

5TH & 6TH ANNUAL
VIAHA
HALL OF FAME
VIRTUAL CEREMONY



June 25, 2021

Sponsored by:
Virginia Interscholastic Association Heritage Association



Fifth & Sixth Annual
VIAHA 2020-2021 Hall of Fame
Virtual Event

June 25, 2021

Jackson and Tull is pleased to support Virginia Interscholastic Association Heritage Association's (VIAHA) mission of preserving its history and honoring inductees into the 2020 & 2021 Hall of Fame.

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness: only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. The chain reaction of evil - - hate begging hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken or we shall be plunged into the abyss of annihilation."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Strength to Love" - 1963

Jackson and Tull

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PROGRAM



MISTRESS OF CEREMONY – ANDREA COPELAND WHITSETT

WELCOME – KNOX TULL

INVOCATION – REV. JOHN BOYD

KEYNOTE SPEAKER – MARTY MILLER

HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

HALL OF FAME ACCEPTANCE – AFEMO OMILAMI

MEMBERSHIP – MS. THELMA JEFFERSON

CLOSING REMARKS – JAMES “JIMMY” HOLLINS

THE VIA STORY

As a teen in the 1950s, Arthur Ashe was never allowed to test his formidable tennis skills against the best white high school players in his hometown of Richmond, Va. Bennie McRae, of Newport News, Va., never dazzled white opponents at the high school level with his blazing speed on the gridiron or in track meets. And because it was a time in history when Virginia and other southern states were composed of two societies – one black, the other white – Bobby Dandridge, another Richmond native, couldn't unveil his preternatural gifts on a fully integrated basketball court until he joined the National Basketball Association. Dandridge played college basketball for Norfolk State University. Ashe, the 1975 Wimbledon champion, was a tennis standout at UCLA and McRae was a running back at the University of Michigan.

When American society was still segregated, scores of gifted black athletes from Virginia received nurturing and interscholastic competition thanks to the Virginia Interscholastic Association (VIA). Despite the racial barriers of that era, Ashe (Maggie Walker), McRae (Huntington), Dandridge (Maggie Walker) and scores of other gifted black athletes from Virginia received the nurturing and interscholastic competition needed thanks to the Virginia Interscholastic Association (VIA). From 1954 through 1969 the VIA coordinated, not just sports activities, but all extracurricular activities in black secondary schools, including band, music, art and science and math competitions.

The VIA not only helped produced superstar athletes, but prominent coaches, as well. Thad Madden, Huntington High's legendary coach, arguably was the state's best high school coach of any color. Madden, who guided the early careers of nine future pros, including McRae (Chicago Bears) and Earl Faison (San Diego Chargers), had 28 consecutive winning seasons in football compiling a 251-114-16 record. His Huntington teams won 16 VIA eastern District titles and 7 VIA state championships. Madden's track and field squads won 19 VIA state championships and were declared 7 times runner-ups when black schools integrated with the previously all-white Virginia High School League.

Before segregation, there were 115 black high schools in Virginia; desegregation was responsible for VIA member loss.

With little or no hope of landing mainstream white collar jobs in business, banking, local government, etc., many of the best and brightest blacks of the previous generation focused on education. They became teachers, principals or school administrators. They sacrificed much, but gave so much more to their students. Before his death in 1993, Ashe paid tribute to the thousands of unsung black heroes of the era of racial segregation in his autobiography, *Days of Grace*, with this observation: "A pall of sadness hangs over my life and the lives of almost all African Americans because of what we as a people have experienced historically in America, and what we as individuals experience each and every day. Whether one is a welfare recipient trapped in some blighted "housing project" in the inner city or a former Wimbledon champion who is easily recognized on the streets and whose home is a luxurious apartment in one of the wealthiest districts of Manhattan, the sadness is still there."

During the VIA era, many of Ashe's 'unsung heroes' helped him and other black students of that generation, wrestle with the realities of an unfair world by encouraging them to set high goals and then strive to surpass them. The goal of the VIA Heritage Association, which is composed of individuals who attended several of the 115 high schools that existed before integration, is to preserve and promote the history of the organization through a Hall of Fame and a museum at its birthplace, Virginia State University, Petersburg, VA.



Marty L. Miller

Marty Miller has been called many things during his tenure at Norfolk State University. Some have called him a rock. Others have referred to him as one of Norfolk State's greatest ambassadors. Regardless of the label, what's clear is that Miller has served his alma mater in various capacities for more than 40 years, providing NSU with stability in times of need.

His professional career at Norfolk State has included stints in the areas of financial aid, career services, student affairs and athletics. After winning more than 700 games as the school's baseball coach, Miller was named NSU's acting athletics director on December 16, 2004. He was appointed to the permanent athletics director post on March 18, 2005.

The NSU athletics department has also made a number of major facilities improvements in the last decade or more. In the summer of 2018, with the assistance of the University administration, NSU installed a new synthetic turf surface to William "Dick" Price Stadium. The \$1.38 million renovation will provide the NSU football team and other campus groups the ability to practice and perform on a modern outdoor surface and will enable the University to attract more outside events to the campus.

With help from alumni, administration, fans, friends and the Department of Facilities Management, the athletics department was able to raise funds to renovate and purchase new equipment for the weight room in 2017. In 2007, the school completed a major renovation of the NSU Softball Field, which included the installation of new team dugouts and a press box. A new state-of-the-art track surface was completed in the summer of 2010. Seat renovations to Joseph Echols Hall were completed prior to the 2013-14 athletics season. A new floor and platform lift were installed in Echols Hall and a new ventilation system and new carpeting were added to the football locker room in Gill Gymnasium during

MARTY MILLER CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- 7x Hall of Famer
- 15x CIAA Coach of the Year
- 1x MEAC Coach of the Year
- 1x NAIA District 19 Coach of the Year
- 5x Louisville Slugger Award Winner
- NCAA College Division All-American
- 2x All-CIAA 1st Team
- Nation's Leading Doubles Hitter

the summer of 2014. Other recent renovations include a complete overhaul of the playing surface, seating and fencing for the NSU Tennis Complex.

Both the football stadium and Joseph Echols Hall have had new Daktronics LED video display boards installed in the last seven years, at a combined cost of more than \$3.5 million. The Echols project included a state-of-the-art, four-sided high-definition video board display, nine new HD scorer's tables, four single-sided LED scoreboard displays, and brand new speakers and amplifiers throughout the arena.

Another highlight of his tenure as athletics director includes NSU capturing nine straight Talmadge Layman Hill awards from (2005-13). NSU took home the award again in 2017 for the 11th time, tying South Carolina State for the most in MEAC history. NSU received a total of \$225,000 for winning the awards, given annually to the top men's sports program in the conference. Miller was also presented in March 2006 with the Tom Fergusson Memorial Award, given annually to the area's top sportsman by the Norfolk Sports Club.

Miller also presided over one of the more historic years in NSU lore in 2011-12. An NSU-record five Spartan teams won MEAC titles, which included the first-ever championships for the men's basketball and women's bowling teams during their Division I tenure. The men's basketball team made its mark in NCAA Tournament history by scoring an upset of No. 2 seed Missouri in the second round of the NCAA West Region in March of 2012.

Miller is no stranger to winning. His career record as baseball coach was 718-543-3. Miller first started making a name for himself as a player at NSU from 1965-68. He hit .380 as a sophomore; .438 with eight doubles, two triples, three homers and 27 RBI as a junior; and .406 as a senior, when he became the first Spartan player to be named an NCAA College Division All-American. Miller was an All-CIAA baseball selection in 1967 and 1968, and led the nation in doubles in 1968.

Miller graduated with a bachelor's degree in mathematics in 1969. An ROTC member in

college, Miller was commissioned a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army after he graduated. While on active duty, Miller was signed by the Minnesota Twins. Miller returned to his alma mater in 1972 as an assistant to baseball coach Bob Andrews. The next year, Miller inherited the head-coaching job, which he held until 2005.

Miller is the winningest baseball coach in CIAA history, having led the Spartans to a 584-374-3 record in their years in the league. Miller's ledger in the CIAA includes 17 conference championships, including seven in a row from 1987-93; 12 post-season appearances; 15 CIAA Coach of the Year awards; six All-Americans and 22 players signed to pro contracts. He also won the 1980 NAIA District 19 Coach of the Year award after his team won the District 19 title. Between 1993-97, Miller won five consecutive Louisville Slugger Awards, given to championship coaches. He was one of a select few baseball coaches to receive the award for five consecutive years.

In 1997, NSU honored Miller by building the Marty L. Miller Baseball Field. One year later, Miller led NSU to the MEAC Tournament championship round in the Spartans' first year in the league. He was named the MEAC Coach of the Year in 2000, and NSU reached the championship round again in 2001.

The year 2003 was also a special one for Miller. In February, Miller was inducted into the CIAA's John B. McLendon Hall of Fame. In May, Miller earned his 700th career win with the Spartans when sixth-seeded NSU upset No. 2 Delaware State in the MEAC tournament. In August, Miller the player was honored as one of eight inductees into the Norfolk State University Athletics Hall of Fame for his playing career. He was inducted again as a coach/administrator in September 2019.

Miller was also inducted into the Hampton Roads African American Sports Hall of Fame in 2010. He was also chosen to serve in March 2011 on the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame Committee and is also a past member of the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame Honors Court. Miller was inducted into the Hampton Roads Sports Hall of Fame in 2012, the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 2014 and the Virginia Interscholastic Association Heritage Association (VIAHA) Hall of Fame in 2017.

Considered one of the highlights of his career, Miller was honored at the Virginia State Capitol on Jan. 16, 2014 and received resolutions from the Senate and House of Delegates for his induction into the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and career accomplishments.

Miller, a native of Danville, Va., is a current member and past president of the Norfolk Sports Club. He also serves on the executive committee for the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame. He and his wife Liz have one son, Marty Eric, a former NSU outfielder; a daughter-in-law, Zoe; and a granddaughter, Madison.

2021 VIAHA HALL OF FAME

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. Fauntleroy – 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.

VIAHA 2021



2021 Class of Inductees

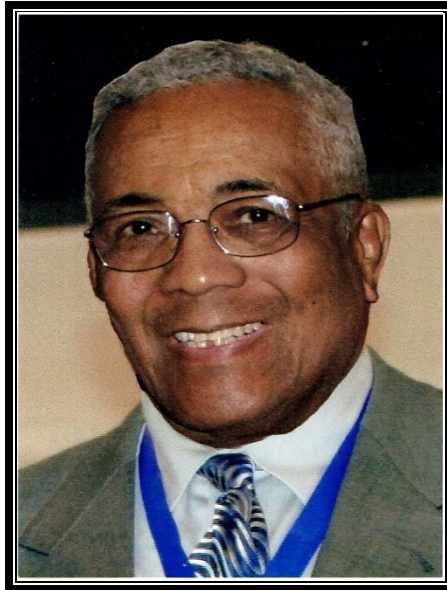
Athletes

Warren C. Dance
J. Maurice Hawkins
Walter "Fuzzy" Ward

Contributors

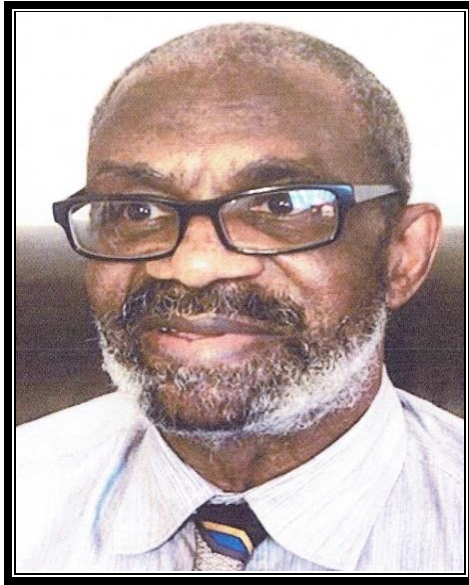
Germaine S. Fauntleroy
Wesley L. Harris
William M. Harris
Ronald E. Mickens
Maxie (Max) Robinson, Jr.
Randall Robinson

Congratulations



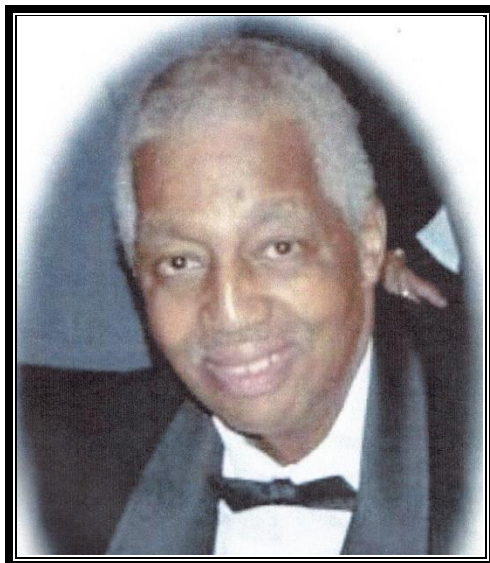
Warren C. Dance
Armstrong High, Richmond (1949)
Multi-sports

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)
Multi-sports

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.



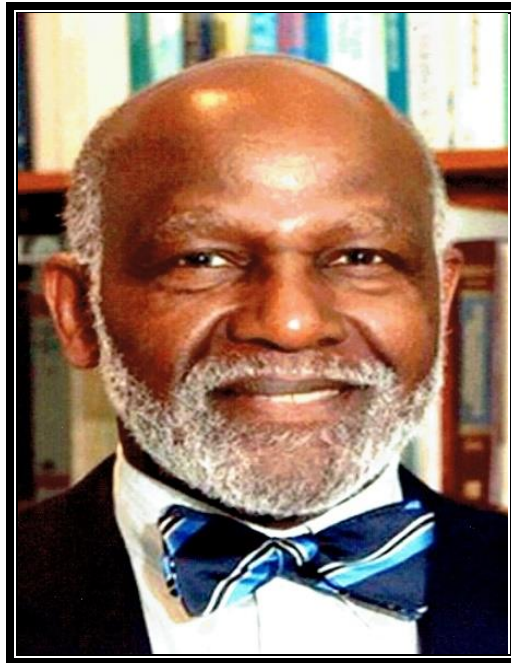
Walter "Fuzzy" Ward
Phenix High, Hampton (1957)
Basketball

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.



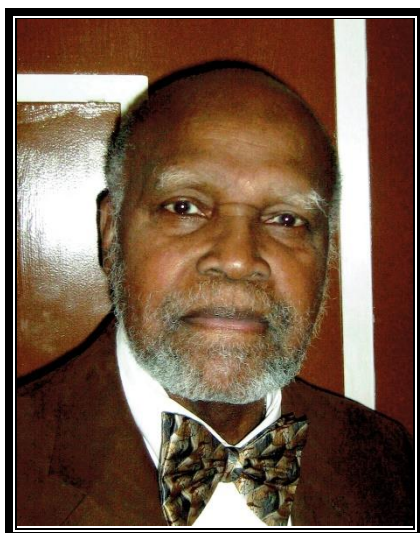
Dr. Germaine S. Fauntleroy
Peabody High, Petersburg (1952)
Educator
Contributor

Dr. Germaine Fauntleroy 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. Fauntleroy has been widely recognized for her commitment to young people and dedication to public education. Her support for community organizations includes 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. Fauntleroy, was the first African American Mayor of Petersburg, VA.



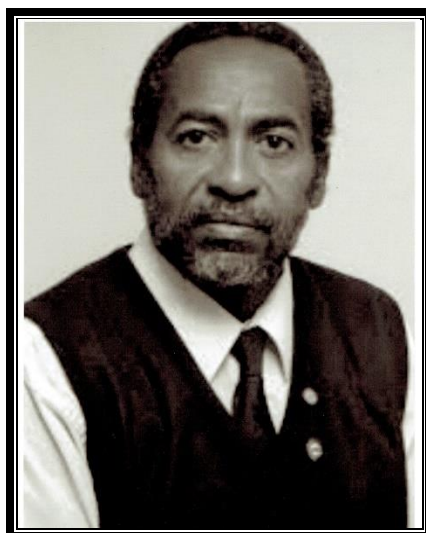
Dr. Wesley L. Harris, Sr.
Armstrong High, Richmond (1960)
Aerospace Engineering
Contributor

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.



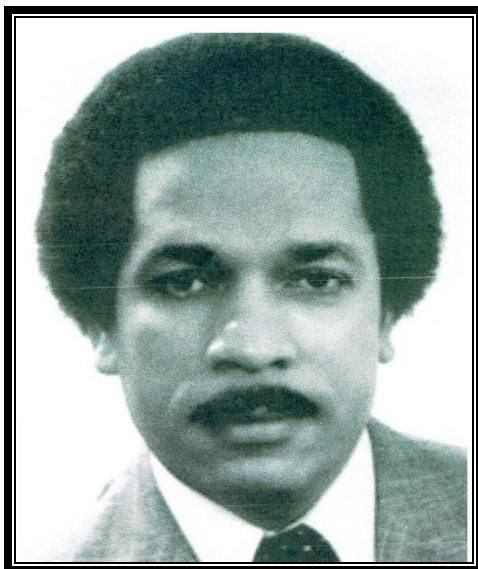
Dr. William M. Harris, Sr.
Armstrong High, Richmond (1960)
Urban Planning
Contributor

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.



Dr. Ronald E. Mickens
Peabody High, Petersburg (1960)
Physicist
Contributor

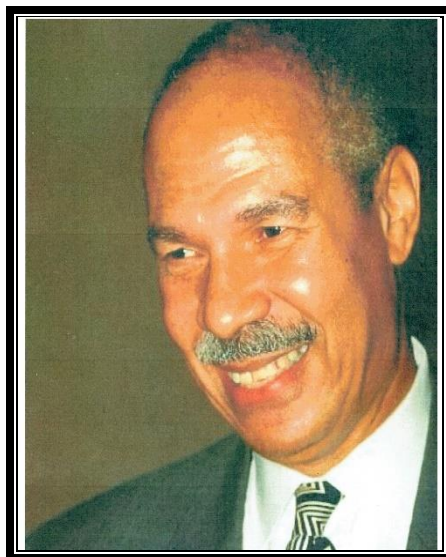
Dr. Ronald Mickens took an early interest in science, took classes during the summer months and graduated from Peabody High School at the age of 17. Upon graduation he received a full scholarship to Fisk University in Nashville, TN. After graduating summa cum laude from Fisk in 1964, he received a Ph.D. 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**

Contributor

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

Contributor

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 Trans-Africa 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 VIAHA HALL OF FAME

Twelve individuals who have made outstanding contributions through high school, college and professional careers have been selected to the 2020 class of the Virginia Interscholastic Association Heritage Association (VIAHA) Hall of Fame.

The class features four athletes (Arthur Ashe, Jr. – Maggie L. Walker HS, Richmond; Donald Culpepper – Dunbar HS, Lynchburg; Wheeler Hughes – Dunbar HS, Lynchburg; and Willie Lanier – Maggie L. Walker HS, Richmond;) three coaches (Harold Deane, Sr. – Lucy Addison HS, Roanoke; Robert Johnson – Based in Lynchburg; and Carnis Poindexter – Lucy Addison HS, Roanoke;) and five contributors (Afemo Omilami/Kenneth Lee – Peabody HS, Petersburg; Carolyn Rudd -- G. W. Carver HS, Chesterfield County; Melvin Stith, Central HS, Sussex County; Andrew “Jack” White – Beverly Allen HS, West Point; and Jonathan Williams, Peabody/Petersburg HS, Petersburg).

Prior to school desegregation, one of the most influential organizations in the state of Virginia was the VIA, which served young African-American students who attended segregated high schools in the state. The impact that this association had on shaping the lives of these students went far beyond governing athletic events, it brought together students, parents, and mentors to develop within students a strong foundation of character and ethical responsibilities that advanced these men and women into successful citizens and leaders.

"The VIA was a powerful equalizer in a time of state-sanctioned inequality, its impact upon thousands and thousands of young men and women present them with a lifetime of hard-earned accomplishments."

Athletes and coaches considered for nomination are those who excelled on VIA athletic teams. Contributors are professionals who may have excelled in VIA non-athletic activities or in such areas as school administration, media, officiating, medical services and other areas. A fourth group is best described as the Legacy category. This includes such potential nominees as VIA athletic teams that gained extraordinary distinction or coaches, athletes, contributors and/or teams from VIAL or post-VIA era history.

The VIAL/VIA's original home was Virginia State College from 1954-1969. After merging with the Virginia High School League (VHSL), all of the VIA records are stored at Virginia State University.

VIAHA 2020



2020 Class of Inductees

Athletes

Arthur Ashe, Jr.
Donald Culpepper
Wheeler Hughes
Willie Lanier

Coaches

Harold Deane, Sr.
Robert W. Johnson
Carnis Poindexter

Contributors

Afemo Omilami (Kenneth Lee)
Carolyn Rudd
Melvin Stith
Andrew "Jack" White
Jonathan Williams

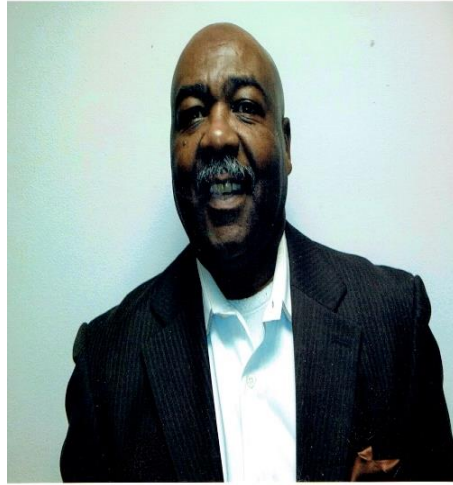
Congratulations



Arthur Ashe, Jr. Maggie L. Walker High, Richmond (Honorary)

Tennis

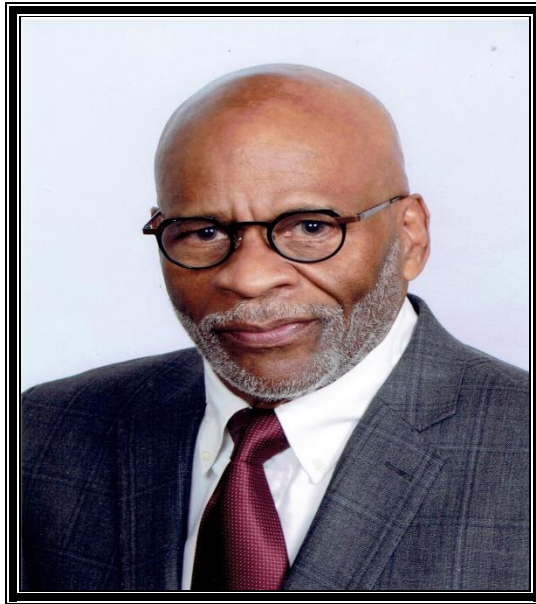
Arthur Ashe, Jr. began playing tennis in the segregated public parks in his hometown of Richmond, VA. As he improved, he was noticed by Dr. Robert W. Johnson of Lynchburg, VA who had coached Althea Gibson -- the first African American to win Wimbledon and the U. S. National (now the U. S. Open) Championships. Ashe continued to improve and, in spite of the racial discrimination which barred him from local and regional tournaments, he won national youth titles in 1960 and 1961. A successful collegiate career at UCLA boosted his recognition as one of the world's best amateur players. He was the first African American man to win the U. S. Open (1968), Australian Open (1970) and Wimbledon (1975) Grand Slam Titles. His dignified behavior as a world class athlete was a sharp contrast to the negative stereotypes he faced as a youth. He became an ambassador for equality and goodwill around the world. The sports network ESPN annually presents the Arthur Ashe Courage Award to individuals who "reflect the spirit of Arthur Ashe, possessing strength in the face of adversity, courage in the face of peril and the willingness to stand up for their beliefs no matter what the cost." He was elected to the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1979 and the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1985.



Donald Culpepper, Dunbar High, Lynchburg (1966)

Basketball

As a high school student, Donald Culpepper participated in football, track and basketball. As co-captains of Dunbar's 1966 basketball team, he and Wheeler Hughes together averaged more than 50 points per game in winning the VIA's Western District and Group I State Championships. In the VIA State Tournament at Hampton Institute (now University), they defeated Langston High (Danville) 72-62 in the final. Culpepper was selected to the VIA all Western District and all state basketball teams. The team then entered the National Negro High School Tournament in Montgomery, Alabama. In Dunbar's semi-final win over defending National Champion Lanier High (Jackson, Mississippi), Culpepper scored 22 points including game winners at the foul line. In the National Championship game, Dunbar lost to Coleman High (Greenville, Mississippi), but Culpepper was elected to the alltournament team. He continued his basketball career at Norfolk State College (now University) where he averaged 15.4 points and 3 rebounds per game. After graduating from Wayne State University, he remained in the Detroit, Michigan area and enjoyed a 39 year career with General Motors Cooperation. His community involvement included service as a youth basketball coach and Chairman of the Southfield, Michigan Planning Commission.

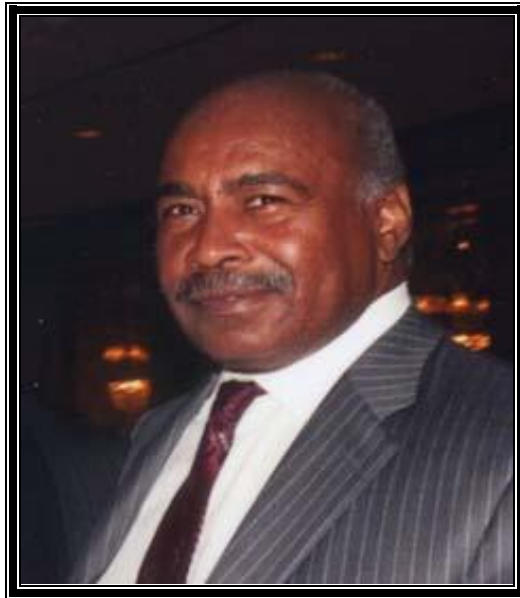


Wheeler Hughes, Dunbar High, Lynchburg (1966)

Basketball

Wheeler Hughes was a well-rounded student who was elected Vice President of the Student Council and was one of Virginia's best high school basketball players. Dunbar's 1966 team played with an aggressive style, averaged 92 points per game and won the VIA's Western District and VIA Group I Basketball Championships. Dunbar then entered the National Negro High School Tournament in Montgomery, Alabama. In the National tournament, Hughes averaged 20 points per game as Dunbar defeated defending National Champion Lanier High (Jackson, Mississippi) 79-78 in the semi-final and lost the National Championship game to Coleman High of Greenville,

Mississippi. In 1966 he was the Most Valuable Player in the VIA's Western District and State Group I Basketball tournaments. He made history that same year when he and Jerry Venable (B. T. Washington, Staunton) were the first black basketball players selected to the Virginia Sportswriters and Sportscasters All-State Team. Hughes played collegiate basketball at Kansas State University where they won the 1970 Big Eight Conference Regular Season Championship. He returned to Lynchburg in February 2014 when his number 12 Dunbar jersey was retired.



Willie Lanier, Maggie L. Walker High, Richmond (1963)

Football

Willie Lanier played high school football under Coach Fred “Cannonball” Cooper. Their 1962 Maggie L. Walker team won the Virginia Interscholastic Association’s football championship. Lanier graduated from Morgan State University in 1967 where he was a two-time All-American linebacker and Most Valuable Player in the 1966 Tangerine Bowl. Picked in the second round of the American Football League’s 1967 draft, Lanier became a starter his first year with the Kansas City Chiefs. He was the first African American to play middle linebacker in professional football, the position described as the leader of the defense on the field. He retired in 1977 and is recognized as one of football’s greatest linebackers. He was elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1986 and the College Football Hall of Fame in 2000. In 2019 he was recognized as one of the NFL’s “100 Greatest Football Players.” Mr. Lanier has had a long career in financial services and is now president and Chief Executive of the Lanier Group, LLC. His longstanding commitment to his community and education is demonstrated by his selection as NFL Man of the Year in 1972 and the establishment of an Endowed Lectureship in Business Ethics at Morgan State University in 2015.



Harold Deane, Sr., Lucy Addison High, Roanoke

Coach

Coach Harold Deane, Sr. graduated from Lucy Addison High in 1956. During his senior year his basketball team was VIA Group I Basketball Tournament Runner-up. He attended Virginia State College (now University) where he received the B. S. degree in Physical Education in 1961. At VSU he competed in basketball and track and field. He was a three-year starter in basketball and selected to the CIAA All-Tournament Team. He received professional basketball offers from the Detroit Pistons, Washington Capitals (ABA) and the Harlem Clowns. As an ROTC graduate, he served in the U. S. Army from 1961-1963. Coach Deane was Head Basketball coach at VSU 1969– 1979 and 1987-1994. His led his team to the Central Intercollegiate Association (CIAA) championship in 1988. He was selected as conference Coach of the Year four times. From 1969 until his retirement in 2015, he was a professor of Physical Education at VSU. For many years Coach Deane officiated high school basketball, baseball and softball games and collegiate men and women basketball games in the CIAA, Big South and the Atlantic Coast Conferences. Coach Deane's contributions to education and his community have been recognized by the City of Petersburg and Chesterfield County, VA. He was elected to the CIAA Hall of Fame in 2014.



Robert W. Johnson, Based in Lynchburg

Coach

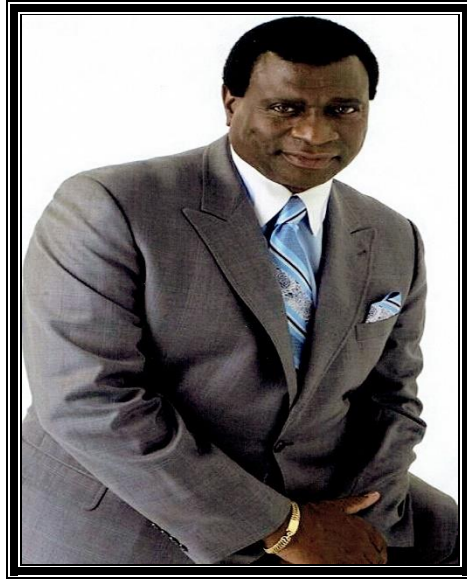
Dr. Robert W. Johnson's work to improve access to the sport of tennis greatly facilitated the development of tennis as a competitive sport in the Virginia Interscholastic Association. He had been an All-American running back at Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. He graduated from the Meharry Medical School in Nashville, TN and established a successful practice in Lynchburg. An accomplished player himself, he worked for more than 30 years to integrate tennis tournaments at the local, state, and national levels. To provide better training for young African Americans, he founded the Junior Development Program of the American Tennis Association. He hosted tennis camps at his Lynchburg, VA home and provided transportation to local and regional tournaments at his own expense. His guidance was a strong influence on the development of Grand Slam Champions Althea Gibson and Arthur Ashe, Jr. who broke down racial barriers in the 1950s and 1960s. In his honor, Virginia State University hosts the Annual Dr. Robert W. Johnson Memorial Tennis Invitational. Dr. Johnson was elected to the Virginia Sports Hall of Fame in 1972 and the International Tennis Hall of Fame in 1979. His home and adjoining tennis court was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2002.



Carnis Poindexter, Lucy Addison High, Roanoke

Coach

Carnis Poindexter grew up in northwest Roanoke and lived across from the Upper-Springwood Park tennis courts. In 1956, the year before he graduated from Lucy Addison High, he met Dr. E.D. Downing who was associated with the American Tennis Association's (ATA) Junior Development Program founded by Dr. Robert W. Johnson. Dr. Downing encouraged him to play and suggested that he might get a college scholarship for tennis. In 1957 Poindexter entered Arkansas A.M. & N College (now the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff) on a tennis scholarship. In 1959 he won the ATA National Inter-Collegiate Singles Championship. In 1964, as an unseeded player, he won the Roanoke City Championship. This was the first year the tournament was integrated. He won the tournament three more times. He began his coaching career at Burley High in 1964 where he started their first tennis team. In 1965 he became tennis coach at Lucy Addison High where he won the 1967 VIA State Tennis Championship. Before retiring in 1994, he also coached at Jefferson Senior and Patrick Henry High Schools. Twenty-five of his players were awarded athletic scholarships. In May 2018, Roanoke's River's Edge Sports Complex tennis facility was officially named the Carnis Poindexter Tennis Courts.



Afemo Omilami (Kenneth Lee), Peabody High, Petersburg (1969)

Actor

Contributor

Among his activities at Peabody High, Mr. Omilami played football and was a member of the Drama Club, igniting his interest in acting. In the community, he worked with the NAACP and helped with voter registration. He attended Morehouse College as a political science major and later attended the New York University School of Drama. Over his long career as a character actor he has appeared in films such as *Trading Places* (1983), *Glory* (1989), *The Firm* (1993), *Forest Gump* (1994), *Remember the Titans* (2000), *Ray* (2004), *The Blind Side* (2009) and *Hidden Figures* (2016). He had a recurring role in the television drama *In the Heat of the Night* (1989-1993). At the 2013 NAACP Image Awards he was nominated for Best Actor in a Television Movie for his role in the Lifetime Network's production of *Steel Magnolias*. Currently living in Atlanta, GA, Mr. Omilami is very involved with the nonprofit organization Hosea Helps which was founded by his father-in-law, the late Reverend Hosea Williams. This is one of Atlanta's largest social services organizations for the poor and hungry. In 2018, at Morehouse College's Ray Charles Performing Arts Center, Mr. Omilami received the Black-Man-Can Legacy Award for "embodying the definition of a positive black male image."

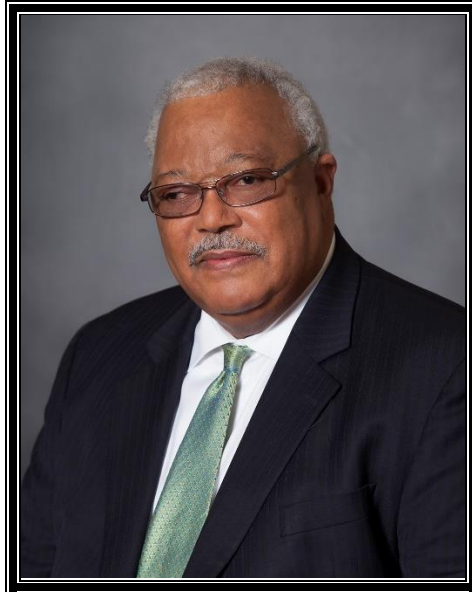


Dr. Carolyn Rudd, G. W. Carver High, Chesterfield County (1968)

Corporate Executive

Contributor

Valedictorian of her high school graduating class, Ms. Rudd received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Virginia State University and an Ed. D in higher education from William and Mary (1978). She is believed to be the youngest African American to receive a doctorate from the university. Before starting her own business, she served in positions at Virginia State, Bowie State and Howard Universities. In 1988 she founded and became CEO of the Washington D.C.-based multifaceted professional services and management consulting firm CRP, Incorporated. CRP provides solutions in research, policy assessment and analysis, program management and support to federal agencies, colleges, universities and other nonprofit organizations. CRP was recognized by the D. C. Chamber of Commerce as its Small Business of the Year in 2017. Ms. Rudd has served as chair of the DC Commission for Women and on the board of Family Matters of Greater Washington. She currently serves as a Trustee of the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) and has been committed to providing employment opportunities to UDC graduates. She helped establish and actively supports a nationally endowed scholarship in education at Virginia Union University.

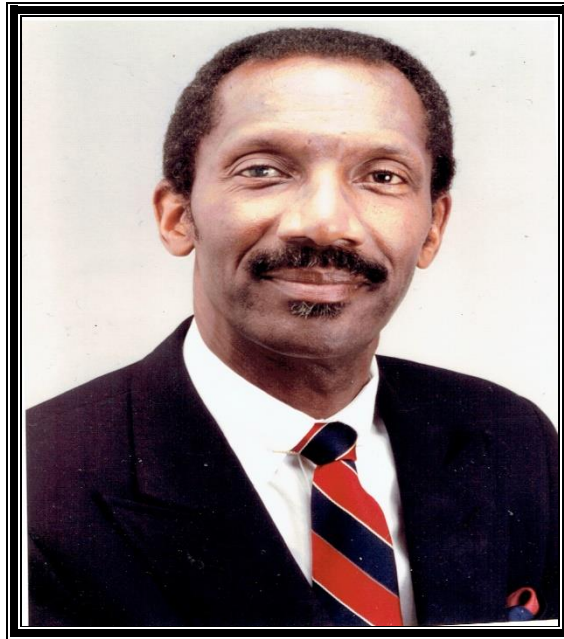


Dr. Melvin Stith, Central High, Sussex County (1964)

Academic Administrator

Contributor

Melvin Stith grew up on a family farm in rural Jarratt, VA in Sussex County. He received a B.S. degree in Sociology from Norfolk State University (NSU) in 1968. He served in the U.S. Army 1968 to 1972, achieving the rank of Captain. He received an M.B.A. degree (1973) and a Ph.D. degree in Marketing (1978), both from Syracuse University. He was an Assistant Professor of Business and an Associate Dean at the University of South Florida's College of Business (1977-1982). After serving as a visiting professor at the Florida A&M University School of Business and Industry (1982-1985), he was an Associate Professor of Marketing at Florida State University (FSU), later serving as the department's chair. In 1991, Stith was named Dean of the Business School and Jim Moran Professor of Business Administration. He left FSU in 2005 to become the Dean of the Martin J. Whitman School of Management at Syracuse University. Dr. Stith has served on many boards, including AFLAC and the Keebler Food Company. He was named a top influential black corporate executive by Savoy Magazine in 2016 and 2017. Dr. Stith left retirement in 2017 to serve as interim President of NSU. In 2018 he returned to Central High School to give the commencement address.

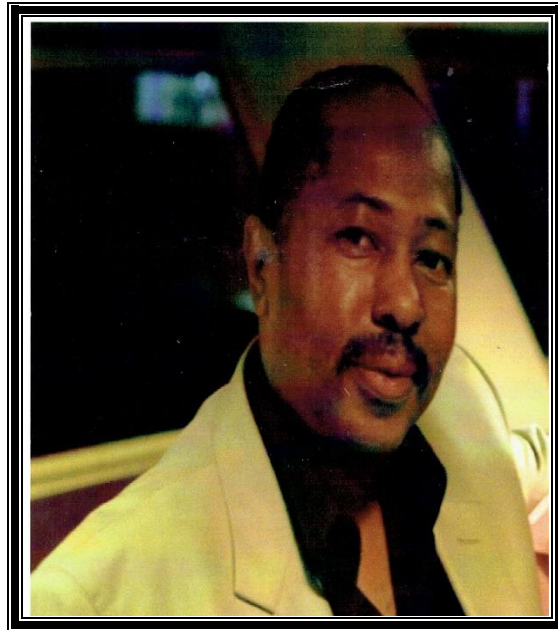


Andrew "Jack" White, Beverly Allen High, West Point (1949)

Baptist Minister

Contributor

Reverend Andrew White was born in King and Queen County. He attended the Rappahannock Industrial Academy for one year and graduated from Beverly Allen High School in 1949. In high school he played baseball and basketball and joined the drama and debate clubs. He received his B. S. and M. Div. degrees from Virginia Union University in 1953 and 1956, respectively. He taught history and social studies at A. T. Johnson High in Westmoreland County for ten years. Throughout his distinguished career, he was a champion for education, health care and community service. In 1969 Rev. White helped found the interracial Downtown (Petersburg, VA) Churches United, which worked with other community groups to provide food, clothing, shelter, and job assistance. He was the first African American President of the Southside Virginia Mental Health Association, and was a member of the Petersburg Hospital Authority, which oversaw the construction of a new facility. He cochaired the successful capital campaign to construct a new public library in Petersburg (2014). Prior to his retirement, he concurrently pastored Zion Baptist Church (Petersburg) and Union Branch Baptist Church (Prince George County, VA) for more than 40 years. Still a resident of Petersburg, VA, Rev. White was recognized in 2019 among a group of Strong Men & Women in Virginia History for his contributions to the state.



Jonathan Williams, Peabody/Petersburg High, Petersburg (1971)

Musician

Contributor

Growing up in a musically talented family, Jonathan joined Peabody High's marching band in the 8th grade. Because of his enthusiasm and ability to learn different instruments, his music teacher, Mr. William McKinley (now

deceased), suggested that Jonathan learn to play the bassoon. Mr. McKinley also encouraged Jonathan to learn to write and arrange music. He began his professional career with a Petersburg area band called Nat Turner's Rebellion. Subsequently, he was introduced to music producers at All Platinum Records. He was a part of the label's in-house band that was later known as The Rimshots. They recorded with noted artists Chuck Jackson, Brook Benton, Solomon Burke, Hank Ballard, Silvia Robinson and Etta James. Between 1973 and 1976 they recorded more than 50 projects for Platinum-Chess Records. In the mid-1970's the Rimshots had great success with their cover recording of "7-6-5-4-3-2-1 (Blow Your Whistle)," and "Super Disco," which reached number seven on the disco singles charts. Today Jonathan says his music career is still a work in progress. In 2017 he released his first jazz album entitled "Sir Jonathan Williams, To Sir with Love." He recently released a single entitled "Your Place or Mine". Mr. Williams continues to do productions for the Sugar Hill Record Label.

2019 Class of Inductees

Athletes: Charles Bonaparte, Benjamin “Benny” Brown, Warren Canada
Robert “Bobby” Dandridge, Louis Richard Harris, Fred Harold “Doc” Sawyer

Coaches: William Bailey, James “Blue” Earley, Carl Peal

Contributors: William Albert “W. A.” Brown, Cheryl Anthony Epps, Roger L. Gregory

2018 Class of Inductees

Athletes: Ronald Bolton, Joseph Bradley, Earl Faison, Jim Lewis, Jerry Venable

Coaches: Alphonso Hamilton, Eugene Thompson, Arnold Thurmond, Wm. Travis

Contributors: William Bailey, Julian Earls, Marguerita Ragsdale

2017 Class of Inductees

Athletes: Mattie Parham Bell, Leroy Keyes, Albert Arthur Megginson,
Marty Miller, Charles Price

Coaches: Howard Allen, Walter Lovett, Harry Waters

Contributors: Garwin DeBerry, Clarence Oliver, Knox W. Tull, Jr.

2016 Class of Inductees

Athletes: Roosevelt Brown, Walter A. Bowser, Joseph Buggs, Jesse H. Jefferson,
Jr., Louvenia Johnson, Earl Frances Lloyd, Benita Fitzgerald Moseley,
Raymond Pollard, Donald L. Ross, Jr., Bryant L. Stith, Charles E. Stukes

Coaches: Frederick T. Cooper, Arthur “Stretch” Gardner, Robinette Hayes,
George Lancaster, William W. Lawson, Jr., Thad Madden, Carl Pinn, George W.
Quarles, Maxie Robinson, Sr., Robert W. Smith

Contributors: James Hayes, Calvin Jacox, Clarence Jones, George Peterson, Jr.,
Elmer F. Sampson, Ernest Shaw

Special Recognition: Armstrong-Walker Football Classic

VIA (1954-1969)

The Virginia Interscholastic Association (VIA), which existed from April 1954 through August 1969, was an association of high schools attended by Black youths of Virginia. During the years of its peak operation, more than a hundred high schools with a student population of more than 40,000 had membership in the association.

An outgrowth of the Virginia Interscholastic Athletic League (VIAL), which had provided an athletic program for the Black school principals at the period in Virginia education when the Negro high school was developing into a significant part of the school system of the state. Large student enrollments, new school facilities with drama and music departments, gymnasiums and athletic fields, science departments, student newspapers and other organized school activities increased the demand of the students and the community for an adequate program of supervised and organized interschool group relationships and competitions which would contribute to the fullest development of the high school students.

The following pages list team champions from the VIAL and VIA (1924-1969)

VIAL and VIA champions are noted. A special thanks and appreciation to Ernest Shaw for his work in compiling these VIA/VIAL records.



Team Champions

<u>Year</u>	<u>School (Location)</u>	<u>League</u>
1969	Southside (Dinwiddie)	VIA
1968	Riverview (Courtland)	VIA
1967	Union (Bowling Green)	VIA
1966	Riverview (Courtland)	VIA
1965	Southside (Dinwiddie)	VIA
1964	Union (Bowling Green)	VIA
1963	Campbell County (Christiansburg)	VIA
1962	Union (Bowling Green)	VIA
1961	Union (Bowling Green)	VIA
1960	B.T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIA
1959	Crestwood (Chesapeake)	VIA
1958	Langston (Danville)	VIA
1957	Langston (Danville)	VIA

1956	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIA
1955	Huntington (Newport News)	VIA
1954	Sussex Training School	VIAL
1953	B.T. Washington (Sussex)	VIAL
1952	Campbell County (Christiansburg)	VIAL
1951	Campbell County (Christiansburg)	VIAL
1950	Union (Bowling Green)	VIAL
1949	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL



BOYS BASKETBALL



Group 1 – Team Champions

<u>Year</u>	<u>School (Location)</u>	<u>League</u>
1969	Langston (Danville)	VIA
1968	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIA
1967	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIA
1966	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIA
1965	B.T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIA
1964	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIA
1963	Crestwood (Chesapeake)	VIA
1962	Crestwood (Chesapeake)	VIA
1961	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIA
1960	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIA
1959	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIA
1958	B.T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIA
1957	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIA
1956	Huntington (Newport News)	VIA
1955	Huntington (Newport News)	VIA
1954	B.T. Washington (Suffolk)	VIAL
1953	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIAL
1952	Norfolk County	VIAL
1951	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIAL
1950	Langston (Danville)	VIAL
1949	B.T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIAL
1948	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIAL
1947	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL
1946	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIAL
1945	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL
1944	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL
1943	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL
1942	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIAL

1941	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL
1940	B.T. Washington (Staunton)	VIAL
1939	Phenix (Hampton)	VIAL
1938	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1937	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1936	Phenix (Hampton)	VIAL
1935	Lucy Addison (Roanoke)	VIAL
1934	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1933	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1932	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1931	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1930	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL
1929	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1928	Dunbar (Lynchburg)	VIAL

GIRLS BASKETBALL



<u>Year</u>	<u>School (Location)</u>	<u>League</u>
1954	GW Carver (Fieldale)	VIAL
1953	GW Carver (Fieldale)	VIAL
1952	Norfolk County	VIAL
1951	Southampton	VIAL
1950	GW Carver (Chesterfield)	VIAL
1949	St. Francis de Sales (Powhatan)	VIAL
1948	St. Francis de Sales (Powhatan)	VIAL
1947	St. Francis de Sales (Powhatan)	VIAL
1946	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIAL
1943-45		
1942	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIAL
1941	St. Francis de Sales (Powhatan)	VIA



FOOTBALL



<u>Year</u>	<u>School (Location)</u>	<u>League</u>
1968	Southside (Blairs)	VIA
1967	East End (South Hill)	VIA
1966	Huntington (Newport News)	VIA
1965	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIA
1964	Luther P. Jackson (Murrifield) E. Suffolk	VIA
1963	G.W. Carver (Rapidan)	VIA
1962	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIA
1961	G.W. Carver (Rapidan)	VIA
1960	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIA
1959	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIA
1958	Booker T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIA
1957	Burley (Ch'ville)/I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIA
1956	Booker T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIA
1955	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1954	Burley (Charlottesville)	VIAL
1953	Booker T. Washington	VIAL
1952	Burley (Charlottesville)	VIAL
1951	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIAL
1950	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1949	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1948	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1947	Armstrong (Richmond)	VIAL
1946	Phenix (Hampton)	VIAL
1945	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1944	Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL
1943	NO CHAMPION	
1942	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIAL
1941	Phenix (Hampton)	VIAL
1940	Booker T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIAL
1939	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIAL
1938	Booker T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIAL
1937	Peabody (Petersburg)/Lucy Addison (Roanoke)	
1936	Phenix (Hampton)	VIAL
1935	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIAL
1930-1934	Booker T. Washington (Norfolk)	VIAL
1929	Thyne Institute (Chase City)	VIAL
1928	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIAL
1927	Armstrong Tech (Washington, D.C.)/ Huntington (Newport News)	VIAL

1926	Union (Hampton)	VIAL
1925	Union (Hampton)/Peabody (Petersburg)	VIAL
1924	Union (Hampton)	VIAL



<u>Year</u>	<u>School (Location)</u>	<u>League</u>
1966	Virginia Randolph (Glen Allen)	VIA
1965	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIA
1964	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIA
1963	Peabody (Petersburg)	VIA
1962-58		
1957	Maggie Walker (Richmond)	VIA



<u>Year</u>	<u>School (Location)</u>	<u>League</u>
1968	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1967	Lucy Addison (Roanoke)	VIA
1966	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1965	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1964	Phenix (Hampton)/Armstrong (Richmond)	VIA
1963	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1962	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1961	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIA
1960	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1959	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1958	I.C. Norcom (Portsmouth)	VIA
1957	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1956	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1955	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA
1954	Phenix (Hampton)	VIA

A Black high school baseball team won a championship in 1969. Their hometown waited 50 years to celebrate.



Former Brookvale High School principal Elton Smith, center left, greets members of the 1969 baseball team before a ceremony to honor their championship season at Dream Fields in Kilmarnock, Va., on April 17. (Parker Michels-Boyce/For The Washington Post)

KILMARNOCK, Va. — The old-timers stood along the first-base dugout Saturday on Little League opening day. The base lines were crisp, grass and dirt perfectly groomed, home plate glowing white.

Most of these men, squinting under the brims of blue Brookvale High School caps, had never been on this field before. When they played more than half a century ago, Black people weren't allowed through the gates.

And when they won their big state championship game on May 21, 1969, down in Petersburg, they returned home to . . . nothing. No celebration, no commendation from

Lancaster County, which they had represented in a decisive 11-5 victory over a team from outside Richmond.

On Saturday, this rural county aimed to make amends.



The 1969 Brookvale Warriors State Champions. (Lancaster County Public Schools)

Before hundreds of cheering spectators, Black and White, the surviving members of the Fighting Warriors trotted — or, in some cases, tottered — across the infield as the announcer called their names. At the pitcher's mound, members of the county government gave them what a previous generation had denied them: championship rings.

“In the words of the late, great Sam Cooke,” county supervisor Bill Lee told the crowd, Little League teams arrayed in the outfield in bright uniforms, “it’s been a long time coming.”

The process of recognizing the 1969 Brookvale team took more than a year to put together but crossed an enormous cultural divide. Most people in the rural county on the creeks and marshes at the tip of Virginia’s Northern Neck had no clue about the players’ accomplishments.



Shawn Owens-Carter, left, wears a shirt with the name and photo of her father, Frank Carter, who was the first baseman on the 1969 team, before a ceremony at Dream Fields in Kilmarnock, Va., on April 17. (Parker Michels-Boyce/For The Washington Post) Home to a little more than 10,000 people, Lancaster is about 69 percent White and 28 percent Black, according to U.S. Census data. This is a land of watermen and farmers, with Colonial-era plantation houses tucked along the waterways. Both George Washington and Robert E. Lee have roots nearby.

[Gen. Robert E. Lee is the only Confederate icon still standing on a Richmond avenue forever changed](#)

And yet in recent years the county has evolved. Two of the county's five supervisors are Black. And while the hallways of the old courthouse are lined with paintings of old Confederates, there is an effort to pair them with signs that provide historical context, said Bill Lee, 70, who is Black and has served as the county chairman.

Lee recalls a different time, when segregation reigned in the region and statues and symbols of division “were things you didn't really think about.”

The year the team won — 1969 — was the last year Lancaster County had separate schools for White and Black students. Many of the Brookvale Fighting Warriors who won the Group II championship in the state league for Black schools had to play the following year for the majority-White Lancaster High. No one there knew what they had accomplished.

“Brookvale was more like family for us, the teachers looked after us, we felt they loved us, knew us. Lancaster High was a whole different environment,” said William Lee, 69, one of the team's star pitchers (and no relation to the county supervisor). “It felt like being a visitor, but in many ways an unwanted visitor, in somebody else's house.”

Lee went on to college, and then a career as a minister in Roanoke. Many of the other teammates stayed in Lancaster — all but three from the 1969 roster and coaching staff are still living.

Over the years, they'd see each other at church or around town and might reminisce about the big game, several of them said. And they made sure their families knew about it.

"What they accomplished is amazing," said Shawn Owens-Carter, 52, whose father, Frank Carter, had a .400 batting average and was so fast, she said, "he could run around the bases twice and nobody could catch him."

Carter was just 18 when he drowned in a swimming accident in the Rappahannock River, Owens-Carter said. She was an infant at the time, but grew up hearing tales of the team from her mother. On Saturday, she wore a T-shirt with her father's picture and accepted the championship ring on his behalf.

Stanley Gaskins, 68, pitched the championship game and earlier in the tournament threw 15 strikeouts in one game. Growing up, he practiced throwing to a cousin against a family smokehouse.

He had dreams of turning pro, he said, and even went to a tryout for the Baltimore Orioles while still in high school. But then he fathered a child his senior year, and his father told him to come work with him on a fishing boat.

"I went on fishing with him, and then I got too old to play ball," Gaskins said. But he never forgot the thrill of that championship tournament. He and the other players rode in cars driven by coaches and someone's relative down to Petersburg to the campus of Virginia State University, where the games were played.

The night before, William Lee said, Brookvale's principal noticed that the team lacked equipment, so he went into town and bought a baseball and a bat for them. The county provided nothing. The team members had bought mismatching uniforms through candy sales and fundraisers. Lee got his pitching shoes from his head coach, Maurice Savoy — the first leather shoes he had ever owned.

Looking back, Lee said he realizes the coaches must have paid most of the tournament expenses out of their own pockets.

"We ate breakfast in the cafeteria — I don't know how that got paid," he said. "The night before the game we went to Whataburger, got hamburgers, cheeseburgers, french fries, milkshakes. I'm assuming the coaches paid. . . . I just think about how much they invested in us and we didn't know it. I just wish we could've collectively thought about that."

After they won the final against a school from New Kent County, the team whooped it up for a few minutes, then got back in the cars and drove home.

They didn't even call their families to let them know.

"It was 1969," William Lee said. "A lot of Black people had no telephones."

The next day at school, no one knew until the principal made an announcement. And that was it, except for teammates running into each other over the years and swapping memories.

The Rev. Ulysses Turner, 52, heard the stories at church and around town and eventually resolved to do something about it. He gathered newspaper clippings, found the trophy the team had brought home and took them to the Virginia High School League, which certifies state athletic records.

While the VHSL assured him that the evidence was sound, association spokesman Mike McCall said in an interview that there is no way to completely certify the championship. Virginia school systems just didn't keep records of Black achievements.

"It's a sad part of Virginia's history of segregation," McCall said. "I look at it as one of those casualties of a very bad period in Virginia's history and America's history."

Last September, the Lancaster Board of Supervisors approved a resolution honoring the team and authorized signs for major roadways into the county, proclaiming their accomplishment.

Since then, county officials have been working toward Saturday's ceremony. Family members traveled from all over Virginia, making the usual Little League opening-day crowd massive. Cars filled the gravel lots and roadsides all around the county's baseball complex, called the Dream Fields.

Fifty years ago, Lee — the pitcher — said he could only sit on a car hood and watch the baseball lights from a distance. Now, on the mound for the first time, he addressed the crowd.

"What a day," he said. Invoking the book "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates, Lee asked the audience to imagine the "world that was between us" in 1969. "It was a divided world. We accepted that," he said. "We were kids playing the game we loved."

The long overdue recognition from the county, he said, "is going to bring that world between us closer together."

But he cautioned that it was wrong to think the one gesture was enough. In his hand, he said, he held the baseball his principal had bought them before the game. It was signed by teachers and players from Brookvale.

Lee turned, and in the back of the group of teammates spied his former principal, Elton Smith, now 94, who had gone on to become the first Black school superintendent in Virginia history.

Lee walked over and gave him the ball.

"The names are fading," he said, turning back to the crowd, "and after a while you will not see a name on it because the ink is not indelible."

He asked the county to right one more wrong. The team won its game, he said, but the members lost their school. Today the old Brookvale building houses Lancaster Primary School.

“If you really want things to be better and wonderful and pull worlds closer together, find a way to put Brookvale’s name somewhere,” he said, to rising applause and cheers, “so that the kids will know Brookvale High School produced mighty warriors.”

Carver Regional High School, Culpepper, VA



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1962-63 Hawks Football Team

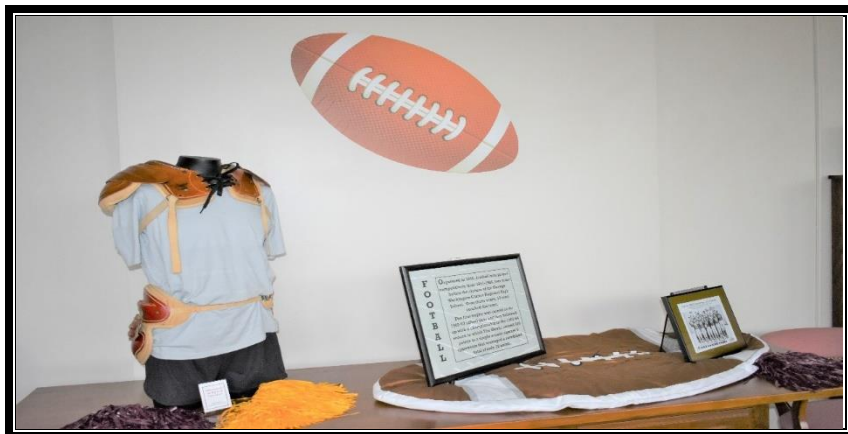
Coach: Simon P. Poole, Jr. * ***Assistant Coach:*** Johnnie C. Cheston

Captains: John Martin, Stacy Johnson and Paul Arrington

Tri Champions of Virginia Interscholastic Association (VIA)

Northern District Group I Schools

They played nine (9) schools and finished with a record of 6 wins, 2 losses and 1 tie





F O O T B A L L

Organized in 1950, football was played competitively from 1951-1966, two years before the closure of the George Washington Carver Regional High School. Over those years, 10 men coached the team.

The first trophy was earned in the 1962-63 school year and they followed up with a championship in the 1963-64 season in which The Hawks scored 306 points in a single season against 9 opponents that managed a combined total of only 26 points.

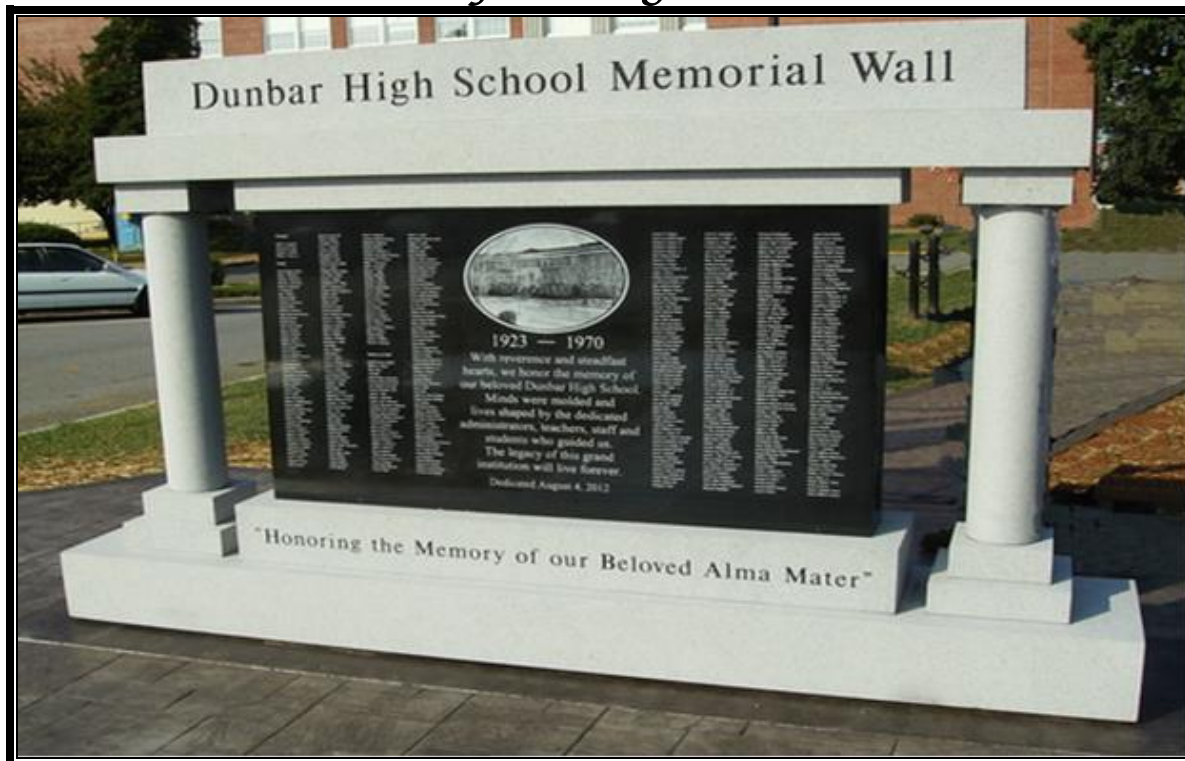
*Lucy Addison High School Monument Wall
Roanoke, Virginia*



*Jackson P. Burley High School Monument Wall
Charlottesville, Virginia*



*Dunbar High School Memorial Wall
Lynchburg, VA.*



Maggie L. Walker High School Mural

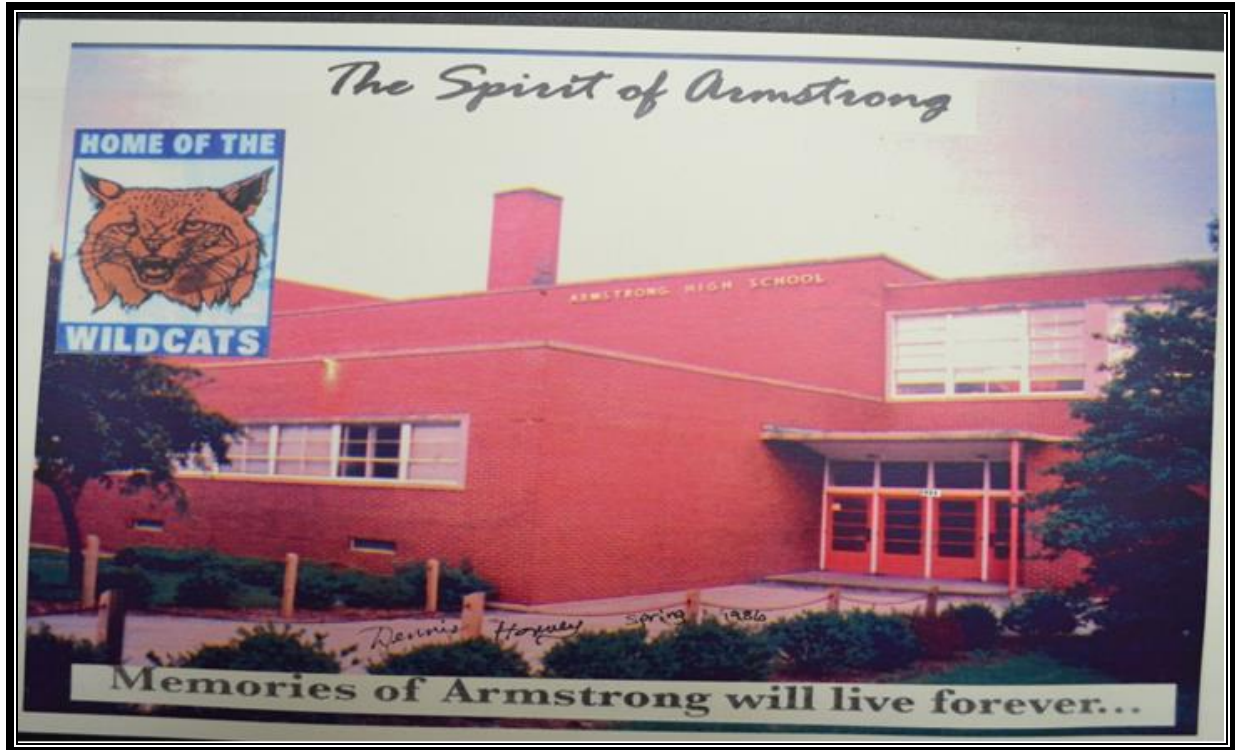
Richmond, VA



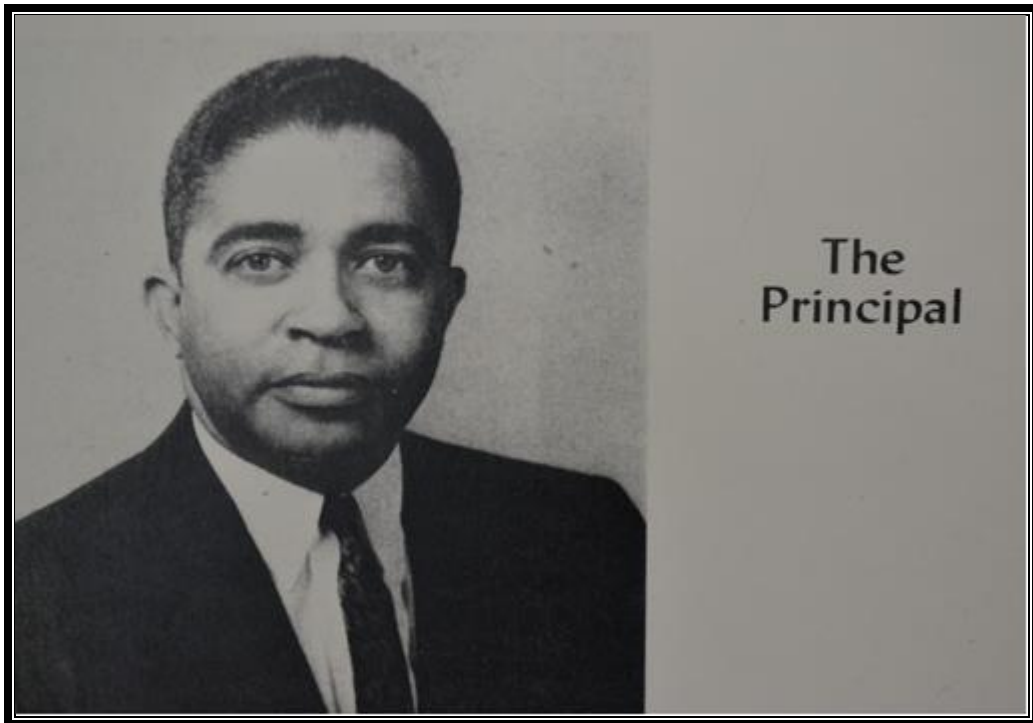
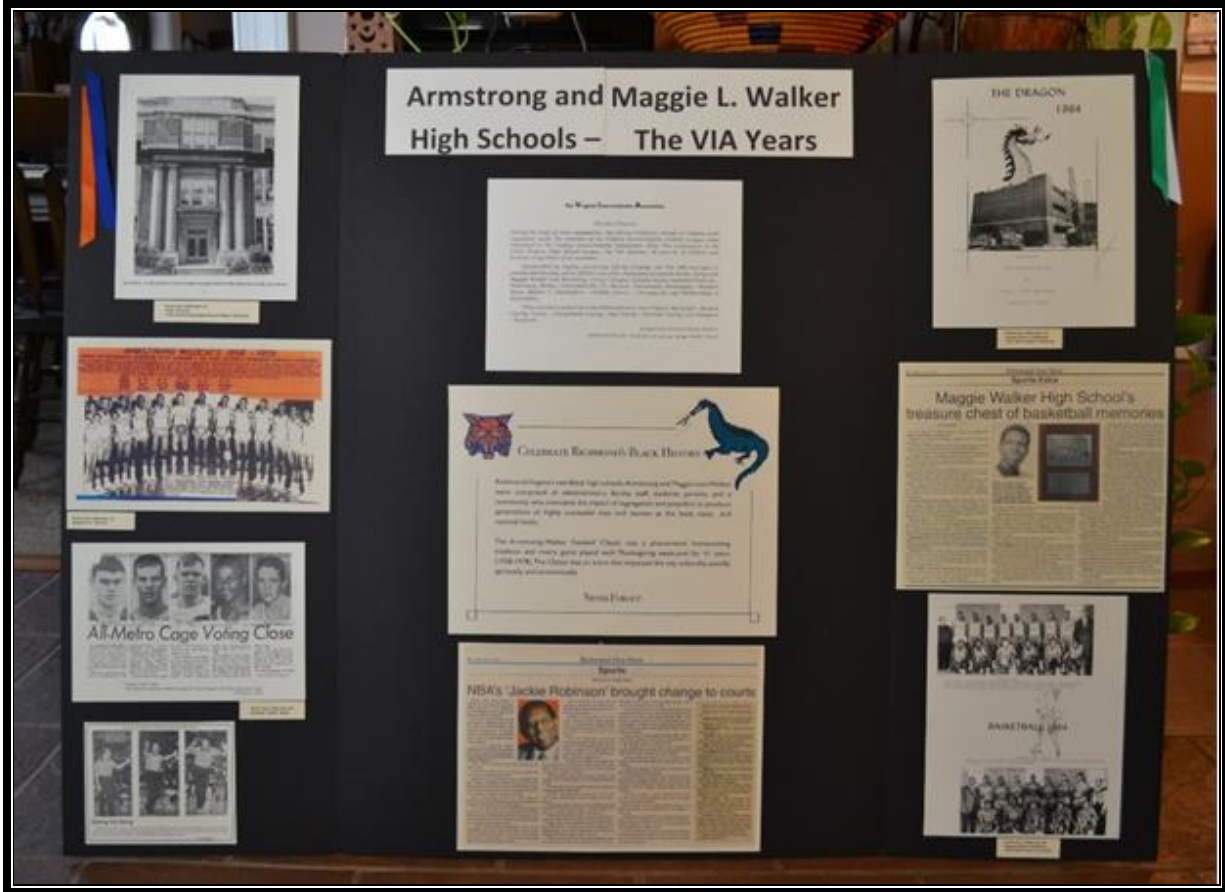
Arthur Ashe Statue - Richmond, Va.



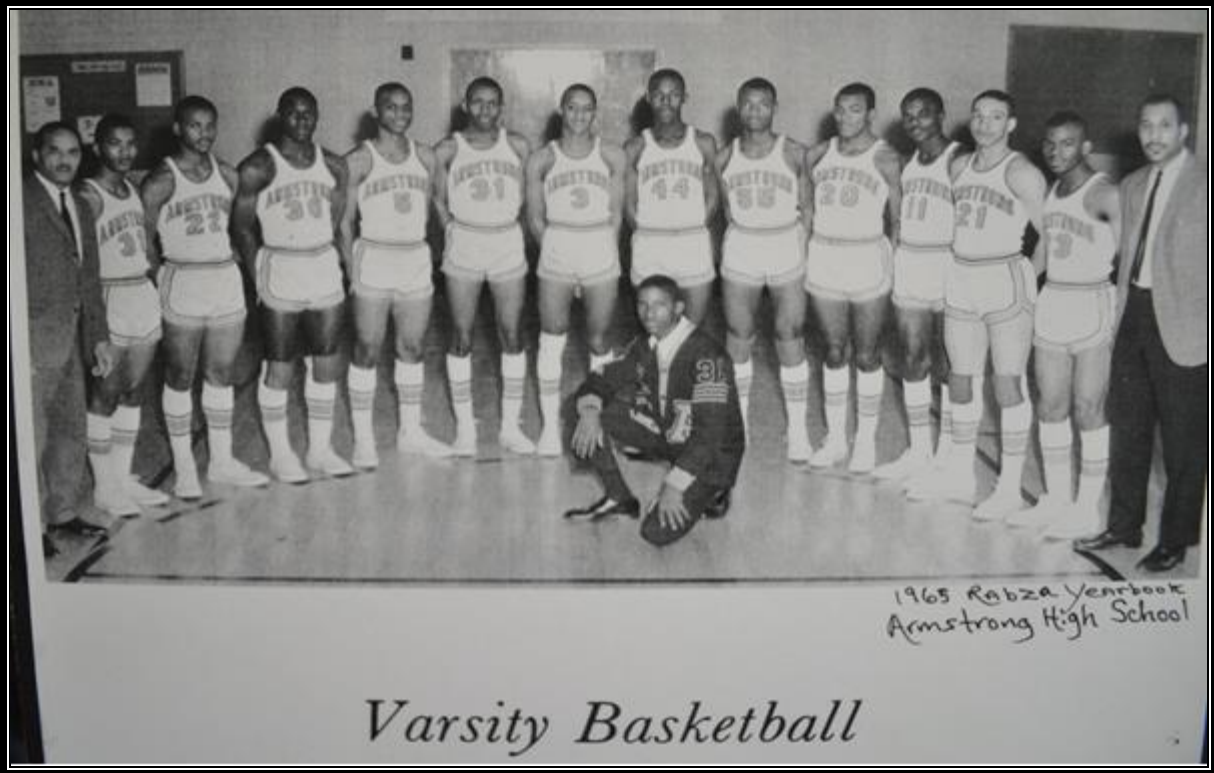
Armstrong High School, Richmond, VA



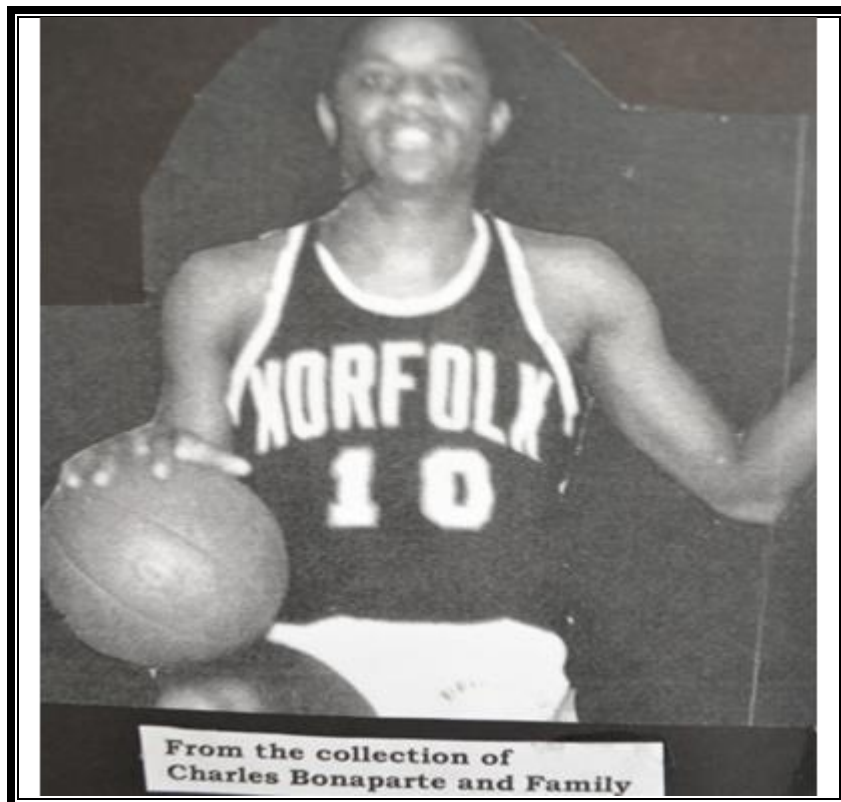
AHS Principal George Peterson, Jr., & AHS Coach Maxie Robinson



George Peterson, Jr., Armstrong High School



AHS State Champion Basketball Champions, National 2nd Place Champion



Charles Bonaparte – AHS 1965 at Norfolk State College



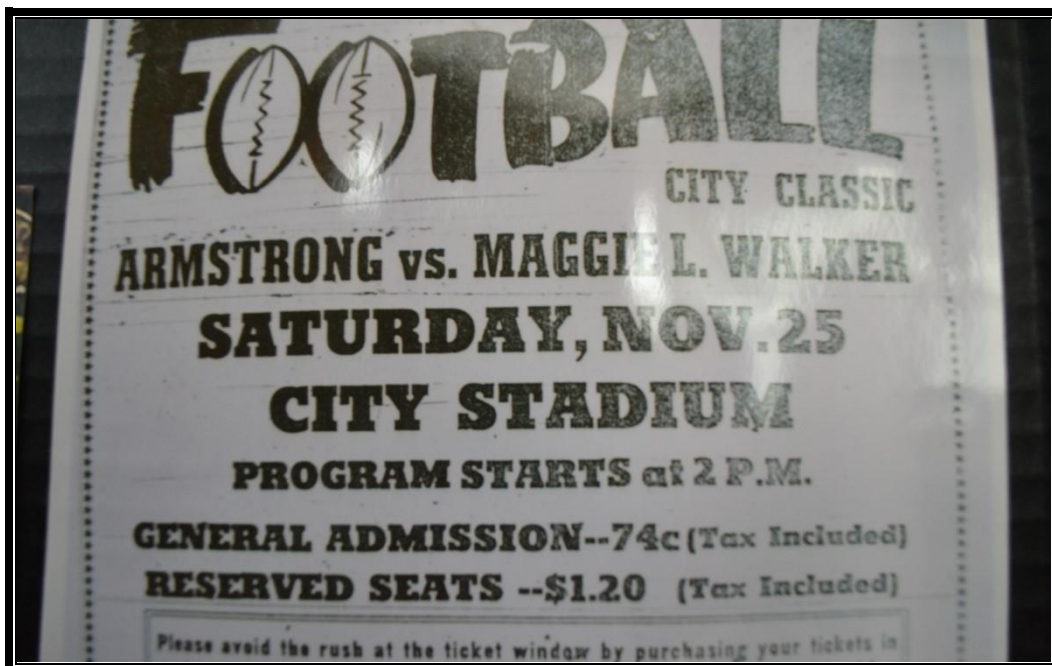
Audrey Eloise Stevens
Miss Armstrong — 1963-64

45

Ms. Stevens – AHS Queen 1963-64



Ms. Charlene Mills, AHS Queen 1965-66 & Attendants – Being crowned by Principal George Peterson, Jr.



Armstrong-Walker Classic Board



CELEBRATE RICHMOND'S BLACK HISTORY

Richmond, Virginia's two Black high schools, Armstrong and Maggie Lena Walker, were comprised of administrators, faculty, staff, students, parents, and a community who overcame the impact of segregation and prejudice to produce generations of highly successful men and women at the local, state, and national levels.

The Armstrong-Walker Football Classic was a phenomenal homecoming tradition and rivalry game played each Thanksgiving week-end for 41 years (1938-1978). The Classic was an event that impacted the city culturally, socially, spiritually, and economically.

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Honoring the fight for equal education

PAGE 10

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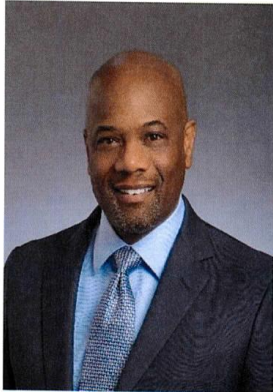
LIFE BEFORE LIGHT, PG. 8

A PLACE FOR SPIES, PG. 32

HAM RADIO DAYS, PG. 36

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**OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT
HAMPTON UNIVERSITY**



Dear friends and supporters of the VIA Heritage Association, Inc.,

I applaud your efforts to preserve the legacy and to recognize the accomplishments of African American high schools in Virginia from 1954 to 1969. From a very young age, my mother Pauline Harris (Jackson P. Burley, Class of 1962), would regale us with “way back then” stories of the history and culture of Burley and other African American high schools. I am proud that the distinctive culture of African American high schools lives on today at Virginia’s five historically black colleges and universities, and I am truly blessed to play a role in preserving that unique culture at Hampton University. Indeed, my own experience as a student at Hampton, in the mid-1980s, was similar to the experiences of those who attended African American high schools during the 1950s and 1960s.

At Hampton, I formed close bonds of friendship that will last a lifetime, I was taught by instructors who cared about me personally—beyond the classroom, and I was expected to perform at my best at all times. Much like the stories my mother told me about Burley, Hampton was more than just a school; it was an *experience*—one that nurtured and developed the skills and character needed for living a meaningful life. The similarities between my mother’s experience at Burley and my experience at Hampton make sense when considering the character and educational environment at Burley likely stemmed from the HBCU pedigree of the school’s principal and educators. From this perspective, at least, we see HBCU culture—the storied rivalries, the pulsating energy of the marching bands, the shared history—as a precursor to the vibrant culture of African American high schools in Virginia. Although educational opportunities for African Americans have improved greatly since the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision in 1954, HBCUs remain indispensable institutions for the growth and development of African Americans as students, future leaders, and engaged citizens.

I am inspired by the dedicated educators who taught in African American high schools during the period of racially segregated schools in Virginia. I am awed by their strong sense of purpose. I am grateful for their determination to create and maintain nurturing environments that fostered, for my mother and many others, a commitment to ideals of faith, family and service to others. They were exceptional educators. They were models of self-discipline, dignity, and decency.

I am proud to support the VIA Heritage Association, Inc. and its efforts to establish a VIA Hall of Fame, as an expression of my enduring gratitude for the extraordinary contributions of the educators and leaders of African American high schools in Virginia and for those who work diligently today to preserve their important legacy.

With warm personal regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Paul C. Harris

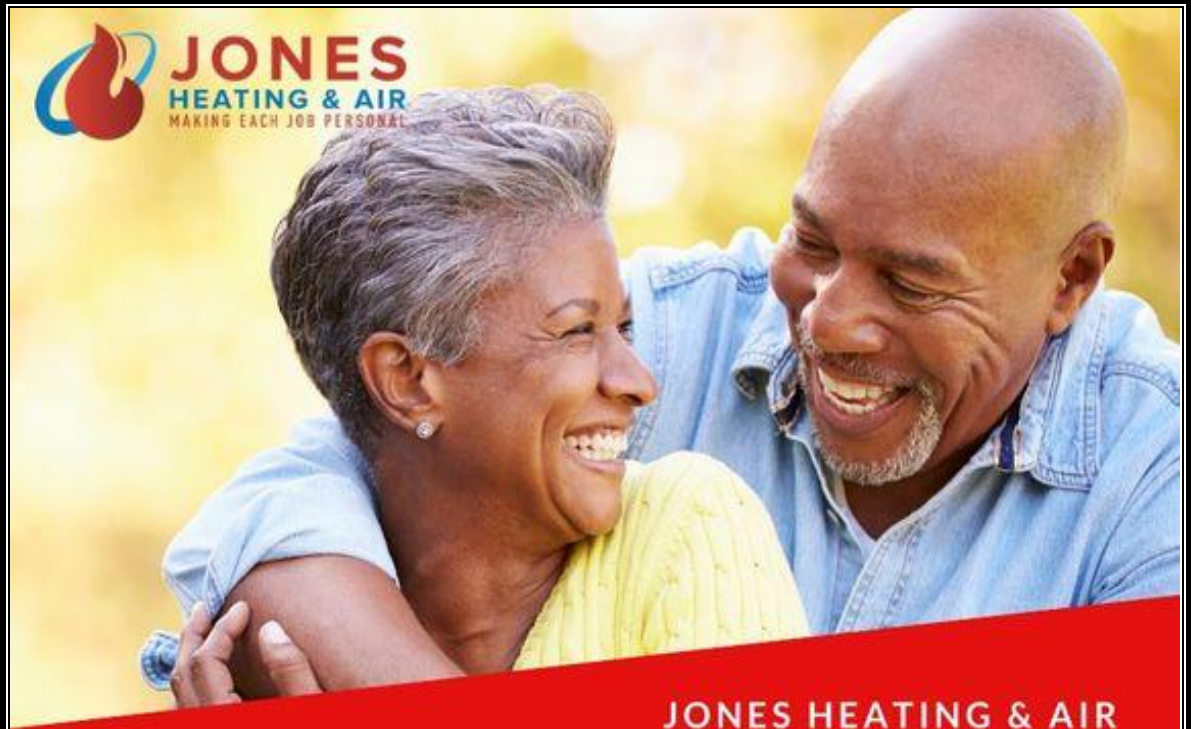
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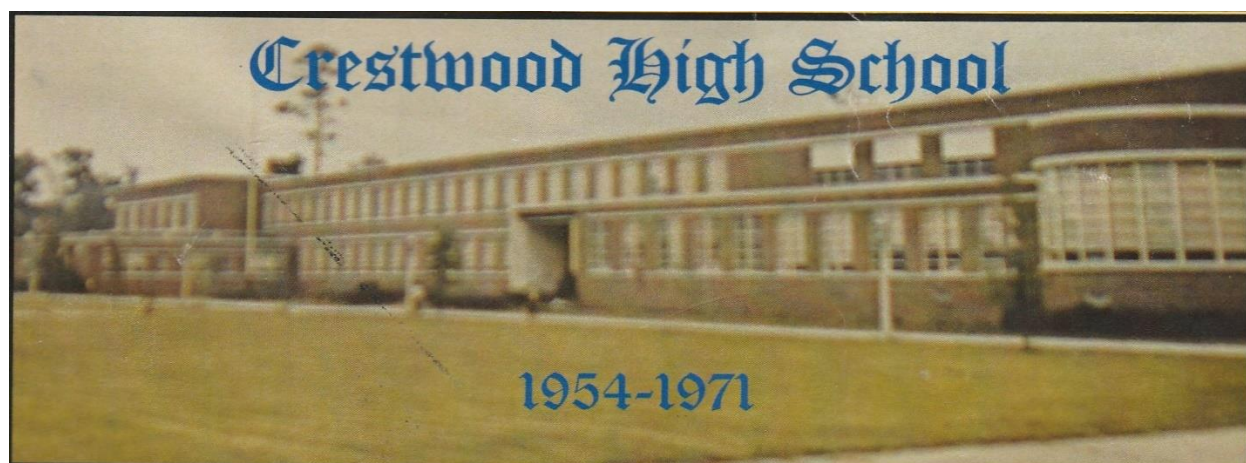
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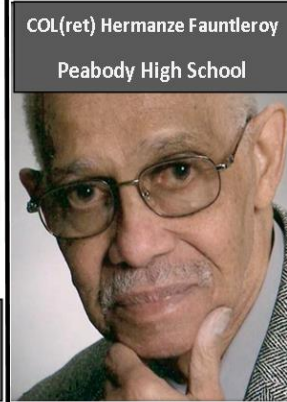
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Hillside High School Durham



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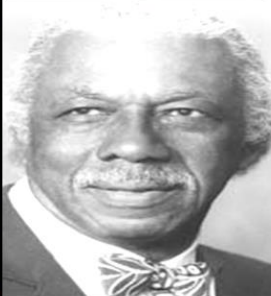
Willie B. Edlow
James S. Russell High School



Mr. Carl "Mike" Ross
Annapolis High School



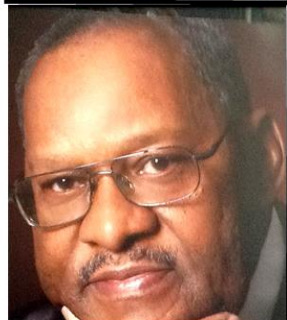
Mr. Tony Gaines, Sr.
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Mr. William "Pete" Bennett
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Mr. Dewey Cashwell
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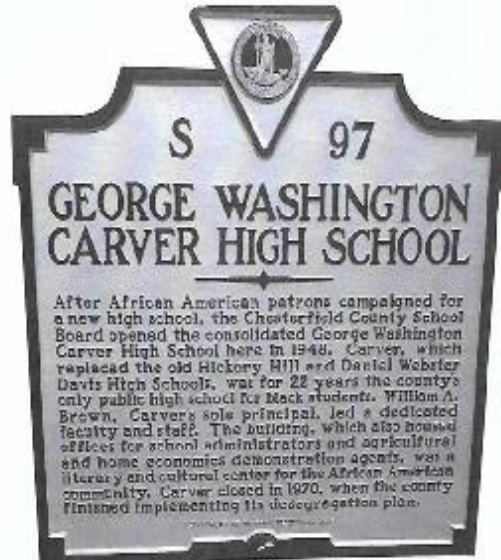


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*Preserving the History of the Virginia
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Honoring

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VIRGINIA INTERSCHOLASTIC ASSOCIATION

Office of Executive Secretary
Division of Field Services
Virginia State College
Petersburg, Virginia

December 18, 1968

TO: The Legislative Council, Virginia High School League
c/o Mr. Ralph W. Kier, Chairman

FROM: The Executive Committee, Virginia Interscholastic Association

SUBJECT: Formation of one State-Wide High School Activities Organization

For the past two years representatives of the VHSL and VIA Executive Committees have engaged in talks during which time representatives of the VIA have proposed a merger of the two organizations into one state-wide school activity organization. These talks were begun on the initiative of the VIA. Our sole motive in making this proposal was to insure that, with the decline of Negro high schools, the boys and girls enrolled in VIA schools will be assured of an opportunity to continue to participate fully in a program of worthwhile school activities. The existence of segregated high schools in Virginia is fast declining. The Virginia Interscholastic Association has coordinated a program of activities in these schools for fourteen years. VIA's sole aim has been to provide a broad program of activities so that there were unlimited and unrestricted opportunities to participate, to achieve, to be recognized. Since the school year 1963-64, fifty-three (53) schools who are members of VIA have been lost. Thirty-eight (38) of these high schools were discontinued under the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as administered by H.E.W. Fifteen (15) schools joined VHSL as a result of VHSL's announced policy to admit individual VIA schools. We do not believe these fifteen (15) schools joined VHSL because of dissatisfaction with VIA membership. Instead, we believe that conditions and factors beyond the control of the principal influenced their joining VHSL.

To date these joint talks, in our opinion, have given our representatives the impression that VHSL is opposed to the existence of one state-wide school activity organization. In fact, the representatives of VHSL have informed VIA's representatives that VHSL is not interested in merger, not withstanding the approval of a resolution to begin joint VIA-VHSL discussions of the establishment of such an organization. Instead, VIA representatives have been told by your representatives that VIA problems can best be solved by VHSL's acceptance of membership applications from individual VIA schools. We cannot refrain from noting that the kind of membership attained by VIA schools who joined VHSL in this manner is unsatisfactory to them and is unacceptable to the remaining schools in VIA. Yet VHSL representatives continue to engage in joint talks with our representatives, but at the same time are unwilling to talk specifically about a vital problem facing both organizations. We are of the opinion that such action is unrealistic, is a delaying tactic, represents duplicity and shows a lack of good faith. We sincerely believe that VHSL's action places VIA in an untenable position. As a result, VIA has suffered financial

losses, but more importantly influence and strength. We appeal to VHSL because it is the dominant school activity organization in Virginia. VHSL is powerful and affluent. By occupying such an eminent position and enjoying close association and connection with the University of Virginia which is not only the educational leader in Virginia and an equal opportunity institution, but also the recipient of vast federal funds, it appears to VIA that VHSL has the responsibility for exercising leadership in bringing about unity in the school activity program of Virginia and for cooperating in the establishment of a policy of unrestricted opportunity for all boys and girls in Virginia.

In view of the 1969-70 deadline set by H.E.W. for the establishment of a unitary plan of operation in the remaining segregated school divisions of Virginia, it becomes immediately apparent that if this plan is carried out the need for VIA will no longer exist. But it will be a tragedy if no positive action is taken to meet the challenge of problems which the change-over will produce in the school activities program. One of these problems will be the need to provide one state-wide school activity organization. VIA is greatly concerned about this problem because if no action is taken the boys and girls in present VIA schools will have no opportunity to continue their participation in the kind of program VIA now offers. VIA's aspirations, desires and motives are clear and simple. We repeat, VHSL only can make possible this opportunity. VHSL and VIA are now providing these opportunities as two separate state-wide organizations. VIA believes the same results can be achieved with one state-wide organization established by VHSL and VIA. Indeed the time is right. One state-wide organization for school activities in Virginia should be established without further delay. We, therefore, ask VHSL to agree now to work with VIA in setting up such an organization in Virginia to be based upon the following considerations:

1. A guarantee of full and unrestricted participation by all member schools, including the right for each school to obtain a schedule of activities which will enable it to qualify for and to attain district, regional and state honors.
2. Inclusion of the present VIA Executive Secretary and his staff on the staff of the central administration office of the one state-wide school activity organization.
3. Provision for organizing and coordinating activities not now coordinated by either VHSL or VIA.
4. Provisions for permitting the participation by schools who will not be members of the one state-wide school activity organization.

The representatives of the VHSL and VIA Executive Committee have agreed to continue their joint discussions. We approve of and encourage this step because it provides a medium for communication, information and understanding. But unless these discussions have as their main purpose an agreement on means and ways to establish one state-wide high school activity organization in Virginia, they are really of no great significance. We address our proposal to the VHSL Legislative Council because it is the policy making body of the League and express the hope that you will favor us with an early reply.

*Preserving the History of the Virginia
Interscholastic Association
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*Moses E Evans
Carver High School
Chester, Va.*

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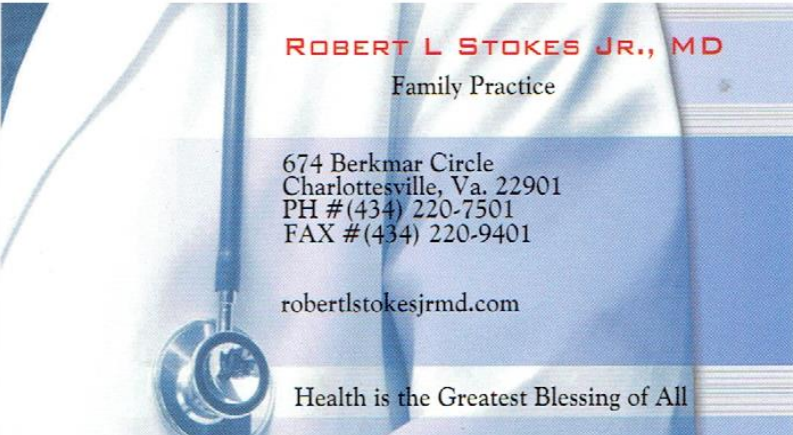
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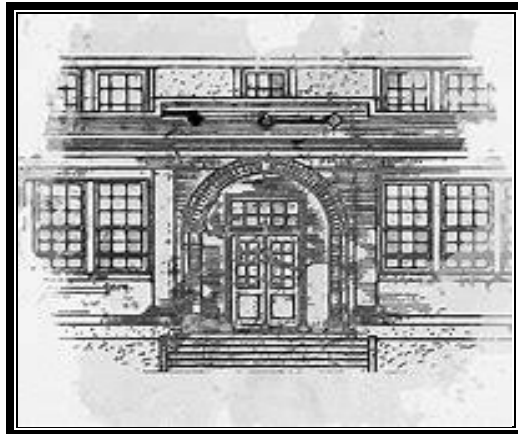
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Honor the rich history of Burley High School and its student athletes.

Provide to the Rose Hill neighborhood of Charlottesville an enhanced community resource.

Bring together the Albemarle County, Charlottesville City and UVA communities in a project addressing historic and enduring issues of racial injustice and equity.





VIA Heritage Association, Inc.

www.viaheritage.com

Membership Application

January 1 – December 31

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Acceptable forms of payment: Check, Money Order, Cashier's Check or Cash

Payable to: The VIA Heritage Association, Inc.

Questions – Please contact: THELMA JEFFERSON -- 804-862-1192 or thelma2033@comcast.net

Return completed application and appropriate payment to: Thelma Jefferson, Membership Chair

VIA Heritage Association, Inc.

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