



The **Legendary**

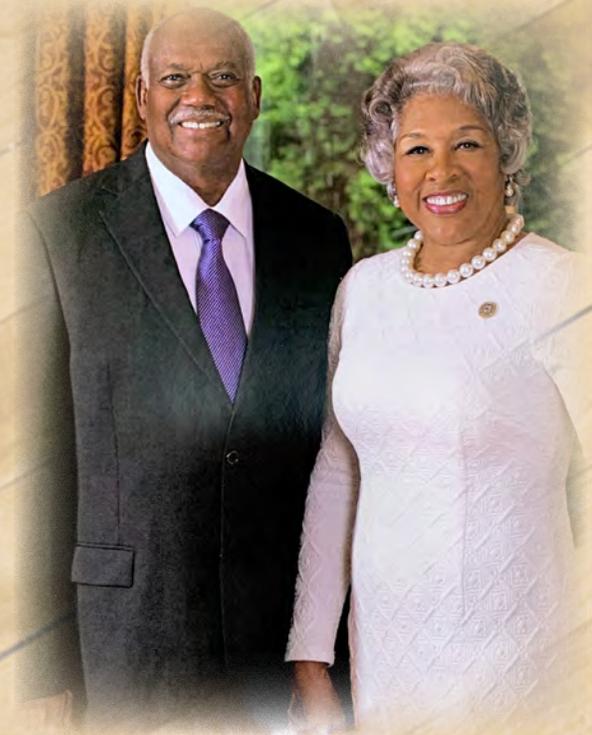
Where Legends Are Remembered!

Items of interest for your informational consumption . . . !

OCT./NOV./DEC. 2021

Our mission has been to acknowledge, promote, archive, and disseminate the illustrious history and impact that basketball as a sport has had on Metro-Columbus and surrounding counties, which has produced some of the most accomplished women and men in the field of sport, business, and social activism.

A REAL DYNAMIC DUO!!!



If you look at business, social activism, or sports, we always acknowledge our trailblazers, and search for those clues that set them apart and forged their success. On occasion we refer to them as Hero's and Heroines, for their outstanding achievements.

The Fictional Superheroes, like Superman, and Wonderwoman have nothing on the Dynamic Duo, of Otto and Joyce Beatty from Columbus, Ohio.

Otto Beatty, Jr., served 18 years as a Ohio State Legislature, and was a key advocate for minority businesses. He fought for the disadvantaged and marginalized people in the State of Ohio, making a difference for many individuals. At the end of his tenure, wife Joyce was elected to the House of Representatives for the State of Ohio, showing her Heroism.

Otto Beatty, Jr., died on May 14, 2021, leaving a legacy that will always be remembered in our State.

President Joe Biden, said it best when he stated that, "the Beatty name is synonymous with service and justice."

The Beatty family has a history of service dating back to the days of Otto's parents and grand-



Spread The Word!

GCBLA invites you to share this Legendary Newsletter with your friends, relatives and colleagues whether they are basketball enthusiasts or not. There is always lots of pertinent information within these pages!

DYNAMIC DUO / continued from page 1

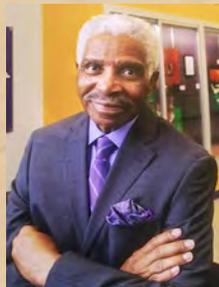
mother, Mayme Moore, who was Vice-President of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Women. Mayme Moore Park located on Mt. Vernon Avenue, was named in her honor.

Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, the wife of Otto Beatty, Jr., is continuing the family legacy, as she breaks barriers while advocating for many people. She is the first female Democratic House Leader in Ohio history, Chair of the powerful Congressional Black Caucus, while serving on

Committee on financial services, and Chairing the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Joyce was recently named by Ebony magazine as one of the 150 most powerful women in the United States.

On behalf of the Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association, it's Executive Board and members, we we are honored to profile our real life hero and Heroine, Otto and Joyce Beatty. Thank you for all you both have done for our community.

CHARLES TENNANT: *Creator and Founder of Africentric Early College School*



Not many educators, authors, and philosophers can say they conceptualized and orchestrated the founding of a school, particularly one that promotes a pedagogical system of education, designed to empower the African diaspora in line with educational modes in contact and in line with the cultural assumptions common to African Traditional rituals, values, and symbols that provide a learning environment that is more congruent with the lifestyles and values of African American communities. Such a person is Charles E. Tennant, a native of Asheville, North Carolina, and graduate of Winston-Salem State University (HBCU), in Winston Salem, North Carolina, where he earned a degree in education with a minor in art. For more than 40 years. Tennant was and Educator for the Columbus City School system, working in various capacities. In 1998 Tennant received national acclaim for working with “at-risk” youth who were potential drop-outs, in an occupational work adjustment program, which placed students in meaningful jobs in banks, insurance companies and other none dead-end jobs. Tennant has been employed as a consultant by The Ohio State University, where he earned a graduate degree, and the Ohio Department of Education. In 1993 Tennant presented a proposal for an Africentric School (K thru 12), to the Columbus Board of Education, which was accepted. Sometime during 2016-2017, a forty two million dollar School was opened to one thousand students (Pre k thru 12 and early college program), on fifty acres of land on the cities Eastside.

GCBLA wants to applauded the “Genius “ and love Charles Tennant has shown in the education of the next generation of “Geniuses”.



EMILY SPECTOR: Early Passion for Reading Begets the Read to Succeed Foundation



The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association salutes Emily Spector for her contributions to youth literacy. One of GCBLA'S mantras is "what will happen once the ball stops bouncing". However, reading is imperative before, after, and beyond sports. At the age of 12 she had a passion for reading and learned that there were children who did not have their own books. Emily knew how book ownership made a significant impact on her love for reading and she wanted to do what she could so that other children could have the same experience.

In 2013, at the age of 12, Emily formed The Read to Succeed Foundation and began to accomplish her goal. Since that time the foundation has collected new and gently used books ranging from infant to high school, organized and labeled them in specific categories and reading levels and made deliveries to schools, food pantries, organizations.

The Read to Succeed Foundation expanded its initiative as Emily began to mentor other youth to assist her. She strongly believes that you are never too young to make a difference. Her mentees are Abby Worly (New Albany High School/10th grader), Eve Zaczepinski (New Albany High School/9th Grade), Emmet Zaczepinski (New Albany High School/9th grade), Juliet Zaczepinski (New Albany High School 6th grader) Arnav Nawani (New Albany High School 9th grader) Mirabella Tempesta (New Albany High School 9th grader) and Mackenzie Duff (Dayton, Ohio 10th grader). All of these outstanding students are presently assisting her in keeping the foundation going while she is currently attending The University of Georgia. "I am incredibly grateful to my new leaders and their families, incredible donors, the New Albany community, and Big Lots, for their contributions. Without their amazing generosity and support, none of this work would be possible. I am also grateful to the Raines Group that cares about programs like The Read to Succeed Foundation through their charity program which The Read to Succeed Foundation is currently a finalist. "Together we make a difference!" said Emily.

When asked about future plans for the foundation, Emily said "My new initiative is to launch four Little Free Libraries in targeted areas serving underprivileged youth. I currently have three locations that will be benefiting from this initiative made possible by a gift from Big Lots and includes The New Albany Food Pantry, NNEMAP food pantry and The Center for Healthy Families. I also am waiting to hear back from a community center where I mentor elementary students in Athens, Georgia".

It is amazing to see what the compassion of a 12 year old has done for many. Emily's dream seven years ago is a reality today. To date Read to Succeed Foundation has delivered 107,500 beautiful children's books to communities around the world and it is expanding. Thank you Emily for your service and The Read to Succeed Foundation volunteers and supporters for your contributions.



Want to nominate a player, coach or team?

GCBLA is accepting nominations for future HOF induction consideration. Download a nomination form from our website: www.greatercbla.org and follow the guidelines and instructions for submission.

Impact and Influence of HBCU's

Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) impact and Influence on sports has been kept “Invisible”, yet this phenomenal story is nothing short of miraculous and parallels the principle attributes that made America Great. HBCU's were forged like metal that is placed in an extremely heated fire to develop its character, the hotter the fire the brighter it becomes. The brightness of HBCU's has illuminated our communities for years.

We intend to present some of that history through a series of articles that briefly provide an overview of past and recent athletes/coaches, particularly basketball from Metro-Columbus and surrounding counties, who attended HBCU's and returned to become contributors in our community in areas such as education, business, politics, and social activist.

Ohio has two HBCU's, Wilberforce University (1856), oldest private Black University in the United States, and Central State University (1887), both located in Wilberforce, Ohio. One of the Greatest Basketball teams ever produced in Ohio, too this day, was the 1964-65 Central State University (Marauders), who went undefeated (30-0), defeating top notch division 1 teams, like University of Dayton and others to win the NAIA crown, making them the only Division 1 team to win a crown with a perfect record, with Indiana University being the last in 1976. There were many admirers of this team, like John Wooden (UCLA) and Fred Taylor (Ohio State University), who is reported to have said, “he wished he had their second team”. Several players from Columbus were on that 1964-65 team, Eddie Waller (East HS) (*Deceased*) and Avery Godfrey (East HS), and Charles Colbert, (HS unknown) (*Deceased*).

The following are a few women and men from Metro Columbus and surrounding counties, whom played basketball/or coached following attendance at an HBCU (*THIS LIST IS NOT EXHAUSTIVE*).

- 1) **Miller Barnes** / Central HS / Central State University / Coach / HS Administrator
- 2) **Edward Simpson** / Central HS / Coach - Mentor
- 3) **John “Pineapple” Lewis** / East HS / Central State University

SELLERS EARNS COACH of the YEAR HONORS from OBA

The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association sends congratulations to Coach Don Sellers, GCBLA Hall of Fame inductee (Class of 2019), Coach of the Ohio Bruins, Columbus, Ohio, professional Basketball team an affiliate of the Official Basketball Association (OBA), with teams located throughout the United States, including but not limited to Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Florida and numerous other states. We at GCBLA are proud of what you have accomplished as an individual and more importantly for our entire community. Again, congratulations, and how about another one just like the other one.





Support local high school basketball!

Make it a point to attend a (or several) boys or girls high school basketball game(s). Support the student-athletes of your community or alma mater. The players today could be the ones you'll be watching on television tomorrow!

MVP of Character UPDATE

What are they up to?

Taylor McMichael



2019 Awardee
Taylor completed her basketball career at Linden McKinley HS as a 1st team All-City League North Division selection for the Lady Panthers. She

was the Class of 2021 salutatorian and is now pursuing a career in dentistry at Wright State University on a academic scholarship.

Jerry Saunders Jr.



2019 Awardee
Jerry has entered his senior year at Pickerington North HS and is expected to lead the Panthers to new heights on the hardwood. Jerry has

visited several colleges and intends to weigh his options at the end of the 2021-22 season before making a final decision on his next-level institution of higher learning.

HBCU's / continued from page 4

- 4) **Leo Morgan** / East HS / Florida A&M University / player (1st All-American)
- 5) **Timothy Hutchinson** / Bishop Hartley HS / West Virginia State / player
- 6) **Tom Brown** / Central State University / Coach/Educator
- 7) **Ike Jefferson** / West HS / Howard University / player
- 8) **George Mills** / West Virginia State / 1st African-American HS Coach in Columbus / Educator
- 9) **Bob Calloway** / EAST HS / Florida A&M University / player
- 10) **Bob Martin** / East HS / Florida A&M University / player
- 11) **Tapre Young** / Dublin HS / Talladega College / player / Coach
- 12) **Reuben Young** / East HS / Florida A&M University / player
- 13) **Stephanie Foster** / Brookhaven HS / Florida A&M University / player
- 14) **Lamar Prentiss** / Linden McKinley HS / Johnson C. Smith University / player
- 15) **Brian McCants** / East HS / North Carolina Central University / player / Coach / Educator
- 16) **Bob Causey** / Central HS / Maryland Eastern Shore University / player / Independent Businessman owner
- 17) **Melvin Fowlkes** / East HS / Maryland Eastern Shore University / player / Educator
- 18) **Hali Robinson** / Alabama A&M University / Coach
- 19) **Houston Smith** / Africentric School / Bethune-Cookman University / player
- 20) **Ulmer Manie** / Africentric School / Bethune-Cookman University / player
- 21) **Eddie Clark** / North HS / Texas Southern University / player / Coach
- 22) **Reggie Lee** / East HS / Central State / Coach / Educator
- 23) **Ted Ratchford** / Winston Salem University / player / Coach / Educator

The aforementioned list hardly reflects the number of women and men who attended HBCU's. There will be forecomming articles on HBCU's and the individuals they developed.



Do you know your basketball heritage?

GCBLA is striving to keep the spotlight on the historic exploits and traditions of Central Ohio basketball in the forefront of the archives to witness the contributions of the sport to the development of the thriving general community.

SMARTnet Program Introduces Youth To New Career Opportunities

GCBLA Hall of Famers, and basketball standouts from the Linden McKinley HS, State Title teams, Skip Young, Don Sellers, and Jim Clemons, made themselves available on alternate occasions to share their vast and varying sports experiences to encourage the next generation.

The SMARTnet program, founded and directed by Ron and Linda Nelson, is designed to acquaint youth with sports management and technology career opportunities. The Sports Management portion is taught by Derrick Walton, Doctoral Student in Sports Management at Ohio State University.



Skip Young presented the group with a scenario involving them as owners who purchase an NBA team, familiarized them with the actual cost to purchase a team, hire coaches, general manager, and players. The overall objective was to get them to think big thoughts and believe in owning their own dreams.



Coach Sellers' discussion focused on the importance of valuing ones life, and how vulnerable and precious our lives are, so staying alive is of utmost importance. The group role-played how to handle confrontations, wherever it might occur, and

walking away to live another day.

He also orchestrated a group visit to the Columbus Crew Soccer Club's new downtown facility, and interaction with players. What a fabulous start for the next generation.



Coach Clemons frequently likes to say, he talks 'with' the youth rather than at them. The former NBA Player/Coach, who has numerous championship rings (11), shared the importance of team work, which makes the dream work. His calm demeanor and the confidence he exudes is of monumental importance towards increasing the confidence in the next generation, many of whom may not receive this from the environments they come from. These opportunities to share with the next generation are the dues we owe to the previous generation of giants whos shoulders we stood on.





Be safe during the COVID-19 pandemic!

GCBLA is urging EVERYONE to remain safe and follow the guidelines set by the CDC, your local, state, and federal health officials to keep yourself safe and those around you. Wear a mask and maintain safe social distancing! Get the vaccine!

Gahanna's Sean Jones To Play At Marquette

Sean Jones is a senior guard at Gahanna Lincoln High School. He committed to Marquette University and will be playing for Shaka Smart.

Sean has scored over 1000 points and is on pace to break the scoring title held by HOF Stevie Taylor at 1347 points. He is ranked 85th in the nation by ESPN. His GPA is a 3.1 He is 2 time All State First Team, 2 time All Metro First Team. POY Ohio division OCC, Sean has played basketball since 2nd grade football until 8th.

He loves to listen to music, play video games, and hang with friends. He is a pg and has been considered the best pg in the state for the last 3 years. Elite 8 last season 20-21. District runner up with two losses 19-20 season. Sean played AAU for All Ohio Red. He is coached by Tony Staib. Son to Sherrie Griffin & Rodney Jones.

Sean played on the Nike EYBL circuit and lead in steals and was 4th in assists. His game is comparable to that of Kyrie Irving with a mix of CP3.

Had there been a GCBLA Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony scheduled for this year, Sean Jones would have certainly received additional MVP of Character recognition.



A Message from the Secretary

Hello everyone,

We trust that everyone including you and your families are safe and healthy during these times of pandemic and overall health uncertainty. With this in mind and understanding that we all have responsibilities within our own lives, this is just a notification that there are active, non-active members, friends and associates who are experiencing sickness conditions that the rest of us are unaware of. We ask your assistance in notifying the organization's secretary, via email, with name, contact information so we can let them know that we are thinking of them. We encourage all of us to show them support which would be very uplifting and encouraging for them to hear from any of us.

KENNY CLARK / GCBLA Secretary
clarkkenney608@yahoo.com



Recognizing Board Members Clark and Reid

EDDIE CLARK – Executive Board Member

GCBLA: *Are you a native of Columbus, Ohio?* **EC:** Yes, I was born and raised in Columbus, Ohio.

GCBLA: *What High School did you attend and what sports were you involved in?*

EC: I attended Nort High School, where I played basketball, along with Jim Doughty, former Ohio State University standout, and Harlem Globetrotter. I scored the winning basket to give Middletown High School, and Jerry Lucas, future collegiate All-American at Ohio State University, and NBA legend, his only loss in high school. I received scholarship offers from NYU (New York City), University of Dayton, Villanova University, and Texas Southern University (HBCU), where I eventually attended on athletic scholarship.

GCBLA: *Why did you choose an HBCU to attend?*

EC: I needed additional assistance academically, although I wanted to attend Ohio State University with other Columbus standouts like Mel Nowell, Joe Roberts, and Doughty, I did not have the prerequisite grades and test scores to attend. During my first semester, I tore my achilles tendon, and was unable to return to play. I graduated from Texas Southern University in 1964, in Business Administration.

GCBLA: *What is your professional area of expertise?*

EC: I originally went to Los Angeles, California, following graduation and worked for the Industrial Commission of California, but eventually returned to Columbus, Ohio, where I went to work for Workers Compensation and retired in 1980. After retirement I worked part-time for the school board of Columbus as a substitute teacher and assistant girls basketball coach at Independence HS. While also working to diminish gang violence in the community.

GCBLA: *Any advice on how gcbla can be more impactful as a organization moving forward?*

EC: I think GCBLA is a great organization, that I relish being a part of and hope it continues to have an influence on the next generation.

DAVID “ Dave” REID – Executive Board Member Director of Membership Committee

We proudly shine the light on one of our earliest board members, Dave Reid, fondly referred to as “POP” Reid.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, graduate of North High School, where he participated in Football, Basketball, Track and Field, earning All-City and State recognition. Dave enlisted in the United States Air Force, where he served as a Chief Clerk, while also participating on the Football and boxing teams. Following an honorable discharge from the military, he worked for Timken Roller Bearing Company, and later as a Chief Railroad Inspector, being the 1st African-American to be appointed to that position.



GCBLA: Where Legends Are Remembered!

GCBLA's original focus was to recognize the accomplishments of the legends who set the stage for the stars of today and has evolved into an educational resource for the public and current ballers to know and appreciate their basketball lineage.

Clark and Reid / continued from page 8

Dave has received The Governors Special Recognition Award-Life Saver (1986); contributed to the development of Greater Linden area; coached little league football in the Linden area; and coached numerous championship teams at St. Austin Middle School.

It's individuals like Dave that make our organization and communities better. Dave stated, "I have worked with young men in the Greater Linden area for over 30 years, and GCBLA is a great addition to what I had been doing over the years. I feel honored to be associated with this group of men.

We at GCBLA feel it an honor to work with you, and want to offer you our thanks and appreciation for your contributions to our organization.



Hall of Famer McCampbell Succumbs

2014 Hall-of-Fame inductee Charles "Buddy" McCampbell passed away Wednesday morning, September 29, 2021 at home in Florida after a brief encounter with liver cancer.

Charles (Buddy) McCampbell was selected to the Columbus Citizen Journal All-City League first team as a 6'3" forward from the Central High School Pirates basketball team in 1955. McCampbell made the squad as a second teamer as a junior the previous season. Collectively, all members of this selected team were very balanced with size, shooting ability, defense and all members were better than average ball-handers. While at Central, Buddy was a scholar as well as a three-sport athlete and continued his academic/athletic endeavors at Bowling Green State University where he impressed the coaches and worked his way into the Falcons' starting lineup as a small forward. McCampbell became known as a poker-faced young man on the court and in social settings. At BG, he was captain of the undefeated freshman basketball team. As a junior, he was selected second team All Mid-American Conference and as a senior he was voted varsity team captain of BGSU's MAC championship team and selected to first team All-MAC basketball team. After college, Chuck enlisted in the U.S. Army where he served two years deployed to the Vietnam War, earning a Bronze Star and he continued his involvement in basketball and was selected to the All-Army Basketball Team in 1961. McCampbell retired from the U.S. Army in 1980 at the rank of Major after serving for 20 years. He is founder and current CEO of Heritage Paper Co. Inc. which markets paper and office supplies nationally. He now resides in Bradenton, Florida where he has coached boys and girls youth basketball and serves as a board member of the Team Success Charter School.



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Remembering Romie Watkins

Romie Watkins Jr, 89 Sunrise February 8, 1932, and Sunset August 24, 2021. Born in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Romie moved to Ashville, North Carolina at a very young age and continued his journey to his final resting place in Columbus, Ohio.



Romie married the love of his life Barbara J. Watkins on December 11, 1965. Romie and Barbara created a host of memories together. He was a devoted husband and grandfather. He was so blessed to have spent so many precious memories with his beloved wife, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, which were his pride and joy.

Romie attended Felton Elementary School, Champion Middle School, and East High School. Known for his smooth skills on the court, he played on the East High School First State Championship team in 1951. Later he was inducted into Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association (GCBLA) Hall of Fame and Jump 25 Hall of Fame and voted top ten greatest basketball player in Central Ohio.

Preceded in death by his parents Romie & Estelle Watkins, Sr. and son Danny Watkins and Anita Watkins and siblings: Tillman, Clayton, Wil, John, Virgil, Robert, Louise, Viola, and Clarence.

He left his legacy through everything he did and is affectionately known by many as the “Life of the Party.” Romie was a devoted family man, a dedicated and hardworking businessman and everyone’s go to handyman. His humor, infectious laugh, and ability to make friends made him a stranger to no one.

His memory will be cherished by wife Barbara Jeanne Watkins; children Denise M. (Curtis) Martin, Romie (Wanda) Watkins, III, Renee Richardson, John M. Watkins, Mia (Jesse) Prewitt. Grandchildren: Halle, Jesse III “Bud”, Tianna, Tiffany, Kasey, Raina, Pam, Juanita, Romie IV, Bonita, Dawnee, and Wendell, Joshua. A host of great-grandchildren: Rianna, Omarion, Kamari, Jay Marie, Alexis, Naomi, Pamela, Lucius, Martin, Mataya, Anthony, and Jahleel.

Our mission has been to acknowledge, promote, archive, and disseminate the illustrious history and impact that basketball as a sport has had on Metro-Columbus and surrounding counties, which has produced some of the most accomplished women and men in the field of sport, business, and social activism.

Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association has registered to participate in the **AMAZON SMILE** program, which allows customers to support their favorite non-profit charitable organizations. With every eligible purchase made from Amazon, a portion will be given to GCBLA. To participate search [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and insert, The Greater Columbus Basketball Legends Association. Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated. For further information contact us via email at legendscbla@gmail.com.



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