

*Presidents of the Association of Negro Teachers*



(Photo: Currie Ballard Collection—Oklahoma Historical Society)

*Oklahoma African American Educators  
Hall of Fame, Inc.*



*The Fifth Annual Hall of Fame  
Ceremony and Banquet*

*Oklahoma History Center  
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*

*Friday*

*October 2 2015*

*7:00 p.m.*



*Oklahoma  
African American Educators  
Hall of Fame, Inc.*



**Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.**

*“Thoughts from the President”*

For the fifth year, we are celebrating the contributions of another group of esteemed inductees into the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. This class has approximately 393 years of combined service to their profession and has embodied high standards for leaving a legacy second to none.

Education has and always will be the ingredient which provides opportunities for the masses, while stimulating the individuals to press onward fulfilling their potential. The inductees this year have served in various capacities within the realm of Oklahoma education and their influence is evident by the successes attained by their fruit.

We are very excited to report this year the completion of our Hall of Fame museum located in the Town of Clearview. Many who embraced the vision of “Recognition” to a dedicated cadre of teachers and role models funded this facility through their private donations. Make this facility a part of your historical sites itinerary.

The educational system in Oklahoma has and continues to flourish because of the character of those recognized tonight. The sacrifices of our inductees made it possible for the new generation of educators to enjoy the conveniences, accommodations and compensations they receive today. Please take time to acknowledge these inductees by saying, “Thank you.”

May we all hold firm to the belief in all people and embrace the vision of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. which remains: “Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.” Proverbs 3: 27.

This evening would not be possible without the dedicated OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc. Board of Directors and Committee Members. Please recognize their efforts throughout this event. I sincerely hope you enjoy the occasion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Donnie L. Nero Sr.', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.  
President: Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.



# Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.

## 2011 Inaugural Induction



*Mr. Curtis Brackeen*  
Muskogee, Oklahoma

*Mrs. Willie Mae Etheridge*  
Checotah/Warrior, Oklahoma

*Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr.*  
Atoka, Oklahoma

*Rev. Willie B. Parker*  
Spencer, Oklahoma

*Mr. William Robert Patterson*  
Lawton, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Dr. Meshack M. Sagini*  
Langston, Oklahoma

*Mr. Eddie Walter Warrior*  
Muskogee, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Mrs. Jimmie Beatrice White Williams*  
Idabel, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Dr. La Verne Ford Wimberly*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Mr. Tom Anthony Withers Jr.*  
Clearview, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

## 2012 Second Annual Induction

*Mr. Harold C. Aldridge Sr.*  
Taft, Oklahoma

*Dr. Chalon E. Anderson*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Dr. Loretta Brown Collier*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Mrs. Gladys Marie Foshee*  
Sapulpa, Oklahoma

*Mr. Sylvester "Prof" Franklin*  
Haskell, Oklahoma

*Mr. Willie Frank Hurte*  
Oklahoma City, OK

*Dr. Mendell L. Simmons*  
Norman, OK (Posthumously)

*Mr. Albert Johnson Sr.*  
Lawton, Oklahoma

*Mr. Herbert Clarence King*  
Lawton, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Dr. Frederick D. Moon*  
Oklahoma City, OK (Posthumously)

## 2013 Third Annual Induction

*Mrs. Eva Gallimore Boyd*  
Chickasha, OK (Posthumously)

*Mrs. Lou Eddie Goodlow Burris*  
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

*Dr. Ada Sipuel Fisher*  
Oklahoma City, OK (Posthumously)

*Mr. Charles L. Henry*  
Lawton, OK (Posthumously)

*Mrs. Lettie Ruth Hunter*  
Oklahoma City, OK (Posthumously)

*Dr. Freeta Jones-Porter*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Dr. Betty G. Mason*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Dr. Willard G. Parker*  
Muskogee, OK (Posthumously)

*Ms. Thelma Reece Parks*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Dr. Wanda J. Pollard-Johnson*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

## 2014 Fourth Annual Induction

*Dr. Charles E. Butler*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Mrs. Valerie Inez Carolina*  
Wewoka Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Mrs. Lola Parker Dean*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Mrs. Juanita Lewis-Hopkins*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Mr. Millard L. House*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Mr. Jesse "J.D." Johnson*  
Altus, Oklahoma

*Ms. Mary "The Fox" Johnson*  
Ardmore, Oklahoma

*Mr. Charles B. McCauley*  
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

*Mrs. Violet A. Patterson*  
Tulsa, Oklahoma

*Dr. Willa Allegra Strong*  
McAlester, Oklahoma (Posthumously)



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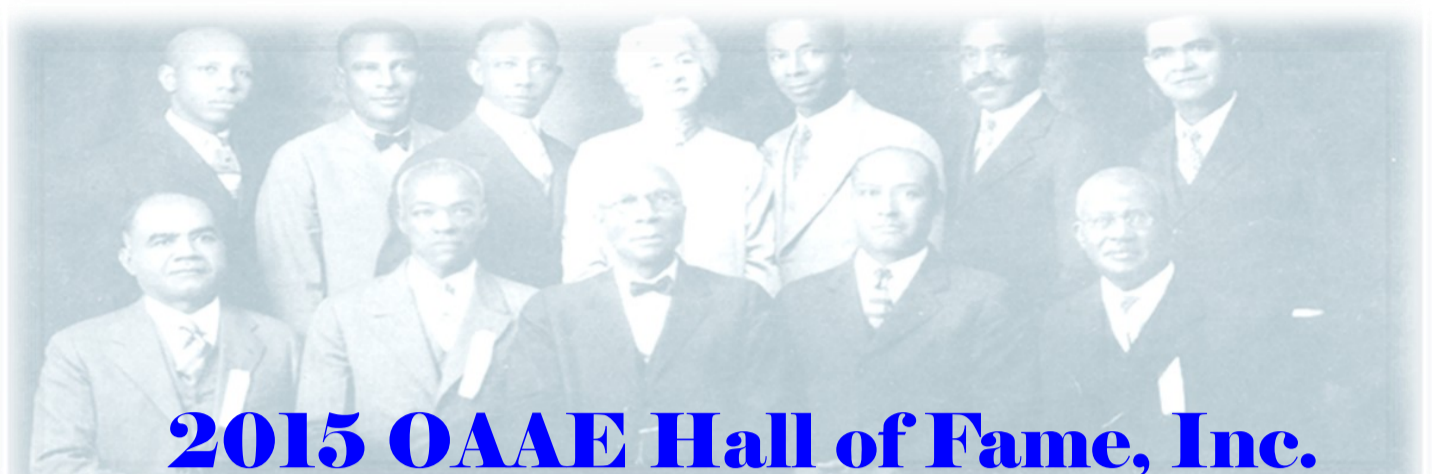
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## 2015 OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.

### Program

Welcome	Dr. Deena Fisher Woodward, Oklahoma Development Committee Chair Board of Directors
Invocation	Mr. Jimmie White Warner, OK Treasurer Board of Directors
Dinner	
Opening Remarks/ Introductions	Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr. Clearview, Oklahoma President - OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.
Citations	Senator Kevin Matthews Senate District 11 Tulsa, Oklahoma
2015 Induction Ceremony	Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.

### *2015 Inductees*

*Mrs. Nancy Ola Randolph Davis  
Spencer, Oklahoma (Posthumously)*

*Mrs. Clara Mae Shepard Luper  
Hoffman, Oklahoma (Posthumously)*

*Mr. Manyles B. Gaines, Jr.  
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

*Dr. Gloria Joan Pollard  
Spencer, Oklahoma*

*Dr. Ernest L. Holloway, Sr.  
Boley, Oklahoma (Posthumously)*

*Dr. Jimmy V. Scales, Sr.  
Idabel, Oklahoma*

*Mrs. Marilyn Ballard Jackson  
Clearview, Oklahoma*

*Dr. Virginia L. Schoats  
Muskogee, Oklahoma*

*Mr. James Roy (J.R.) Johnson  
Muskogee, Oklahoma (Posthumously)*

*Dr. Valree Fletcher Wynn  
Lawton, Oklahoma*

Closing Remarks

Mr. Larry O'Dell  
Director of Special Projects/Development  
Oklahoma Historical Society

## Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductees



### **Mrs. Nancy Ola Randolph Davis (Posthumously)** **"Virtuous Educator"**

Nancy Ola Randolph was born on April 14, 1926 in Sapulpa, OK to Earnestine and Ed Randolph. Being the great granddaughter of slaves, her parents emphasized the importance of education. They instilled in her, strong moral and Christian values and an intense work ethic.

She began her schooling in Sapulpa and was a 1944 Sapulpa Booker T. Washington High School graduate. In 1948, she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics from Langston University. Though federal and state laws prohibited African American students' entrance into white institutions of learning, she persisted and enrolled at Oklahoma A & M College (OSU) in 1949, making her the university's first African American student. In 1952, she earned her Master of Arts degree and later completed her post-graduate studies at Oklahoma State University and the University of Oklahoma.

In 1953, Miss Randolph married fellow educator Fred C. Davis (deceased). She began her teaching career in 1948 teaching secondary home economics at Dunjee High School in Spencer, OK. After integration, she taught at Star Spencer High School. She retired in 1991, having accumulated 43 years in education.

Mrs. Davis incorporated her philosophy of education into her teaching style on a daily basis. She strongly believed that, "once a task you've first begun, never give up until it's done. Be the labor great or small, do it well, or not at all." She encouraged and almost demanded that her students excel at all tasks from the most menial to the most difficult. She never wanted her students to settle for less than the best.

She was very engaged and involved in her community. She co-advised the Oklahoma City NAACP Youth Council along with fellow inductee Clara Luper. She was co-founder of the Amigas Club. She was a member of the OKC Urban League, and various other clubs, organizations, and alumni and teacher associations. She was a life member and Golden Soror in her beloved Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In addition, she volunteered as a reading mentor and taught nutrition classes to children at Factory Garden Apartments.

In 1991, Governor David Walters appointed Mrs. Davis to be the first lay member of the Oklahoma Nursing Board. In 1999, she was awarded the OSU Alumni Association's Distinguished Alumnus Award and in 2001, three perpetual scholarships were established in her name and a residential facility was named in her honor, "Davis Hall." One day each year is designated as "Nancy Randolph Davis Day" on all OSU campuses. On October 16, 2009, OSU's College of Human Environmental Sciences conferred its first "Enhancing Human Lives" award to Mrs. Davis. Most recently, she was inducted into the OSU Greek Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Davis was also the recipient of the Oklahoma Human Rights Commission's Lifetime Achievement Award and has been enshrined on the Black History Monument at the Freedom Center in Oklahoma City.

*Nancy Ola Randolph Davis* died on March 23, 2015. Her son, Calvin, an attorney in Lubbock, TX; and daughter, Nancy L., an attorney and teacher in Oklahoma City continue to carry on their mother's legacy.



### **Mr. Manyles B. Gaines, Jr.** **"Collaborative Leader"**

Mr. Gaines was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma on December 31, 1938 to Manyles D. and Almeya Gaines. He attended Dunbar Elementary School and Carver Junior High School. He graduated in 1956 from Tulsa Booker T. Washington High School. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Langston University. In 1969, he attained his Master of Arts degree in education from Northeastern University at Tahlequah, OK. He also served our nation as a Specialist Fourth Class in the United States Army, 1962-64.

Mr. Gaines began his career in elementary education as a traveling music teacher for the schools of Dunbar, Bunche, Burroughs, Houston, Alcott, Douglass, and Lindsey. From 1965-1970, he transitioned among the schools, teaching the art of music to elementary age learners. In 1970, he was promoted to the position of Assistant Principal at Hawthorne Elementary and William Penn Elementary Schools. In 1972, he was assigned to be the principal at Robert Frost Elementary School in Tulsa. He also served as Director of Head Start Services for Tulsa Public Schools in 1975.

In 1979, he was selected to be principal at Tulsa Roosevelt Elementary "Magnet" School. He remained in that capacity until he was chosen as the School/Community Relations Specialist for the Northside Task Force of Tulsa Public Schools. In 1985, he became Principal at Monroe Middle School in Tulsa. In 1986, he again returned to Roosevelt Elementary "Magnet" School as principal and remained there until he retired in 1994, having devoted 29 years to education.

His professional affiliations include: TCTA, OEA, NEA, Tulsa Association of Elementary School Principals, Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals, National Alliance of Black School Educators, Tulsa Area Alliance of Black Educators, and Oklahoma Area Alliance of Black Educators.

Mr. Gaines is involved in civic organizations and fraternities in his community. He serves as President of the BTW High School Class of 1956, Inc. and President of the Alpha Tau Lambda chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Hutcherson Branch Family YMCA, Langston University Alumni Association, and Last of the Good Guys Club. He is head deacon at Morning Star Baptist Church in Tulsa.

Mr. Gaines has been recognized for his tireless efforts in education and his community. In 1975, he was selected to Who's Who in Black America. His alma mater, Langston University honored him with its Outstanding Alumnus Award in 1985. In 1992, Langston again honored him with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

He is married to Geraldine White Gaines and they reside in Tulsa. They have one daughter, Michelle Gaines Cullom; a granddaughter, Melissa Gaines Smith; two grandsons, Michael and Mason; and two great-grandchildren, Malachi and Moriyah.

*Manyles B. Gaines Jr.* held steadfast to a simple belief, "All children can learn; they just need to be taught." For 29 years, he taught, and encouraged, and inspired, and motivated children to learn.



***Dr. Ernest L. Holloway, Sr. (Posthumously)***  
***“Legendary Role Model”***

Ernest L. Holloway Sr. was born on September 12, 1930 in Boley, OK to Jerry and Addie Holloway. He graduated from Boley High School in 1948 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Vocational Agriculture Education in 1952 from Langston University. In 1955, he earned his Masters degree in Science Education from Oklahoma State University. He completed his Doctorate in Higher Education Administration at the University of Oklahoma in 1970 and would later complete additional studies at Ohio State University, Kansas State Teachers College and the University of California at Berkeley.

In 1952, he began teaching at Boley High and later served as the high school Principal. In 1963, he accepted the job of Assistant Professor of Biology at Langston University. His "love affair" with LU never wavered from that point forward. He went on to serve in various capacities at LU: Assistant Registrar, Registrar, Dean of Student Affairs, Professor of Education, Vice-President of Administration, and Interim President.

In 1979, Dr. Holloway was elected the 14th President of Langston University; a position he would retain for 25 years until he retired in 2006. Under his leadership, he secured \$98 million in grants and fundraising which he used to transform the campus by building new classrooms, remodeling and constructing dormitories, modernizing athletic facilities, and enhancing the aesthetics of the LU campus. During his tenure, LU was approved for 16 additional academic programs including the nationally recognized nursing and physical therapy programs. In 2002, under Dr. Holloway's presidency, LU awarded its first Doctor of Physical Therapy degree; the state's first DPT degree.

Dr. Holloway garnered many awards and honors during his illustrious career. Some included inductions into the 1987 Afro-American Hall of Fame; 1990 Distinguished Service Award from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc; 1992 Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame; and 1999 Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame. In 2002, President Bush appointed Dr. Holloway to the Board of Advisors on Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

His involvement and membership on philanthropic, business, and professional organizations were a testament to his commitment of service to all mankind. Dr. Holloway was a life member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Dr. Holloway lobbied the state to improve Highway 33 East and in November 2004, the four lane highway opened was dedicated in his honor the “*Dr. Ernest L. Holloway Highway.*”

In 1957, he married his life-long love, Lula Mae (Peggy) Reed. Their union lasted 29 years and produced three sons: Ernest, Jr., Reginald, and Norman. Peggy died in May, 1976. Dr. Holloway served as Lector and Lay Minister at Holy Family Episcopal Church in Boley.

*Dr. Ernest L. Holloway, Sr.* demonstrated phenomenal leadership during his tenure as President of Langston University. He loved his "Dear Langston" and that was made visible by the many days that one would find him "strolling" the campus; visiting with and encouraging his "chillen". He will always be remembered for his outspoken and fiery spirit that enabled him to accomplish what some viewed as impossible.



***Mrs. Marilyn Ballard Jackson***  
***“Instiller of Learning”***

Marilyn Bernice Ballard was born on July 20, 1951 in Clearview, OK to Roy and Mary Ann Ballard. She attended Clearview Grade School through eighth grade and graduated from the neighboring Weleetka High School in 1969. She attended East Central State College and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary education 1973.

In 1973, Okmulgee Public Schools hired Jackson to teach first, second, and third grade, respectively. She continued in that capacity for seven years. In 1980, she relocated to Sapulpa, Oklahoma to teach sixth grade reading. In 1981, she returned to Okmulgee; where she would find her niche in Kindergarten at Banneker Kindergarten. She taught there for 26 years until she retired in 2007.

Mrs. Jackson was the recipient of many awards and accolades during her career in education. She was most honored to receive the National Reader's Digest American heroes in Education Award in 1995. The award was in recognition of her exemplary work in creating and writing the Multicultural Curriculum for Banneker kindergarten and Early Childhood Development Center. She was the first African American and first Oklahoman to receive the award. She was featured in the magazine, awarded a \$15,000 prize, and accepted into Northeastern State University's Bilingual/Multicultural Education Grant Summer Program. She had the opportunity to travel to Texas, Georgia, and North Carolina to study different cultures. She also was privileged to spend four days on a Cherokee Indian Reservation. She was also selected as Banneker Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1988, 1994, 2000, and 2001. In 1994, Jackson was selected for KOTV's Channel 6 Class Act Award.

She was very involved in her profession and community. She was a member of Okmulgee Classroom Teachers Association where she was elected to served in the leadership positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary during her tenure. She served on the Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Education Association, and was a delegate to the National Education Association Representative Assembly. In addition, she served on various committees in her school district.

Mrs. Jackson was the driving force behind many student events which took place at Banneker; some of which are still in effect, such as "Banneker Veterans Day Celebration" and "Benjamin Banneker Day." In 1995, for her accomplishments, the Mayor of Okmulgee proclaimed May 21 as "Marilyn Jackson Day."

Mrs. Jackson resides in Clearview with her husband, Teddy Jackson. They are the parents of Teddy John, Amber, and Gresha. She is grandmother to seven grandchildren. She serves as the Mayor of Clearview, Oklahoma and is a member of the Church of Christ.

*Marilyn Ballard Jackson* was known for going the extra mile to ensure that her students had a positive and fun-filled learning environment. She attended workshops to learn new strategies to incorporate into her teaching style to better meet her students' needs. Because she knew that Kindergarten was a pivotal year for young learners; she strived to make it a foundation for success. Upon retirement, she had amassed 33 years in educating generations.





***Mr. James R. (J.R.) Johnson (Posthumously)***  
***“Influential Mentor”***

James R. Johnson was born in Idabel, Oklahoma on January 19, 1923. When his entire family relocated to California, he was the only one to remain in Oklahoma. He lived with the Cecil G. Holt family and attended school in Wewoka, OK.. He graduated from Wewoka Douglass High School in 1944. After graduation, he enrolled at Langston University and graduated in 1949 with a B.S. in Vocational Agriculture. He was the only one of his 12 siblings to earn a college degree.

He began his teaching career at Booker T. Washington in Haskell, OK in 1950. As sponsor for the Negro Farmers of American organization, he was a fierce competitor.

He prepared his boys to be exceptional public speakers. In 1959, one of his students was selected as a prize winner at the national meeting, marking the first time that such an honor had been bestowed on an African American speaker. He and his students were prominently highlighted in the 2011 "History of the Oklahoma FFA" publication..

In 1963, he earned his Masters of Education in Counseling from OSU. He moved to Muskogee to become a teacher and Assistant Principal at West Junior High School. He later transferred to Muskogee High School where he worked in that same capacity. In 1985, he retired having accumulated 35 years in education.

Mr. Johnson was one of five retired African American vocational agriculture teachers to start the Retired Educators of Agricultural Programs (REAP) in Oklahoma. The organization's goal was to help Langston University recruit students and help to foster development of Agricultural and Land Conservation.

He was very active in his community and a proud Langston University Alumni member where he served as Alumni Association President during the 1960's. In addition to coaching high school basketball and football games in the 1950's and 1960's in the northeastern region of the state, he officiated the games. He was the first African American elected to the Haskell City Council and the first African American elected to office in the Oklahoma Democratic Party during President Jimmy Carter's term. Later, he was elected to serve on the Muskogee City Council in the 1980's.

Mr. Johnson was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and attended one of the first national conventions and is featured in the first Alpha Phi Alpha History book.

He and Mary Kathryn Delce were wed and to their union, three children were born: Velma Jeanne, James, and Grace, all of whom followed their father's lead and earned college degrees. He had three grandchildren, Pamela, Melissa, Jeremy, and Jason. He passed away on June 6, 2010. He served as deacon at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Muskogee.

James Roy (J.R.) Johnson was a man of character; a mentor, motivator, teacher - held in high esteem by his former students and colleagues. His efforts to prepare his students for life beyond high school were validated in the success of his students. He was always more proud of their accomplishments than of his own



***Mrs. Clara Mae Shepard Luper (Posthumously)***  
***“Instiller of Pride”***

Clara Mae Shepard Luper was born to Ezell and Isabel Shephard in the small, rural community of Hoffman... She graduated from Grayson High School in 1940. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in History in 1944 from Langston University. Later, she continued her education at the University of Oklahoma where she became the first African-American to enroll in the history studies program and earned her Master of Arts Degree in 1951.

Her teaching career began at Dunjee High School in Spencer where she taught history and public relations. Mrs. Luper went on to teach at multiple schools during her career: Lincoln High School in Pawnee; Douglass High School, Northwest Classen, and finally, John Marshall High School, all in Oklahoma City. After 40 years in the classroom, she retired in 1991.

Mrs. Luper possessed a plethora of talents. She wrote, directed, and produced several plays. Perhaps the most famous of which was, *Brother President; The Story of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* The play ignited her desire to become more involved in the civil rights movement. On August 19, 1958, she led a group of 14 youth and three adult chaperones in a non-violent sit-in at Katz Drug Store. The sit-ins eventually resulted in the desegregation of all Katz Drug Stores across the country; as well as, in other establishments in downtown Oklahoma City.

A celebrated author, she chronicled her struggles and victories in her memoir, *Behold the Walls*. She also published *Black Voices Magazine*; later called *America's Voices*; and hosted weekly radio broadcasts on KFJL, KTLV, and KAEZ.

Mrs. Luper continued to be a staunch advocate for human rights. She was a leader in the fight to integrate Oklahoma City Public Schools, led the movement to desegregate Doe Doe Amusement Park in Lawton, and was the catalyst in organizing the Oklahoma City Sanitation Workers strike in 1969. She participated in multiple Freedom Rider events throughout the South where she was arrested 26 times.

Her work with the NAACP has been well-documented in the annals of history. She served for 50 years as advisor to Oklahoma City's prize winning NAACP Youth Council and viewed this as a means to cultivate, mentor, and enrich the lives of youth in the community.

Because of her extensive and invaluable contributions to the civil rights movement; she has earned more than 750 awards, citations, commendations, and honors. She has been inducted into the Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, and Oklahoma Afro-American Hall of Fame. She was awarded the Presidential Citation by the National Association for Higher Education. Oklahoma City University also bestowed on her an Honorary Doctoral Degree. Mrs. Luper was a lifetime member of her beloved Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.

Mrs. Luper was married to Ben Luper. Later, she married Charles P. Wilson and their union lasted 30 plus years. She was a devoted member of Fifth Street Missionary Baptist Church for more than 60 years. She passed away on June 8, 2011. Continuing her legacy are her son, Calvin Luper and daughters, Marilyn Luper Hildreth and Chelle Luper Wilson; as well as her grandchildren.

While Clara Shephard Luper was a GIANT in civil rights in Oklahoma; education was her career. "... She did not just teach us history in her classroom, she taught us English, math, typing, debate, drama, and life skills...."



**Dr. Gloria Joan Pollard**  
*“Passionate Mentor”*

Dr. Gloria Joan Pollard was born on June 02, 1943 to Esther and Goldie Johnson in Spencer, Oklahoma. She was one of ten children raised in the Green Pastures region. She graduated salutatorian from Dunjee High in 1961. She earned her B.A. in English with a minor in French in 1966 and her M.A. in Education in 1972 from the University of Central Oklahoma. In 1993, she earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration from the University of Oklahoma.

In 1966, Dr. Pollard accepted a position teaching English at Dunjee High School. In 1968, she was hired to teach English and French at Star Spencer High School. In 1968, the University of Oklahoma employed her as English Tutor for the Writing Center, Project Threshold and the Minority Engineering Program. In 1992, she became the director of the Writing Center. In 1994, she accepted a position as Director of Communications and Educational Programs and Assistant Director of ASCEND at San Francisco State University Foundation in California. In 1996, she returned to Oklahoma to teach Advance Placement English and French in the Millwood Independent School District. She also coordinated the school to work program. In 2000, she worked for the Oklahoma Department of Career and Technology Education as a Career Development Specialist. After a stellar 48 year career in education, she retired in 2008.

Dr. Pollard has been recognized for her assistance in establishing Millwood Arts Academy in Oklahoma City. In May, 2005, the Oklahoma Association of Minorities in Career and Technology Education presented her with a Golden Torch Award. She received the Outstanding African American Female Educator from the national education sorority, Phi Delta Kappa. In 1994, Phi Beta Sigma awarded her the Charles Brown teaching award. She was a nominee for the Baldwin Teaching Award from the University of Oklahoma in Norman in 1990, 1991, and 1992.

Her affiliations include: OEA, NEA, Compute and Business Advisory Board for Francis Tuttle Vocational Technical School, Oklahoma Association of Career and Technology Education, Oklahoma Department of Career and Tech Education Advisory Committee, Millwood Education Foundation in Oklahoma City, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Pollard has conducted numerous professional development training and workshops. A few include: “Expressing Yourself,” “Eight Habits of the Heart,” Leadership Career Tech, Administrator Leadership Seminar; and Critical Issues in Critical Times, Character First Management Training in Oklahoma City.

She has served as a contributor and editor of several publications. In 1982, she contributed to the Oklahoma Writing Project’s, *Logrhythms*. Dr. Pollard was editor of *The Career Connection...from Learning to Earning - Career Publication for Students with Teachers Guide* for the Oklahoma Department of Career Tech in 2002.

Her most renown work, “Unknown Trailblazer: Nancy O. Randolph Davis,” is published in *Chronicles of Oklahoma* (Winter 2012-2013).

She was married to late Arthur Pollard. They are the parents of Anthony, Michael, Mark and Goldie.

*Dr. Gloria J. Pollard* was known as a “fair teacher.” One of her former students said, “She was the only teacher who would give you an F, and you still smiled because you knew you deserved it.” She was well-respected by her peers and students alike and continues to be a highly regarded and sought-after speaker.



**Dr. Jimmy V. Scales, Sr.**  
*“Legendary Role Model”*

Dr. Jimmy V. Scales, Sr. was born in Idabel, OK on September 15, 1943 to Walter Scales and Lodiska Spagner. He lived with his father and stepmother, Clara. In addition, his grandmother Mary and his stepfather Bud were very strong influences in his life. His father stressed the importance of getting a good education and earning a college degree. In 1961, Dr. Scale graduated from Idabel Booker T. Washington High School and attended one year of college at Wiley in Tyler, Texas. In 1963, he matriculated to East Central University in Ada, Ok; where he became one of the first two African American football players to suit up for the legendary Coach Elvan George..

In 1966, he earned a B. S. degree in History and a Master of Education in 1969. He began teaching history at Okmulgee Dunbar and Okmulgee High School prior to the merging of the two schools in 1969. In 1971, Dr. Scales accepted a positions in Oklahoma City area: Northeast High School, and assistant principal and principal at John Marshall High and Millwood High School. In 1984, the U.S. Department of Education recognized Millwood as an exemplary school because of its improved 98% graduation and 85% college bound student rate. As a result, in 1984, Governor George Nigh appointed Dr. Scales to the Oklahoma State School Board of Education. He was the first African American to serve on this state's highest policy-making board.

In 1985, Tulsa Public Schools hired him as principal at McLain High. He was promoted to Area Superintendent in 1990. Scales implemented policy changes to help improve the learning climate for students; such as the “Scot Dollars” and minimum GPA system for extra-curricular activities. These improvements garnered national attention and his selection as a Danforth Fellow with the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

In 1992, he earned his Ph.D. from the University of Tulsa. From 1994 to 2011, Dr. Scales served school districts in the capacity of Superintendents in Texas and Tennessee. In 2011, he retired serving 45 years in education.

His professional memberships and affiliations are innumerable. He was actively engaged in each and every community in which he resided. In 1990, District 6 selected him as Oklahoma Administrator of the Year. In 1996, Idabel Booker T. Washington Alumni Association in Idabel awarded a Distinguished Alumni plaque to Dr. Scales. His alma mater, East Central University inducted him into the ECU Educators Hall of Fame in 2010. The Idabel Athletics Hall of Fame inducted Dr. Scales in 2013.

He is married to the former Cynthia Gray and resides in Desoto, Texas. They have one son, Jimmy, Jr. and two daughters, Rosalyn Aplin and Jacquelyn Burden.

*Dr. Jimmy V. Scales Sr.* was a man on a mission in education. He applied the same work ethics that he learned as a child to his career as a coach, educator, and administrator. He pushed his students to excel in every endeavor; and demanded their best. As far as he was concerned, “failure was not an option.”



***Dr. Virginia L. Schoats***  
***“Instructor of ‘Life Lessons’”***

Dr. Virginia L. Schoats was born on June 25, 1931 in Bonham, Texas to Hugh and Lorena Flanigan. After graduating from Attucks High School in Ponca City, OK in 1949, she enrolled at Langston University where she majored in English and minored in French. In 1955, Dr. Schoats earned a B.A. in English. In 1965, she received a Masters of Education in Counseling and Guidance from Northeastern State University. She obtained her Doctorate of Education in Educational Psychology and Counseling in 1978.

Dr. Schoats began her teaching career in 1952 in Paris, Arkansas where she taught second grade for one year. In 1955, she returned home and accepted a position as English Teacher at the segregated Attucks High School in Ponca City, Ok. Attucks was closed the following year due to integration. After brief teaching stints in Taft and Haskell, OK, she accepted a position at Douglass Elementary School in Muskogee. In 1968, she was hired to teach English and French at West Junior High, later counselor in 1969. In 1970, she followed her husband, Dr. Albert Schoats, who had accepted a coaching job at Langston University. She became the first counselor in the Psychology Department at Langston University.

In 1982, Dr. Schoats was selected to be Assistant Principal at Alice Robertson Junior High School in Muskogee. She was also the Adult Basic Education Instructor. In 1983, she worked as an English Teacher at the Oklahoma School of Religion in Tulsa. In 1987, Dr. Schoats was chosen to be assistant principal at both West Junior High and Muskogee High School. In 1987, she became the Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs at Langston University's Tulsa Campus. After 49 years in public and higher education, Dr. Schoats retired in 2006.

Dr. Schoats made it a point to be actively involved in civic clubs and professional organizations on a local, state, and national level. She was a member of the NAACP, Links, Inc., Muskogee Chapter of Langston University Alumni Association, National Langston University Alumni Association member, Higher Education Council for Education, Muskogee Retired Teachers Association, Phi Delta Kappa Sorority for Education, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

She served as Chairman of the Muskogee Counseling and Guidance for Secondary Schools and the National President for the Langston University Alumni Association, 1983-85. Governor David Walters appointed her to be Chairman of the State's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission in 1992. Dr. Schoats served as Chairman of the Muskogee Minority Relations Committee in 1984-1997 and in 1998, she was voted "Woman of the Year."

She was married to Dr. Albert Schoats (deceased) for 55 years. They had four daughters: Jackie, Jennifer, Jerri Lynn, and Janice (deceased). They also have thirteen grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She is a member of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church.

*Dr. Virginia L. Schoats* believed it vitally important to convey to her students the importance of understanding words and their meaning; yet she taught them much more in her classroom. She taught "life lessons" that students could and did use far beyond the confines of the classroom walls.



***Dr. Valree Fletcher Wynn***  
***“Source of Excellence”***

Dr. Valree Fletcher Wynn was born in Rockwall, Texas. She grew up in the small town of Sentinel, OK where she attended the first school for African American students where her father petitioned in order that African American children could earn an education. She went on to graduate from Douglass High School in Lawton, Oklahoma. Upon graduation in 1939, she continued her education at Langston University where she majored in English. In 1943, Wynn earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. Determined to further her studies, she enrolled at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater where in 1951 she would become the

first African American to earn a Master of Arts degree in English. She did not stop there. In 1976, she earned a Doctorate in Philosophy degree from OSU.

Dr. Wynn began her teaching career at Douglass High School in Lawton in 1944. She continued to teach English there for 21 years until she was employed to teach English at Lawton High School in 1965. In 1985, she transitioned to higher education when she accepted a position with Cameron University; thus, becoming the first African American educator. She attained the rank of full Professor while at Cameron. Dr. Wynn founded the "Miss Black Cameron University" pageant and served as its director for nine years. In 1985, the pageant was renamed in her honor. She retired from education in 1985, having devoted 33 years to being an educator. She later became the first African American to give the commencement address at Cameron University.

Her accomplishments are considerable. Governor George Nigh appointed her to the Board of Regents of Oklahoma Colleges in 1986. In 1988, she was elected as president and served a one-year term. In 1990, Governor Henry Bellmon appointed Dr. Wynn to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Commission. She also served on David Boren's Foundation for Excellence, Lawton Public Schools Foundation, and Hospice of Lawton Board.

Some of her honors include: Professor of the Year, Lawton Chamber of Commerce and Industry, 1985; Distinguished Professor, Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, 1985; Distinguished Faculty, Cameron University, 1986; and Distinguished Service Award from Cameron University in 1993.

She is a member of the Phi Delta Kappa National Honor Society for Educators, American Association of University Women, Lawton's Women Forum, American Cancer Society, American Red Cross, Board of Trustees at Barnett Chapel A.M.E. Church in Lawton, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Dr. Wynn has always demonstrated a passion for mentoring youth; a passion that led to her assisting in establishing the Lawton YMCA Black Achievers Program. This program was a national mentoring and partnering effort among YMCA, Fort Sill, and the Lawton corporate community to promote and sustain positive role models and provide meaningful experiences to at-risk minority students.

Dr. Wynn has two sons; Dr. Phail Wynn, Jr. of Durham, North Carolina and Michael David Wynn of Los Angeles, California and daughter Patricia Wynn (deceased).

*Dr. Valree Fletcher Wynn* has amassed an accomplished list of firsts in education. So much so, that her students considered her to be a pioneer or an innovator in education. She remains committed to mentoring youth.

# OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.





*Honoring The Past - Celebrating The Present - Looking To The Future*



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## ***OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO TEACHERS***

In Oklahoma Territory, the first separate schools (schools specifically designated for African Americans only) opened in Oklahoma City and Guthrie in 1891 and in Kingfisher in 1892. Annual training institutes, conducted in Oklahoma City for Oklahoma County teachers and aspiring candidates who were preparing for teaching examinations, were at first racially mixed. Among the black group were professionals with powerful intellect, broad social commitment, and common interests, including their small, primitive, isolated schools, an avid interest in reading, and an intense racial pride.

The institutes led to the organization of the Ida M. Wells Teachers' Association in 1893. It included black teachers in fourteen counties and twenty-six communities of Oklahoma Territory. By 1900, these teachers had enrolled a total of 3,929 children in the territory's separate schools. The association struggled to secure improved in school facilities and to promote professional advancement for black teachers. Jefferson Davis Randolph served as the first president. The group later expanded into the Territorial Association of Negro Teachers. By 1907 statehood, Indian Territory had a similar association, and the two provided a nucleus for the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers (OANT).

In December 1907, one month after statehood, sixty-seven black teachers of the former Twin Territories met at Colored Agricultural and Normal University in Langston to reorganize their associations into the statewide Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers. Inman E. Page, then in his ninth year as university president, hosted the meeting. According to Evelyn Strong, OANT historian, both environmental and professional challenges contributed to the nature of the group's early leadership and to the development of its mission. Presidents between 1907 and 1924, with one exception, were school principals. J. H. Brazelton served as OANT's first president, elected in 1907. In 1908, Inman E. Page succeeded him.

In the early period leaders focused on expanding membership, developing leadership, acquiring knowledge of the state school system and of the educational environment in black communities, and improving professional competence through in-service training. Toward the end of its life, the organization primarily pursued legislation to relieve problems of separate school finance. This evolved because most black educators were acutely aware of the unfair, inequitable funding for separate schools. Children endured poor quality instruction, dilapidated buildings, and inadequate books and supplies. Smaller black communities had little or no representation in the decision-making at local or state levels.

By the 1920s, many of Oklahoma's 1,170 black teachers expressed a need for opportunities in leadership and self-expression, although older leaders desired to retain professional power. The membership compromised on a new constitution in 1924. Under it, the association improved its organizational and administrative procedures. It initiated new media of communication, new district and departmental divisions, a broader statewide educational program for black teachers, students, and communities, new leadership destined to impact OANT's future programs, and renewed interest in legislation to improve facilities. The 1920s shaped the association's educational and legislative activities for the next two decades.

OANT pursued a variety of activities in the 1930s. Cooperative ventures with the Langston University Alumni Association were led by Frederick D. Moon. A 1935 project resulted in legislation that provided tuition to send black teachers and others to out-of-state colleges and universities (blacks then could not attend any college or university in Oklahoma other than Langston, by state law). This measure operated until 1948, when Oklahoma schools began to provide graduate and professional training, and 1954, when public schools were desegregated. Another development was the reestablishment in 1935 of OANT's official organ, *The Journal*, edited by W. E. Anderson of Okmulgee.

The 1940s were OANT's most productive era. During World War II, the association directed an intensive effort toward revising the Oklahoma Constitution and statutes to broaden public education's financial base and provide equitable funding to separate schools. As a consequence, in special referendum elections, Oklahoma voters approved constitutional amendments on July 2, 1946, and July 6, 1948. Between 1946 and 1953, these two measures brought about more than \$18 million in appropriations for separate schools.

On November 5, 1946, the people approved four constitutional amendments for "Better Schools." These resulted from an initiative petition jointly sponsored by the Oklahoma Education Association (OEA) and OANT. One amendment brought additional financial support to separate schools through county levies of the "Moon mill," named by some blacks in honor of Moon, who had marshaled the drives to achieve voters' signatures for the initiative petitions that secured its inclusion as one of the four.

U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 1954 and 1955 augmented the social changes of the 1940s. In response, OANT organized a program to prepare for transition to school desegregation and to protect black teachers' welfare. OEA also geared various activities to those purposes. Most notable were the development of research studies and communications designed to retain black teachers in desegregated school systems. On October 28, 1955, OANT decided to merge with OEA. Even as it disbanded, OANT worked untiringly to retain employment for black teachers after 1955. Nevertheless, as many as four hundred of them, many holding graduate degrees, were replaced by inexperienced white teachers who were recent college graduates.

OANT members had earlier begun to join OEA, and OANT was entirely dissolved by 1958. During its half-century of existence, OANT had commanded unswerving support. Records reflect that in 1955, 1,500 of Oklahoma's 1,622 black educators were members. Historically, the association's primary mission had been to raise the standards of education for black children. OANT achieved that purpose, while making a major contribution to civil rights.

*Author: Dr. Melvin Todd (Oklahoma Historical Society)*

# *Notes & Autographs*

# OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.

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*In 2010, The Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. was constituted and incorporated as a nonprofit organization to recognize and to honor those professional Oklahoma African Americans, who have taught at least five years in the State of Oklahoma, who have exemplified a commitment while demonstrating exceptional abilities in realizing ideals, service or leadership in the teaching and guidance of their students.*

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405 521-2491  
<http://www.okhistory.org>

J.C. & Frankie Watts Foundation  
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