

VIA Heritage Association (VIAHA) Hall of Fame

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Submit questions and comments online: viastory.org/class2021

2021 VIAHA Hall of Fame Class Chosen

Sixth HOF Class features 9 Inductees

CHARLOTTESVILLE, VA — Nine individuals who have made outstanding contributions through high school, college and professional careers have been selected to the 2021 class of the Virginia Interscholastic Association Heritage Association (VIAHA) Hall of Fame.

The class features three athletes (Warren C. Dance – Armstrong HS, Richmond; J. Maurice Hawkins – Union-Kempsville HS, Virginia Beach; and Walter “Fuzzy” Ward – Phenix HS, Hampton) and six contributors (Germaine S. Fautleroy – Peabody HS, Petersburg; Wesley L. Harris, Armstrong HS, Richmond; William M. Harris – Armstrong HS, Richmond; Ronald E. Mickens – Peabody HS, Petersburg; Maxie (Max) Robinson, Jr., Armstrong HS, Richmond and Randall Robinson, Armstrong HS, Richmond). Members of the Class of 2021 will bring total membership to 83. Inductees are usually recognized at an in-person banquet in June of each year. However, due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, this year’s awards will be presented in a virtual event on Friday, June 25, 2021. We hope to resume the in-person banquets in 2022.

The Hall is dedicated to recognizing and preserving the rich heritage and legacy of African American students and adults who participated in the Virginia Interscholastic Association (VIA) from 1954-70 and its predecessor organization, the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic League (VIAL). Therefore, promoting greater appreciation for and understanding of the contributions of African Americans to the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia is the primary objective of the VIAHA.

Prior to public school desegregation, one of the most influential organizations in Virginia was the VIA, which served young African American students who attended segregated high schools. The impact this association had on shaping the lives of these students went far beyond governing athletic events. The VIA brought together students, parents and mentors to develop a strong foundation of character and ethical responsibility in the students. The notable careers of many VIA graduates are testaments to the successful efforts of their teachers, principals and counselors. More information about the VIA can be found at viastory.org.

Athletes and coaches considered for nomination are those who excelled on VIA and VIAL athletic teams. Contributors are professionals who excelled in VIA and VIAL non-athletic activities such as school administration, media, officiating, medical services and other professions.

The VIAL/VIA’s original home was at Virginia State College (now Virginia State University). After merging with the Virginia High School League (VHSL), all VIA records are now stored at Virginia State University.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the Hall of Fame Class of 2022 is September 30, 2021.

**VIA Heritage Association (VIAHA) Hall of Fame
2021 Inductees**

Athletes

Warren C. Dance

Armstrong High, Richmond (1949)

Multisports

Warren Dance was considered to be one of the finest all-around athletes in the history of Armstrong High School. He holds the rare distinction of playing on state championship teams in football, basketball and baseball. Mr. Dance was the starting right end on both offense and defense for Armstrong's 1947 undefeated VIAL State Championship football team. This was the team called the "Dream Team" by its legendary coach Maxie Robinson. This team outscored opponents 195-6, yielding one touchdown. That same year he played on Armstrong's undefeated VIAL State Championship (23-0) basketball team. During his senior year, Armstrong reinstated its baseball program which had been discontinued in 1926. Mr. Dance was the starting left fielder and one of the team's best hitters. The team improved as the season progressed and won the 1949 VIAL State Championship. He attended Tennessee State University where he played football and basketball and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Health and Physical Education in 1954. After serving with the U.S. Army's 101st Airborne Division, he enjoyed a long career as a teacher, coach and consultant with Ashland and Richmond, VA Public Schools. He received a Master of Education degree from the University of Virginia in 1968. He was posthumously inducted into the Armstrong High School Hall of Fame in 2018.

J. Maurice Hawkins

Union-Kempsville High, Virginia Beach (1967)

Multisports

J. Maurice Hawkins was a four-sport standout in basketball, baseball, football and track and field. During the 1963 football season he played defensive back and returned punts and kickoffs, displaying great speed and quickness in both assignments. As a sophomore in 1964 he played every play on both offense and defense, making significant contributions as a running back and punt returner. In 1965 he scored at least fifteen touchdowns leading Union-Kempsville to an 8-2 record and second place in the VIA's State Group I Football standings. Against Kennedy High he rushed for 131 yards and scored four touchdowns. During the season he scored ten touchdowns, in a four game winning streak. His 1966 season included 139 yards and one touchdown rushing as well as a 69-yard touchdown reception against Mary N. Smith High. In 1967 he was VIA All-State selection in track and field as he established a new VIA state record of 15.9 seconds in the 120 yard high hurdles.

Walter "Fuzzy" Ward

Phenix High, Hampton (1957)

Basketball

Walter Ward is considered to be the best all-around basketball player in the history of Phenix High School. He was noted for his superior play on offense and defense. At Hampton University he played in eighty-six consecutive games and set the all-time scoring record of 1,574 points -- later broken by future NBA player Rick Mahorn. He was a three-year captain and as a senior (1961) was selected as team MVP and All-CIAA First Team. He was the first player from Hampton University to be drafted by the NBA when he was selected in the 8th round by the Detroit Pistons. Mr. Ward played with the Allentown Jets of the Eastern Professional Basketball League, 1964-1966. He played in New York's Rucker Professional Basketball Summer League, 1964-1968. His play was described as a testament to hard work and dedication while maintaining a gentleman's level of sportsmanship. He taught, coached and mentored students in New York City and Westchester County, NY Public Schools for more than thirty-five years. Mr. Ward earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education from Hampton

University in 1961 and a Master of Special Education degree from Riverdale College in New York City in 1972. He was posthumously selected as a Distinguished Alumni of Phenix High in 2008 and inducted into the Hampton Roads African American Sports Hall of Fame in 2011.

Contributors

Germaine S. Fautleroy

Peabody High, Petersburg (1952)

Educator

Dr. Germaine Fautleroy was valedictorian of the Peabody High School Class of 1952. She earned a Masters from Virginia State University and a Ph.D. in Urban Services from Virginia Commonwealth University. Except for her first year of teaching, she dedicated her entire professional life to the Petersburg City Public Schools. For almost twenty years she served as a classroom teacher at the elementary, junior high and high school levels. She then assumed administrative positions of increasing responsibility including Coordinator for Instructional Services, Coordinator for Gifted Programs, High School Principal and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction. In 1992, her varied experience and outstanding performance resulted in her selection as the first African American female Superintendent of Petersburg Public Schools. Dr. Fautleroy has been widely recognized for her commitment to young people and dedication to public education. Her support for community organizations include the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Petersburg Symphony, American Association of School Administrators, Alumni Associations of Virginia State and Virginia Commonwealth Universities, NAACP, Petersburg Rotary and a Life Member of the Peabody High School National Alumni Association. Her husband, the late Hermanze E. Fautleroy, was the first African American Mayor of Petersburg, VA.

Wesley L. Harris, Sr.

Armstrong High, Richmond (1960)

Aerospace Engineering

At Armstrong High, Dr. Wesley Harris excelled in academics and athletics and was Student Council President in his senior year. While excelling in all of his classes, he was particularly gifted in the areas of science and mathematics. In 1964, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree, with honors, in Aeronautical Engineering from the University of Virginia. He received a Masters (1966) and a Ph.D. (1968), both in Aerospace and Mechanical Sciences, from Princeton University. He served as Vice-President and Chief Administrative Officer at the University of Tennessee's Space Institute (UTSI) and as Dean of the School of Engineering and Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Connecticut. In 1995 he was named a Martin Luther King Jr. Visiting Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). His long career at MIT includes selection as the Charles Stark Draper Professor of Aeronautics and Astronautics and Department Head. In addition, he has been a champion of diversity efforts. He has created methods for measuring and improving student achievement and initiating programs that meet the needs of Black students. Dr. Harris has served on various boards and committees, including the National Research Council, the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Army Science Board. He has been a role model for many youth, especially those seeking careers in STEM.

William M. Harris, Sr.

Armstrong High, Richmond (1960)

Urban Planning

At Armstrong High, Dr. William Harris was senior class president, honor student and award winner in science and mathematics. He played football and baseball at Armstrong High and football at Howard University. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics at Howard University in 1965. At the University of Washington he earned the Masters (1972) and Ph.D. (1974) in Urban Planning. His career includes positions as a research physicist, professional planner and university professor. Dr. Harris was the first African American in the U. S. to earn a doctorate in Urban Planning. He was the first African American appointed as a Dean at The University of Virginia

when he was selected to lead the new office of African American Affairs in 1976. Dr. Harris was the first African American elected to the College of Fellows of the American Institute of Certified Planners (1999) and is co-founder of its Planning and Black Community Division. His research focused on inner city African American economic development and citizen empowerment. He is the author of four books and has published numerous scholarly articles in professional journals. Dr. Harris continues a professional career as an Urban Planning Consultant in the areas of economic development and low income housing.

Ronald E. Mickens

Peabody High, Petersburg (1960)

Physicist

Dr. Ronald Mickens took an early interest in science, took classes during the summer months and graduated from Peabody High School at the age of 17. Upon graduation he received a full scholarship to Fisk University in Nashville, TN. After graduating summa cum laude from Fisk in 1964, he received a Ph.D. in Theoretical Physics in 1968 from Vanderbilt University. His studies at Vanderbilt were supported by fellowships from the Danforth and Woodrow Wilson Foundations. He then received a National Science Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to investigate elementary particles at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He returned to Fisk in 1970 as a faculty member and worked at the Joint Institute for Laboratory Astrophysics in Boulder Colorado. In 1982, Dr. Mickens became a Professor at Clark Atlanta University and was named the Fuller E. Calloway Professor of Physics in 1982. In the 1970s he helped found the National Association of Black Physicists and served as the society's historian. He has been active in efforts to engage more African Americans in physics. He has published more than three hundred scientific articles and fifteen books. His research in the area of African Americans in science led to the publication of several historical and biographical works about African American scientists, such as *Edward Bouchet: The First African American Doctorate*. In 2015 his personal papers were included in the collection of the Armistad Research Center at Tulane University in New Orleans, LA.

Maxie (Max) C. Robinson, Jr.

Armstrong High, Richmond (1957)

Broadcast Journalist

The son of legendary Coach Maxie C. Robinson, Sr., Maxie Jr. did not play sports in high school. However, he was active in many school activities: Student Council, sports editor of the school newspaper, student mayor of the City of Richmond, award winner in chemistry and "All State" in the VIA's Dramatic Festival. He was chosen as most likely to succeed by his senior classmates. He started in broadcasting by reading the news on local radio station WANT after school. Max began his career in television in 1959 at a small station in Portsmouth, VA. In 1966 he was hired as the first Black reporter at Washington, D.C.'s NBC TV station. In 1969 he moved to the local CBS TV station WTOP (now WUSA). He quickly advanced from reporter to mid-day news anchor to co-anchor of the station's 6 p.m. and 11 p. m. news programs. Both broadcasts were top rated in the Washington D.C. area for a number of years. In 1978 he became the first Black national news anchor person when he joined the ABC's World News Tonight. As a person who achieved a number of professional firsts, Robinson fought racism wherever he saw it and at whatever cost. His integrity as a journalist and leadership in the fight against prejudice made him a mentor to many young Black television journalists. He was one of the founders of the National Association of Black Journalists. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by Morgan State University in 1982.

Randall M. Robinson

Armstrong High, Richmond (1959)

Human Rights Activist

At Armstrong High, Randall Robinson was an exemplary student who participated in many school activities. He played basketball four years for his father, Coach Maxie Robinson, Sr. He was a sportswriter for the school newspaper and participated in the Fine Arts Guild. He graduated from Virginia Union University in 1965 and the Harvard School of Law in 1970. In 1977 he founded the TransAfrica Forum to promote enlightened U.S policies toward Africa and the Caribbean and served as President for twenty-four years. In 1984 Robinson and others founded the Free South Africa Movement, which led to the arrest of more than five thousand people at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C. This action contributed to the Congressional vote to overturn President Reagan's veto of the Anti-Apartheid Act in 1986. Mr. Robinson has been honored by many institutions including the United Nations, Congressional Black Caucus, the NAACP and the Martin Luther King Center for Non-Violent Social Change. In 2008 he was named a Distinguished Scholar in residence by the Pennsylvania State University Dickenson School of Law where he taught human rights law until 2016. He has authored several books including *The Reckoning: What Blacks Owe Each Other* and *The Debt: What America Owes to Blacks*. In recognition of his work as an advocate for social justice, he has received more than fifteen honorary degrees.

2020 Inductees into the VIAHA Hall of Fame were:

Athletes – Arthur Ashe, Jr., Donald Culpepper, Wheeler Hughes and Willie Lanier.

Coaches – Harold Deane, Sr., Robert Johnson and Carnis Poindexter.

Contributors – Afemo Omilami (Kenneth Lee), Carolyn Rudd, Melvin Stith, Andrew “Jack” White and Jonathan Williams.

2019 Inductees into the VIAHA Hall of Fame were:

Athletes – Charles Bonaparte, Benjamin Brown, Warren Canada, Robert Dandridge, Fred Harold Sawyer and Louis Richard Harris.

Coaches – Willard Bailey, James Earley and Carl Peal.

Contributors – William A. Brown, Cheryl Anthony Epps and Roger Gregory.

2018 Inductees into the VIAHA Hall of Fame were:

Athletes – Ronald Bolton, Joseph Bradley, Earl Faison, Jim Lewis and Jerry Venable.

Coaches – Alphonso Hamilton, Eugene Thompson, Arnold Thurmond and Willie Travis.

Contributors – William Bailey, Julian Earls and Marguerita Ragsdale.

2017 Inductees into the VIAHA Hall of Fame were:

Athletes – Mattie Parham Bell, Leroy Keyes, Albert Arthur Megginson, Marty Miller and Charles Price.

Coaches – Howard Allen, Walter Lovett and Harry Waters.

Contributors – Garwin DeBerry, Clarence Oliver and Knox W. Tull, Jr.

2016 Inductees into the VIAHA Hall of Fame were:

Athletes – Walter Bowser, Roosevelt Brown, Joseph Buggs, Jesse Jefferson, Jr., Louvenia Johnson, Earl Lloyd, Raymond Pollard, Benita Fitzgerald Moseley, Bryant Stith, Charles Stukes and Donald Ross.

Coaches – Fredrick Cooper, Arthur Gardner, Robinette Hayes, George Lancaster, William Lawson, Jr., Thad Madden, Carl Pinn, George Quarles, Maxie Robinson and Robert Smith.

Contributors – James Hayes, Calvin Jacox, Clarence Jones, George Peterson, Elmer Sampson and Ernest Shaw.

Special Recognition – The Armstrong-Walker Football Classic.