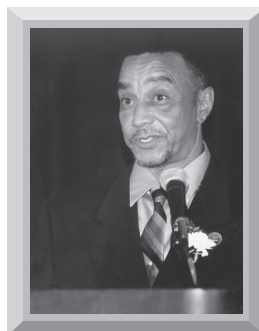
IDA MAE EVANS FLEMING



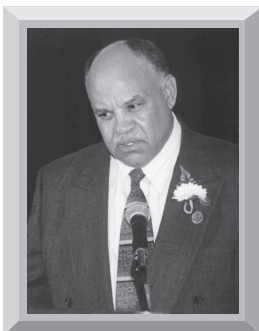
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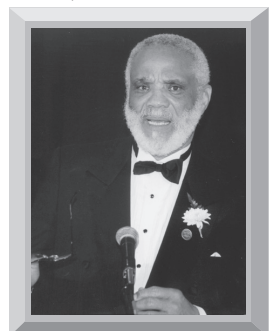
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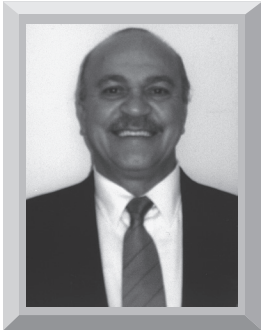
STERLING HIGH SCHOOL



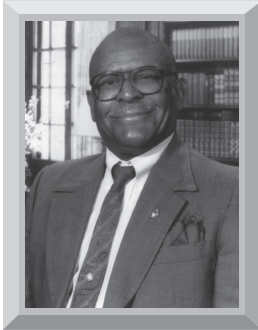
PIEDMONT ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HALL OF FAME

HALL OF FAME

JOHN MELVIN AMBERCROMBIE



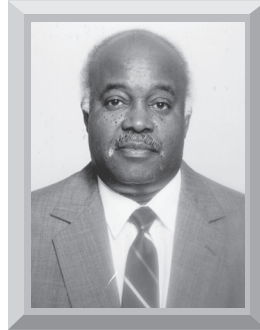
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O'DELL HARRISON



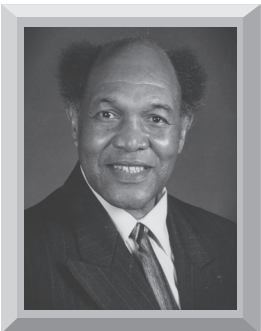
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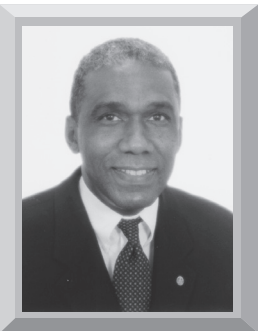
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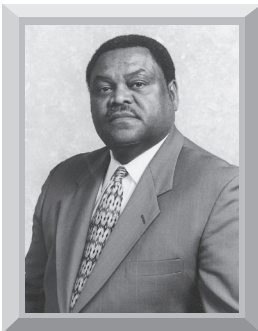
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R.C. GAMBLE



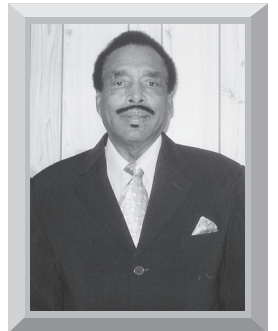
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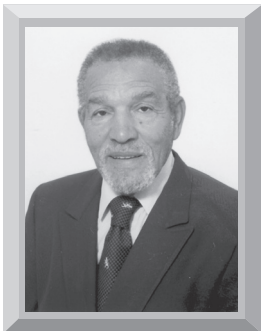
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ERNEST JONES



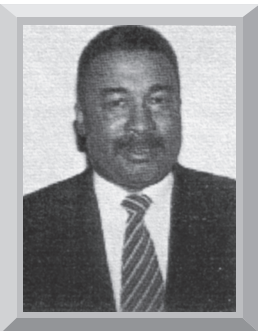
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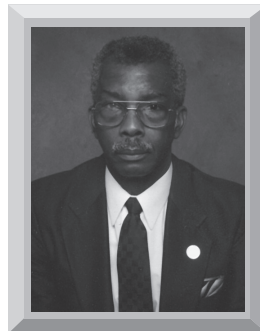
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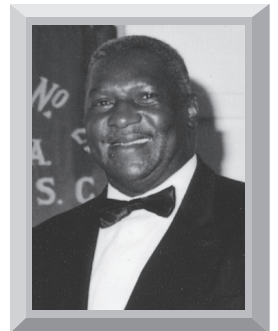
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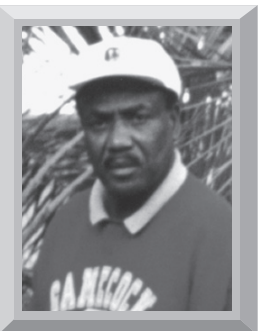
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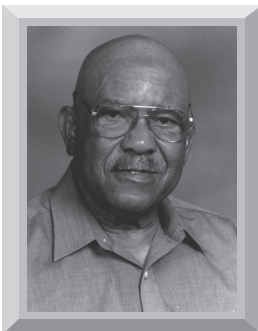
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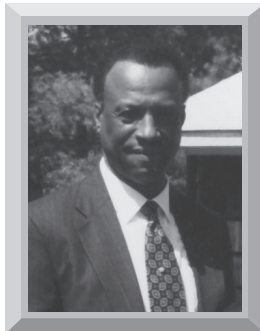
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ROBERT LEWIS DIXON



THADDEUS W. FRANKLIN



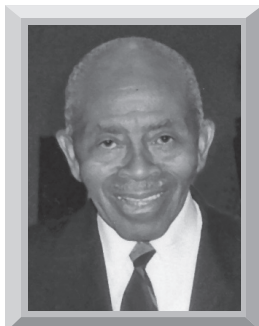
STERLING HIGH SCHOOL



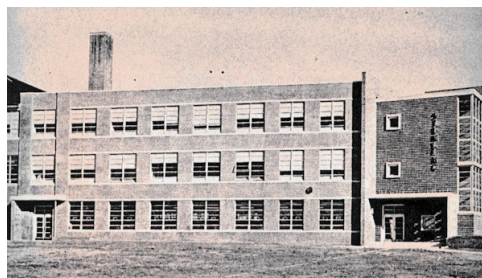
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HALL OF FAME

RAYMOND LAKE



STERLING HIGH SCHOOL

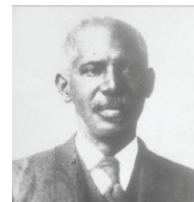


A History of Sterling High School

1896-1970

Compiled and written by Ruth Ann Butler

The record of Sterling High School is that of struggle and triumph. It covers a period of nearly seventy-five years. Reverend D.M. Minus was appointed to John Wesley Church in Greenville, South Carolina in the early 1890's, the beginning of a great work. Rev. Minus was born in Colleton County, South Carolina, on June 15, 1848, of slave parents; his father was Elijah and his mother was Sarah Minus. He was the oldest of thirteen children. Minus was brought to Greenville to accomplish two things: John Wesley Church needed a new brick building and the children needed a high school in Greenville so they could prepare for life's duties without leaving their hometown.



Several churches in Greenville waited for Rev. Minus to establish a high school. Finally an educational association was organized. Each member was assessed a certain amount, an attorney was employed, and then a petition was presented to the Secretary of State asking for the privilege to establish such an institution.

After the charter was received from the Secretary of State in October of 1896, the trustees made arrangements with the officers of John Wesley Church to open the school in the lecture of the church. Rev. D.M. Minus was elected president of the new school called Greenville Academy. It continued in the lecture room for two years, after which the school got too large for the room, and the trustees of the school bought the church. The church invested money from the sale to build their new brick building on Falls Street.

Finally in 1902, the trustees decided to sell the church property on Silver Hill and purchase land for the school outside the city limits. Mr. B.M. McGee agreed to sell six acres of land, and Rev. Minus had to pay down a certain amount to secure the land until he could get the help and cooperation of the trustees. Different individuals made donations. For example, Mr. James Maxwell gave \$5.00 to help meet the first payment. Rev. Minus suggested the names of other good and influential white men, who, he thought, would accept a place on the board. Every man that he recommended accepted. Finally, he had seven of the best white businessmen in Greenville on his Board of

Trustees. Minus said that these white men taught him more practical business sense than he ever had. Mr. James H. Maxwell was his endorser at the bank for twenty-five years. He assessed himself \$20.00 per year for the school and also had the black trustees assess themselves.

Mr. Thomas F. Parker made the largest donation to the school. He erected a splendid two story building which was worth \$2,500, and gave the school a fine mule at \$250.

He also secured aid for the institution and had his bookkeeper teach Rev. Minus bookkeeping and



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how to balance the accounts of the institution each week. He also sent the president to Tuskegee Institute and a school in Durham, North Carolina, to see and study the methods of those great schools.

Mr. Parker also bought several acres of land around the school and divided it into lots and streets. He named the streets for the President and Founder of the school, and also for the leading black men on the Board of Trustees. Today these are Sterling, Middleton, Minus, Malloy, and Valentine Streets. Parker sold the property only to black people, and gave them five to ten years to pay for it. This created a complete town consisting entirely of blacks.

Mr. C. E. Graham was elected chairman of the finance committee. He donated \$100 to the school. For eight to ten years he served as one of the white trustees of the school. Captain James F. Mackey was one of the most useful members of the board of trustees. He not only gave his time and experience to this institution, but also his influence, his means, and his best talent to help make the school a success. Every year he donated \$25 to the institution.

Mr. T. O. Lawton, the youngest member of the board of trustees, was by no means the least. He donated \$10 to the school annually. Mr. T.P. Hayne was one of the most intelligent members of the board. For several years he was the secretary of the Board of Trustees for the City Graded Schools, and perhaps was the most influential man on the board. Mr. W.G. Serrine, Attorney, rendered priceless aid to the institution.

The black trustees were: Rev. D.M. Minus, President; Rev. J.B. Middleton, Chairman of the Board donated \$280; Rev. N.D. Maloy (\$150); Rev. W.G. Valentine (\$10); Mr. A.B. Davis (\$20); Mr. W.R. Sewell (\$10); Mr. T.J. Bryant (\$15); Mr. J.F. Cureton (\$5); Mr. J.W. Johnson (\$10); Mr. T.B. Simpson (\$10); Mr. A. Tolbert and Mr. Jones W. Thomas, (\$20).

Several names were suggested for the school. But finally it was voted to call it Sterling Industrial College in honor of Mrs. E.R. Sterling of Poughkeepsie, N.Y., the lady who paid for Rev. Minus's college education at Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. Rev. Minus said "Mrs. Sterling was a great woman and she deserved all of the honor we could bestow upon her for it will take eternity to tell the good she has accomplished for the uplift and elevation of suffering humanity." Mrs. Sterling was consulted and finally agreed to have the school named for her, and she gave the first donation of \$75.00. At this time she was 87 years of age.



The original building was designed and constructed by Mr. W.R. Sewell, one of Greenville's leading black contractors. Later, it was remodeled, with additions, and a building especially designed for trades was added to the plant.

With such worthy men as Minus's associates and co-workers the institution continued to progress. Rev. D.M. Minus will always be remembered as the first founder and president.

Due to the school's growth, Rev. Minus was asked to give up his ministerial work and devote all his time to the school at a salary of \$50 per month. He did this until November, 1913, when he resigned the presidency and returned to ministerial work. He was succeeded by President Carey Jones. When he accepted another position, Sterling was forced to close for a short period.



In 1915, the Enoree River Baptist Association had bought four acres of land in the City of Greenville with a nine-room building, an orchard and city water. They changed the name to Enoree High School and Rev. E.C. Murray became the president, with Rev. E.E. Riley of Sececa, South Carolina the first principal. It was a boarding school and

had a very successful beginning. His successor, Professor E.H. Trezevant, was the principal in 1929. This school was operated for fourteen years.

In 1929, when the School District of Greenville County purchased the building for \$2,518.39 and changed the name back to Sterling High School. Sterling was the first black public high school in the county. The board elected J.C. Martin as principal. He remained only one school term. In September, 1930, he was succeeded by Professor Robert L. Hickson, who caught the same vision as its founder. Under his 10 year leadership term, the reputation of the school was widely acclaimed, and the physical plant was expanded. The name Sterling High School became quite prominent throughout the country. During his administration the famous Alma Mater was written.

From 1940 to 1960, Prof. J.E. Beck was principal. Mr. Beck was from Georgetown, SC. During his tenure, in 1949 the grades were extended from 11 to 12 years. The curriculum was broadened to include many trade courses. The Torch was published in 1942. An

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extensive physical education program and various branches of science and secretarial training were added.

A 1949 graduate from Sterling High School, Dr. Thomas Kerns, later became the first African-American superintendent of the Greenville County School district serving from 1989-1994. Sterling was admitted to the Southern Association of Schools and Colleges in 1953. Going to the famous "Huddle" (Soda Shop) became the pastime after school for the students. The football games were played at Sistine Stadium. Baseball and Track took place at the Meadowbrook Park. Sterling became an "AAA" school.



1941 Sterling High School Mid-term Graduation Class

Sterling won many championships and awards in all areas of the educational system. The Male Glee Club and Quartet were active from 1935-1960, under the direction of Wilfred J. Walker, Sr. Singers from Sterling often won scholarships to college because of their talent.

In 1960, Rev. H.O. Mims became principal of Sterling. Rev. Mims was a student, teacher, assistant principal, and then principal. Under his leadership Sterling continued to grow. The School Board voted to renovate the building in early September of 1967.

On Friday evening, September 15, 1967, the Sterling student body danced at a party sponsored by the Senior Class to raise money for the "Miss Homecoming" drive. At 10:40 p.m. the disc jockey from WHYZ announced this warning over the microphone, "An emergency has occurred. We urge each of you to leave the building quickly and calmly as possible." Immediately, the students filed out of the building in an orderly and calm fashion. Tears streaming down their faces, they watched the leaping flames engulf their school. Firemen from the Parker District fought desperately to extinguish the fire. They remained on the scene well into the next day and returned from time to time throughout the weekend.

Although the physical plant is gone, fond memories of our school that served generations still lingers in the hearts and minds of scores of people near and far.

There were numerous pleas, petitions and even marches to encourage the Board to rebuild Sterling. In addition to telephone calls and personal appearances before officials of the Greenville County School District, over one thousands parents and students signed petitions asking to keep the student body intact. Moreover, four-fifths of the student body marched on the County office protesting any hint that they would be disbanded.

Finally, the Board of Trustees agreed to house students on an interim basis at Greenville Junior High on Westfield Street, naming it Sterling Junior-Senior High School. Mr. Luke Chatman became the principal in 1968. He was the last principal of Sterling High School.

On February 17, 1970, the School District of Greenville County was integrated and at the end of this school year there was no longer a school named Sterling.

A realistic portrayal of the development and growth of Sterling High School can be revealed only in an account depicting the diligent and faithful service of many dedicated teachers and the achievements and successes of the students who bring honor and glory to their Alma Mater.

The yearbooks were printed from 1942-1970. The mascot was the Tiger, and the Newsletter was named The Pinta. In 1949 the 12th grade was added.

Sterling High School lives on, in those who walked its halls and benefited from the lessons taught within its walls. Meanwhile, with a large part of the older black population of Greenville County continuing to identify with the site either as former students or graduates. Sterling High will continue to live on.

ALMA MATER

Sterling High School, Sterling High School
Sterling High School, Bless her name!

Whether in defeat or victory.

We are loyal just the same;

So we'll cheer for Sterling High School,

And for her we'll fight for fame

And we'll sing her praises loud in every land

Sterling High School, Bless her name!

In 1988, the class of 1955, the first known class to form a combined class reunion, donated a monument and placed it on the site of Sterling High School. It lists the names of the principals of the school.

Sterling High Notables Online: Jesse Jackson, Dr. Thomas Kerns, Alberta Tucker Grimes, LTC Paul Adams, Lottie Beal Gibson, Eskew Reeder, Jr., John Arthur Jones, Lillian Brock-Flemming, Xanthene Norris, The Dixie Hummingbirds, Theo Mitchell, Dr. Charles Whittenberg, and other influential Sterling graduates.