



FRIENDS OF CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY

2nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Gala

FEBRUARY 1, 2025 | 5:00 PM
CITRUS SPRINGS COMMUNITY CENTER
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**Senator Blaise
& Julie Ingoglia**

About Tonight

FROM THE FRIENDS OF CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Greetings Community Family,

Welcome to you, our very special guest, as we gather for the 2nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Gala. Thank you for celebrating with us, as we honor those who made great sacrifices and endured hardships that we may never fully understand. Thank you for standing with us as we pay homage to those whose shoulders we stand on and lessons we carry forth. Tonight, we celebrate... because tonight has been "Generations in the Making".

We can trace the historic Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery to the formal start of 1884 when Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church first organized. It is possible that the cemetery could be older. We give thanks to the long time Church Clerk, Mrs. Annie M. McCray and Mrs. Mary Francis Watkins, who both saved funeral programs so that we have some records of the people buried in the cemetery.

Thank you to our Government Leaders, Community Leaders, Business Owners and Leaders, Citizens who value "Community", and those who traveled from near and far to be with us tonight as we celebrate history, honor legacy and UNITE as a community.

Let us "Lead with Love" and intention to continue to make Citrus County a place of warmth, grace, and wonderful place to live, for all. Let us carry forth the legacy of love that has been shared for Generations.

Andrea K. McCray, President
Josh McCray, Vice President
Monique C. Bunch, Treasurer/Secretary
Dr. Danita Smith, Board Member
Sheila Snow, Board Member



FRIENDS
OF
CRYSTAL
MEMORIAL
GARDENS
CEMETERY

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2nd Annual
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Gala
PROGRAMME



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MASTER OF CEROMONIES



WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
ANDREA MCCRAY, FCMGC PRESIDENT

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DIGNITARIES

RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS

BLESSING OF FOOD

~ DINNER IS SERVED ~

PIONEERS OF CRYSTAL RIVER

GUEST SPEAKER

MR. WILLIAM Y. BUNCH, SR.
OWNER, OYSTERS RESTAURANT AND CATERING

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

SEN. BLAISE INGOGLIA, MR. WILL LUCAS, & DR. SCOTT HEBERT

SPIRIT OF CRYSTAL RIVER AWARDS

WHITNEY AND NATHAN PAFF, BUSINESS LEADERS

BILL MERRYMAN, VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

BERTHA BROOKS, COMMUNITY ADVOCATE

JOHN ORTIZ, VOLUNTEER

S TERESA JOHNS-GORDON, CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

PLEDGES

MUSIC BY NJ LADYFINGERS
TAMPA, FL

SILENT AUCTION CLOSES AT 9:30 PM

Lead with Love

ABOUT OUR GUEST SPEAKER MR. WILLIAM Y. BUNCH, SR.



William Young Bunch, Sr. was born in Crystal River, FL to the late Helen Bunch and Oscar Hopkins in 1954 and is the second of eleven children. William learned the ethics of hard work at an early age, starting as a dishwasher at the hotel then known as the Plantation Inn at the age of 13.

William graduated from Crystal River High School in 1973. He owned and operated the first taxi service in Citrus County. He started Bunch Lawn Care in 1973, which still exists today and expanded to Bunch Lawn Care and Tree Service, and is currently operated by his son, Christopher.

William wed the former Pamela Carnegie in November 1980, and the union produced three children: Monique, William, and Christopher, all who are record holding athletes at Crystal River High School and they are successful in their own right. At the Plantation Inn, William worked his way from dishwasher up to Executive Chef during his time, before leaving to purchase Oysters Restaurant and Catering in April 1997.

Oysters Restaurant and Catering is world renowned for Bunch's Fried Chicken (served crispy, hot and fresh out of the grease), the loving care for their customers who are more like family, and led the local industry in practices of the "cook your catch" and dining on Thanksgiving and Christmas, where Oysters was the ONLY restaurant open.

William's heart is always for the community. He serves in his local church as a Deacon, never turns away the hungry, advocates for many, and is a source of wisdom to many of the community leaders of Citrus County and the State. William Bunch is the epitome of service and heart. He serves quietly and humbly.

Lead with Love

Spirit of Crystal River Awards

The **Spirit of Crystal River Award** is presented to those who have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Community. Their efforts to lead, build, and collaborate, with an optimistic approach to work, while creating an inclusive and supportive environment have been instrumental in our efforts here in the City of Crystal River and our historic cemetery.



Whitney and Nathan Paff

Suncoast Title Partners LLC & Fairway Mortgage

Whitney & Nathan were critical to the formation of the nonprofit organization, Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery. Their continued love, support, & wisdom serve as a pillar to it's strength and might in our accomplishments.



Bill Merryman

Veterans of Foreign Wars - Post 10087 Beverly Hills, FL

Bill was instrumental in the production of our Inaugural Memorial Day Veteran's Remembrance Ceremony here at Crystal Memorial Gardens in 2024, as well as the partnerships with other VFW posts and support for activities taking place on the grounds.



Bertha Brooks

Pastor, Outreach Church of Christ Written In Heaven

Mrs. Bertha has been a fierce advocate and one of our earliest supporters. She and her sister, Sara Brooks, help at every Cemetery Clean-Up and are integral for advocacy for Community Involvement & Support.



John Ortiz

Volunteer and Grounds Maintenance & Setup

John has cared for the Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery long before our organization existed. He is a resource that continually cares and watches over the cemetery, often cleaning it on his own.



S. Teresa Johns-Gordon

Teacher, Crystal River High School

Teresa has been integral in securing the involvement of the students from Crystal River High School; who have been a tremendous help and a joy to work with. Teams from the Key Club, Interact Club, Track Team, and Culinary Class (who are helping serve tonight), have helped clean the cemetery on many occasions and assist with documentation.

Silent Auction

THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING
WHO HELPED MAKE OUR
2ND ANNUAL
DR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR
LEADERSHIP GALA A REMARKABLE
SUCCESS


Alan Vick Stump Grinding
Andrea Bunch
Andrea K and Co
Arlena Broadbent
Bayside Kraft Kitchen
Busch Gardens Tampa
Community Food Bank
Connie DeVaughn
Coopers Hawk Winery
Discover Crystal River Florida
Fidelity Title
Flower Time
Hengesbach and Hengesbach
Kelley Lewis Paul
Manatee Maven Inc
Meek Real Estate and Development
Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra
Plantation Resort on Crystal River
Point O' Woods Golf Club
Tampa Bay Buccaneers
University of Florida
Wawa

Lead with Love

Chapter 1

Crystal River

Historical Pioneers



**Founding Black Families
of Crystal River
Education
Community
Business
Healthcare
Government**



Armond Blackwater
armondblackwater
@gmail.com



Oysters Restaurant
(352)795-2633

Founding Black Families of Crystal River, Florida

Balloon	Joyner
Brooks	Lockley
Bunch	Long
Coleman	McKinnon
Copeland	Natteal
DeVaughn	Richardson
Ellis	Sawyer
Elliot	Scriven
Faison	Simmons
Ferguson	Smith
Floyd	Washington
Hall	Watkins
Hayward	Whaley
Hopkins	Wims
Jackson	Wilson
Jenkins	Wooden

Note: This listing is a work in progress and based on information provided from obituaries, vital statistics, and family updates.

Please contact the Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens Inc via email at friendsofcmgcemetery@gmail.com with any questions, concerns, and/or updates.

EDUCATION

ANNA COPELAND RUSSELL (MAY 1, 1877 - MARCH 4, 1970)

She was the eighth child born of slave parents and began her teaching career at the age of thirteen (13) in Marion County. Her descendants are the long time and deeply rooted Copelands of Crystal River. Her son, Frederick W. Copeland (deceased) has a Crystal River public park named in his honor. Mr. Copeland's wife, Marjorie, was the first black city council woman in the City of Crystal River. Her lineage is the McKinnon family of Crystal River.

She was committed to her community and education with a 3.5 mile horse and buggy ride to Crystal River and a six (6) mile walk , one way, almost daily to Rock Crusher to teach the children in her care.



ANNIE M. JACKSON MCCRAY (JANUARY 20, 1922 - JANUARY 31, 2010)



She graduated high school from Howard Academy in Ocala, FL. At the time, there was no black high school in Citrus County. Her mother washed laundry for one dollar per basket to send her there. After high school, she worked as a domestic to the Fermans of Ferman Chevrolet. The Fermans had a home in Michigantown (an area near Hunter Springs) in Crystal River, before she was awarded a

scholarship to the now Florida A&M University, at the age of 22. Prior to that, she as a single woman, had her home built at the age of 18, which was unheard of at the time. She also earned a Master's degree from Stetson University.

After graduation, she returned back to Citrus County to teach at George Washington Carver School, the local school for Black Americans during times of segregation. She was also one of the first teachers to integrate public schools for Citrus County. She taught First Grade for majority of the balance of her teaching career, until her retirement in 1995. She taught for 44 consecutive years. It is said that by the time she retired, she had taught 1/3 of the children on the west side of the county.

EDUCATION

WILLIAM LEVY ROBINSON, JR. (MARCH 4, 1933 - JANUARY 1, 2022)



Born March 4, 1933 in Webster, Sumter County, FL and was the firstborn child in a family of ten (10) in the union of the Late William Levy Robinson and Mary Lee Howard Robinson. W. L. or Junior as he was affectionately called attended the All-Black Mills High School in Webster, graduating salutatorian of his class in 1951. After high school, W. L. left the family farm to

study agriculture at the then All-Black Florida A and M College (FAMU) in Tallahassee. His college education was interrupted by a two-year tour duty in the U S Army -1954 - 1956. Upon his return from the armed service, W.L. continued his college education and received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) Degree from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in 1956. It was during this time, he met the Love of His life, Euna Mable McKinnon and married on July 29, 1956. He pursued graduate studies at both FAMU and the University of Florida, receiving his Master of Education Degree in Administration and Supervision at FAMU. W. L. held numerous teaching and administrative positions in education throughout his career. He was Principal of the Florida School for Boys, Okeechobee, Fl., 1958 - 1960; County Extension Agent for Jackson County, Marianna, Fl, 1960 -1964; Principal of George Washington Carver Junior High School, Crystal River, Fl, 1964-1969; County Extension Agent for Leon County, Tallahassee, Fla, 1969-1970, teacher of Science and Vocational Agriculture at Citrus High School, Inverness, Fl 1970 - 1971; Supervisor of Instruction for Citrus County School Board, Inverness, Fl, 1971 - 1985 and Director of Personnel for the Citrus County School Board, 1985 - 1995. He retired on June 30, 1995.

HAZEL LEE BALLOON SANDERS (DECEMBER 9, 1933 - AUGUST 1, 1989)



Mrs. Hazel Balloon Sanders was a school teacher at Inverness Primary School.

Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. Miles Balloon. This is the Balloon Family of the Balloon Street off of Turkey Oak. Their homestead was a part of "The Backwoods". She had three (3) sons: Captain LV Sanders, Captain BC Sanders, and Mr. BC Sanders; and one daughter, Mrs. Artenia Jones.

EDUCATION

EUNA MABLE MCKINNON ROBINSON (NOVEMBER 16, 1933 - JUNE 29, 2007)



Euna Mable McKinnon was born November 16, 1933 and was the sixth of eleven siblings born to Fred Douglas McKinnon, Sr. (Deceased) and Ada Mable Elliott McKinnon (Deceased). She received her Public School Education in the Citrus County School System. Upon completion of High School in 1951, she attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical College in Tallahassee and then transferred to Florida Normal College in Saint Augustine where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. She later received her Master of Education degree from what had then become Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University.

Her professional career began in Marianna, Florida where she worked as an Adult Education Teacher for the 1963-1964 school term. She returned to Crystal River, FL in August of 1964 and was employed by the Citrus County School Board where she served as an Elementary School Teacher and Primary School Specialist. After 31 years of service, she retired from the Citrus County School System on June 20, 1995. Countless students and adults lives have been positively impacted by her dedication and hard work in the field of education.

LIVING COMMUNITY EDUCATORS



BETTY JEAN JACKSON, TEACHER (RET.)
GW CARVER & CRYSTAL RIVER PRIMARY
41 YEARS



RAYE FRANCIS JOYNER, TEACHER (RET.)
GW CARVER & CRYSTAL RIVER PRIMARY
41 YEARS



BERTHA DEVAUGHN BROOKS, TEACHER (RET.)
CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE & CITRUS SPRINGS MIDDLE
37 YEARS



LILLIE MAE BIDDLE, TEACHER (RET.)
CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE
27 YEARS



ANNIE BROOKS, TEACHER (RET.)
CRYSTAL RIVER MIDDLE
35 YEARS



COMMUNITY

MARY GRAY BUNCH

(MAY 5, 1886 - OCTOBER 5, 1987)



She was either "Grandma Bunch" or "Mamma" to everyone in the community. She is the Original Cake Lady of Crystal River. She baked (and cooked) right up until the time she died. If she knew your birthday was coming, she would bake you a cake. She lived in a community called "The Backwoods". Its the area behind Crystal River Primary School, off Turkey Oak, where the Buffalo now roam.

She was born in South Carolina to Mr. and Mrs. Dan White. Later, she moved to Crystal River, FL. On May 1, 1910, she married James Bunch, and to this union 11 children were born. She left a rich legacy of 61 Grandchildren, 157 Great-Grandchildren, 53 Great-Great Grandchildren, and 3 Great-Great-Great Grandchildren.

BEULAH BROCK LOCKLEY

(MARCH 17, 1895 - MARCH 19, 1991)

Beulah Brock Lockley was affectionately known as "Ma Chank" and was the neighborhood babysitter for our working mothers. She was born in Valdosta, GA and one of eight children born to John and Mary Brock. In 1912, she was united in wedlock to Mr. Will Lockley, and from this union sixteen children were born. Ten children, as well as Mr. Lockley preceded her in death, later on she united in marriage with Mr. Handy Jackson. She left a rich legacy of one son, five daughters, thirty-nine Grandchildren, fifty-six Great-Grandchildren, and three Great Great Grandchildren.

MARY AND JACK WIMS (OCTOBER 11, 1911 - JUNE 26, 1986)



Mary and Jack Wims came to Crystal River from Red Level in 1943. Mary Wims worked shucking oysters and cleaning houses while Jack Wims worked many jobs including being a turpentine worker, an oyster gatherer and a cedar mill worker. He also learned construction and in 1950, built his first home, which

still sits on the corner of NE Sixth Terrace and NE Eighth Ave. He began working for Florida Rock in Brooksville, and he would haul rock from Brooksville to Crystal River to build Eighth Avenue, which at the time was just a dirt path, into a road. Once he left Florida Rock, he started to work in construction, building more homes near his first one. Jack Wims brought about 10 units to the city before dying suddenly on June 26, 1986. Mary continued to manage the homes until 1984.

COMMUNITY

MARY FRANCES FAISON WATKINS

(NOVEMBER 7, 1934 - MARCH 23, 2023)



Mrs. Mary Frances Watkins was born on November 7, 1934 in Crystal River, Florida to Wilbur and Henrietta Faison. She married Mr. Winzalo (Don) T. Watkins, Sr., who preceeded her in death. They have three sons and three daughters. She played the piano and organ for more than 50 years and

served until she was no longer able to do so. She became the first Minister of Music in the State of Florida for The Church of the Living God. She also taught music lessons to many students for only 50 cents. She was loving, kind, compassionate and was affectionately known for her term, "Kissy, Kissy!" or "Kissy, Kiss!", which she said while she hugged and kissed you.

WINZALO THOMAS "DON" WATKINS SR.

(NOVEMBER 17, 1931 - MAY 9, 2015)



Mr. Winzalo Thomas "Don" Watkins, Sr. was born in Crystal River, Florida on November 17, 1931. He was one of fifteen children born to the union of the late William and Ida Watkins. Everyone called him Mr. Don or Deacon Watkins. His wife was Mrs. Mary Frances Faison Watkins, and they were married for 63 years until his passing.

He was employed by the Citrus County Board of Public Instruction during his junior year in High School and got his start in 1949 as a School Bus Driver, in which he completed more than 18 years; and Master Mechanic. Deacon Watkins was a pillar in the community. He served in the church, community, as a deputy sheriff, and a consultant to a university and in politics.

"Shallow understanding from people of good will is more frustrating than absolute misunderstanding from people of ill will."



BUSINESS

SYLVESTER WOODEN

(APRIL 25, 1891 - DECEMBER 20, 1975)

Mr. Sylvester Wooden was born on April 25, 1891 in Georgia to Wash and Alice Watson Wooden. He was one of five children. The family moved to Florida when he was a young and established residence in the Fairmount settlement.

From the website Ghosttowns.com: Settled in 1885. By 1886 the population was 75. There was a post office, church, steam sawmill, blacksmith shop, tinsmith, hotel, and general store. It was mostly orange groves and was wiped out in the big freeze of 1894-95.

Comments: At the intersection of SR44 and 488 under the present site of the Meadowcrest Industrial Park.

He was married twice. Once to Mrs. Josephine Floyd, "until their union was broken by the passing of Josephine". They had six children. He then married Jessie Lee Ruth Wooden (June 24, 1905 - December 24, 1991). They had one daughter, Willie Bea.

He was a pioneer citizen of Crystal River, Florida. "He was a loyal father and husband. He shared the gifts of the labor of his hands with neighbors and friends and honored God by living at peace with his fellowman."

Sylvester and Jesse also owned and ran a Boarding house during segregation, so that working men had a place to stay while they worked in town. Their properties were in Crystal River, located across the highway where the Quality Inn sits. A man purchased the properties and now a wooden fence hides the homes. They lived in one home and the boarding house was next door.

JESSIE LEE RUTH WOODEN

(JUNE 24, 1905 - DECEMBER 24, 1991)



FACTS TO KNOW

- She was the lunchroom cook at GW Carver School for 16 years.
- She drove a powder blue 1940s Studebaker
- Her parting saying, with a smile, every time she was leaving, "Don't let anyone give you a wooden nickel"

BUSINESS

OSCAR HOPKINS

(MARCH 11, 1921 - APRIL 23, 2004)



Oscar ("OH") Hopkins was born in Crystal River, FL to Oscar Hopkins, Sr and Pinkey Mack Hopkins. He married Hazel L. Williams and served with the 827th Tank Destroyer Unit in Camp Hood, TX. He received an honorable discharge from the US Army after serving in World War II. Upon returning home from the service, Oscar was self employed in many business ventures. Among those were operating a restaurant & operating

a Gulf gas station on Highway 19 North; a logging contractor who cleared timber for various urban developments throughout Citrus County, the site for Seven Rivers Community Hospital, Florida Power Nuclear Plant, and the Crystal River Mall; and he discovered the now Historical Indian Mounds at Crystal River Archaeological State Park.

2024 GUEST SPEAKER JEFFREY B. CAMPBELL



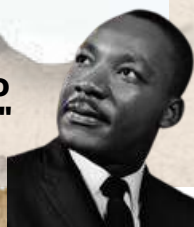
Jeffrey is a State Farm Insurance Agent for the greater Orlando area including, Oviedo and Winter Springs. He is a lifelong Floridian, a native of Crystal River and graduated from the University of Central Florida. He has been married since 1986 and is the father of two. We're celebrating 34 years of providing excellent professional Insurance and

Financial Services to the greater Orlando area that includes Oviedo, Chuluota, Winter Springs, Winter Park, Casselberry and Longwood.

Community Involvements are: Rotary Club of Oviedo (Member), Oviedo/Winter Springs Chamber (Member), Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (Member), Oviedo Medical Center (Member BOT).

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



HEALTHCARE

ANNIE L. SELLERS SMITH (AUGUST 4, 1889 - MARCH 5, 1973)



She was born in 1889 in Jasper, FL and was the only child of Mr. and Mrs. Mose Sellers. She married to Mr. Chamble Smith in 1903 at Six Mile Still, near Dunnellon. They had thirteen (13) children and moved to Crystal River. She served as a mid-wife for sixty (60) years and the latter ten, she registered with the Florida State Board of Health.

She left a rich legacy with 46 grandchildren, 76 great grandchildren, and 12 great-great grandchildren.

GLADYS HENRY NIXON (APRIL 6, 1913 - APRIL 1, 1988)



She was born in 1913 to George F. Henry and Agnes Taylor Henry in Tampa, FL and she was one of four children. She attended Hillsborough Public Schools and Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Beach, FL. She later moved to Crystal River and established her residence. Here she met and married Willie on April 24, 1941. After working several years as a domestic, she

trained for practical nursing and received her Nursing Assistant Certificate in Dade City, FL. She was employed by the Citrus County Health Department and retired in 1984. According to her obituary, "She will long be remembered for her humanitarian efforts throughout the community."

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GOVERNMENT POLITICS & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CLAUDE BROOKS, SR.

(APRIL 15, 1917 - NOVEMBER 25, 1987)



Claude was the first Black elected to the City Council of Crystal River, FL, where he gave 16 years of credible service. Claude Brooks, Sr. was one of several children born to the union of John Marshall Brooks and Isabella Joyner Brooks. He was born in Citronelle, FL.

Shortly after enlisting in the Army of World War II, Brooks was dispatched overseas, promoted to Corporal and engaged in active combat for 37 months in Africa and Europe. After his tour of duty, he returned to Crystal River and married Eva Mae Floyd on December 1, 1945 and established a home. Ten children were added to the family. He was employed by the Citrus County School Board as a Maintenance Engineer for 16 years.

WILLIAM WESLEY SKYLARK

(JUNE 10, 1912 - JULY 13, 1999)



William Skylark was the first black policeman in the city of Crystal River, FL. He was born in Wilcox, FL. He was one of four children born to the union of Mr. and Mrs. William Preston Skylark. William was thirteen when his mother, Mrs. Delia Adams established residence, along with her other children, here in Crystal River, FL. After serving in World War II, he returned to Crystal River to reside.

His stalwartness was recognized throughout his contact with people in the community. It was noted when he was appointed as the first Black policeman of Crystal River, where he served for several years. He was also President of the NAACP for several years. On March 27, 1968, Deacon Skylark married Ms. Irene McKinnon.

LIVING RETIRED PUBLIC SERVANTS



MARJORIE COPELAND

**FIRST BLACK ELECTED TO OFFICE OF PRESIDENT
CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER CITY COUNCIL**

ARTHUR HAYES

**FORMER FIREMAN
CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER**

JAMES WIMS

**FORMER MEMBER OF CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER**

Chapter 2

“Laying a Foundation for the Future”

Current Leaders

Black Owned Businesses

**Medical Professionals - Healing
the Community**

Military Heroes

**Veterans Interred in
Crystal Memorial
Gardens Cemetery**

Veterans & Active Duty

**Historically
Black Churches**



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LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE CURRENT LEADERS

WYNDELL "CHOP" ALEXANDER
TEACHER, CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

DENZEL ALEXANDER
FLORIDA HIGHWAY PATROL

PEARLINA ALEXANDER
TEACHER, INVERNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

TIARRA ALEXANDER
PACE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

ARLENA BROADBENT
POLICY ANALYST & IT PROJECT MANAGER

CHRISTOPHER BUNCH
OWNER, MWC DUMPSTER AND LANDCLEARING

SAMANTHA CHURCHWELL
TEACHER, LECANTO PRIMARY SCHOOL

AUVIS COLE
TOURISM DIRECTOR, CITRUS COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU

STERLING HARRIS
CRYSTAL RIVER FIRE DEPARTMENT

ALICE GREEN
TEACHER, INVERNESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

THOMASINA JACOBS
COPELAND PARK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

DR. TAMMY LANGLEY
PASTOR, CITADEL OF HOPE
PRINCIPAL, OAK PARK MIDDLE SCHOOL

ANDREA K. MCCRAY
PRESIDENT, ANDREA K & CO

TY REYNOLDS
TEACHER AND COACH, LECANTO MIDDLE SCHOOL

GABRIELLE SATCHELL
CITY OF CRYSTAL RIVER CITY COUNCIL

ANTOIN SCRIVEN
HEAD FOOTBALL COACH, LECANTO HIGH SCHOOL

DR. DANITA SMITH
SUPERINTENDENT, MYCROSCHOOL

TARLIECE STEED
TEACHER, INVERNESS MIDDLE SCHOOL

SHERRI SNOWDEN
GUIDANCE COUNSELOR, CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

PEDRO WILLIAMS
ESE TEACHER & COACH, CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

DAVID WRIGHT
ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, CRYSTAL RIVER HIGH SCHOOL

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES

AJM MADISON TRUCKING
ANDREA K & CO
AYINDE MATTHEWS STATE FARM INSURANCE
BAYSIDE KRAFT KITCHEN
BRYANT'S BARBERSHOP
BUNCH LAWN CARE AND TREE SERVICE
CJ'S MOBILE DETAILING & PRESSURE WASHING
CLEVELAND'S CATERING
CLEVELAND'S LAWN CARE
DEVAUGHN RIP-RAP STONEWALLS
DSP TRAINING
FADES BARBERSHOP
GEMINI GRAPHICS PRINTING, INC
HAIR DR MOBILE BARBERSHOP
HOUSTON'S BEAUTY SUPPLY AND SALON
IM&P WELLNESS CENTER
INVERNESS ENDODONTICS
JENKINS LAWN CARE
JT CAMPBELL FUNERAL & CREMATION SERVICES
KATCH 22
LADY T'S CHICAGO STYLE BBQ
LOC IT TO ME
THE LOVELY BOARDS BY YARDEZIA CHURCHWELL
MANATEE MAVEN INC
MWC DUMPSTER RENTALS & LANDCLEARING
PARTY WITH LOVE LLC
OYSTERS RESTAURANT AND CATERING
PEDIM HEALTHCARE
RICHARDSON'S MOBILE DETAILING
RIGHT RUDDER AVIATION
ROYALTY AESTHETICS
SISTER'S HARMONY
TONY'S MOBILE DETAILING & CERAMIC COATINGS LLC
TWISTED STRANDS
WATERFRONT SOCIAL

LAYING A FOUNDATION FOR THE FUTURE

HEALING THE COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY DOCTORS & NURSES

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CATHERINE DELVA, MD
DACELIN ST. MARTIN, MD
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TIMOTHY PETERSON, MD
JAIME L. TORRES. MD
CARLENE WILSON, MD

SAVANNAH BOSTIC, LPN
ASHLEY BROWN, RN
PATRICIA BROOKS-CAMPBELL, RN
LAKESHA HARRISON, RN
SAMANTHA JACKSON, APRN
KATRYNA SMITH-GASKIN, RN
SAMANTHA LAUTHER, LPN
CAPRICORN NEAL, RN
NECOL RICHBURGH, RN
QUANDRA WHALEY, ARNP-C

Thank You

ELEGANT DECOR BY CL22 PRODUCTIONS
DINNER BY OYSTERS RESTAURANT & CATERING
DESSERTS BY MANATEE MAVEN INC
MUSIC BY ARMOND BLACKWATER
MUSIC BY NJ LADYFINGERS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MPATE PHOTO
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REMEMBER & HONOR

VETERANS INTERRED IN CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY



#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH - DEATH DATE	NOTES
1	BELL	ELISHA JR.	19 NOV 1934 - 2 MAR 2006	US ARMY
2	BROOKS	CLAUDE	15 APR 1917 - 25 NOV 1987	CPL US ARMY WW 2
3	BROOKS	CLARENCE	9 AUG 1916 - 27 JAN 2002	ARMY WW2
4	BROOKS	RICHARD	27 JUN 1944 — 6 JUN 1971	FL AIC US AIR FORCE VIETNAM
5	BROOKS	THADDEUS O.	5 MAY 1965 — 3 OCT 1994	US AIR FORCE
6	BROTH	EDWARD	15 APRIL 1890 - 11 JAN 1972	GEORGIA PVT US ARMY WW 1
7	BROWN	JESSE	22 OCT 1928 - UNKNOWN	FL PVT 510 ENGRS
8	BROWN	JOE	5 JUN 1893 - 10 SEP 1959	FLORIDA COOK 5 CO. 157 DEPO BRG. WW 1
9	BUNCH	ELIJAH	29 DEC 1919 — 9 AUG 1973	FL PFC ARMY AIR FORCE WW 2
10	CAMPBELL	JOSEPH	16 NOV 1919 — 6 FEB 1970	FL PFC COM 368 INF. WW 2
11	CANLEY	JUNIOR	09 SEP 1933 — 4 JUL 2001	
12	COOKS	LEON PARKER	21 DEC 1948 - 19 JUN 2009	US ARMY
13	COOPER	JOHNNY	1899-1978	
14	CUSBERT	REUBEN	18 MAR 1910 - 24 APR 1998	US NAVY WW2
15	DEVAUGHN	GEORGE JR.	12 SEP 1947 — 09 FEB 2020	

REMEMBER & HONOR

VETERANS INTERRED IN CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY



#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH - DEATH DATE	NOTES
16	DOCK	W	1848 - 1928	ACE 80
17	EDWARDS	RONNIE	19 OCT 1949 — 19 DEC 2018	
18	ELLIOTT	FRANK	1915 — 1974	SGT US ARMY
19	ELLIS	JOSEPH	13 DEC 1928 — 28 MAY 1993	
20	FALANA	GEORGE PETER	1895 — 1978	PVT US ARMY WW 1
21	FLOYD	AMOS	30 NOV 1924 - 25 JUL 2002	STM 2 US NAVY WW2
22	FLOYD	JULIUS	22 JUL 1927 - 3 JUN 2002	SR US NAVY KOREA
23	GAULMAN	JOHNNIE	14 FEB 1890 — 22 FEB 1966	FL PVT Co WW 1
24	HALL	HORACE E.	1929 — 1982	US ARMY WW 2
25	HALL	MOODY	15 JUL 1926 — 16 JUL 1991	CPL USA KOREA
26	JENKINS	ALVIN	05 SEP 1947 — 05 MAR 1999	
27	JENKINS	DANIEL	27 JUN 1913 — 23 FEB 1994	SC3 US NAVY WW 2
28	JENKINS	JAMES YANCEY SR.	8 APR 1947 - 10 JAN 1998	
29	JENKINS	NEHEMIAH	27 DEC 1934 — 6 OCT 1987	SGT.
30	JENKINS	OATHER	21 JAN 1939 — 12 NOV 1991	

REMEMBER & HONOR

VETERANS INTERRED IN CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY



#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH - DEATH DATE	NOTES
31	JONES	NATHANIEL	20 MAY 1942 - 29 OCT 1992	CPL US MARINE CORPS VIETNAM
32	JOYNER	CARL H.	13 JAN 1943 — 24 MAR 1966	FL SGT. CO A 26 1ST INF DIV. VIETNAM
33	JOYNER	FRED	1894 — 1956	FL PVT USA WW 1
34	JOYNER	HENRY JR.	19 MAY 1916 — 6 APR 1952	FL CPL 3684 QM TRUCK CO. WW 2
35	KIRBY	BUSTER	14 SEP 1915 - 13 SEP 1976	PVT US ARMY WW2
36	LEWIS	JOSEPH	30 JAN 1904 - 25 JAN 1959	WW 2
37	LOCKLEY	ROBERT LEE	7 MAY 1923 — 13 SEP 1994	US ARMY WW 2
38	MC COY	ROGERS	24 MAR 1890 - 2 APR 1967	FLORIDA PVT US ARMY WW 1
39	MC KINNON	OBRARY SR.	11 DEC 1931 — 18 OCT 2015	
40	MC KINNON	ORBARY JR.	29 APR 1957 - 28 APR 2008	PVT US ARMY
41	MIZELL	JAMES C.	17 MAY 1896 — 20 JAN 1994	PVT US ARMY WW 1
42	MOORE	RICHARD	23 JAN 1939	
43	NATTEAL	DEWAYNE ANTONIO	15 MAR 1969 — 2 APR 1992	HM2 US NAVY PERSIAN GULF
44	NATTEAL	RICHARD	27 JULY 1946 - 27 JAN 2000	US ARMY
45	NATTEAL	STROTHER J. JR.	1913 — 1994	PVT US ARMY WW 2

REMEMBER & HONOR

VETERANS INTERRED IN CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY



#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH - DEATH DATE	NOTES
46	NIXON	WILLIE	8 SEP 1911 — 15 MAR 1964	
47	OLIPHANT	DEVOSIA	22 APR 1919 — 11 MAR 1970	FL SGT 3123 ENGRS
48	PARKER	STEPHON	16 FEB 1967 — 6 OCT 2023	US NAVY
49	RAYSOR	SHEP	1 MAR 1888 — 25 JAN 1965	PVT US ARMY WW 1 SOUTH CAROLINA
50	RICHARDS ON	LOUIE	1920 — 1987	CPL US ARMY WW 2
51	RICHBURG	LEMACH	31 DEC 1949 — 16 MAR 1993	US ARMY
52	SCRIVEN	LOUIS	1917 — 1988	USA WW 2
53	SKYLARK	WILLIAM	10 JUN 1912 - 13 JULY 1999	WW2
54	SMITH	EMANUEL	28 JUL 1932 — 10 NOV 1990	SP3 USA KOREA
55	SMITH	EUGENE	4 DEC 1920 - 3 MAR 1962	FLORIDA PFC 364 INFANTRY WW 2
56	STANFORD	SMITH	3 OCT 1930 - 19 FEB 2008	
57	TYSON	ED L.	1910 — 1986	US NAVY WW 2
58	WASHINGTON	CARLTON	1911 — 1978	CPL US ARMY WW 2
59	WATKINS	WILLIAM JR.	26 JUN 1914 — 17 NOV 1971	FL PVT 3179 ORD. AMMO CO WW 2
60	WATKINS	WINZALO SR.	17 NOV 1931 — 9 MAY 2015	



REMEMBER & HONOR

VETERANS INTERRED IN CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS CEMETERY



#	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	BIRTH - DEATH DATE	NOTES
61	WAYSE	CHARLES	1836 -1921	ABBIE
62	WHALEY	WILLARD	11 AUG 1949 — 1 JUL 2008	
63	WILSON	ELLIE H.	28 MAR 1913 — 25 DEC 1946	GA PVT COC 5 BN 1 REGT WW 2
64	WILSON	ELIJAH	28 NOV 1925 - 31 MAR 2000	SGT US ARMY WW2
65	WILSON-NEAL	PATRICIA	21 AUG 1959 - 15 MAR 2017	US ARMY
66	WILSON	WADE	22 JUNE 1922 - 26 JAN 19__	GEORGIA PFC US ARMY WWII
67	WOODROW	DENNIS	2 NOV 1943 — 15 AUG 1986	SP4 US ARMY VIETNAM



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PASTOR DOUG ALEXADER, ARMY (RET.)
FELICIA BELLAMY (RET.)
CLAUDE BROOKS, AIR FORCE (RET.)
CARLOS CLEVELAND, ARMY (RET.)
VALERIE COOK-SMITH, NAVY (RET.)
ANGELA FAGIN, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD (RET.)
JOSHUA GREEN, ARMY (RET.)
CARLOS HOLLIS, NAVY (RET.)
AL HOPKINS, SR., NAVY (RET.)
COLBY HOPKINS, MARINES
EPHESUS HOPKINS, NAVY (RET.)
MARLOW JENKINS, NAVY (RET.)
PAIGE JENKINS, MARINES
ERNEST JONES III, NAVY
AMELIA MANER, ARMY NATIONAL GUARD
BRANDON NATTEAL, NAVY, (RET.)
JAMES REGISTER, NAVY (RET.)
GREG SAWYER, NAVY (RET.)
TONY THOMAS, NAVY (RET.)
SANDY WEAVER, NAVY, (RET.)
VIVIAN WEAVER, (RET)



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Historically Black Churches

Bailey's Temple Church of God In Christ

(No Longer Exists)

Crystal River FL

**Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME)
Church**

(No Longer Exists)

Crystal River FL

Church of Christ

Crystal River FL

Church of the Living, Pillar Ground of Truth

Crystal River FL

Citadel of Life Cathedral

Inverness, FL

Greater Mt. Carmel Baptist Church

Inverness, FL

Independent House of God, Church of the Living God

Crystal River, FL

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church

Crystal River, FL

Mt. Zion AME Church

Hernando, FL

Outreach Church of Christ Written in Heaven

Dunnellon, FL

The Redemption Center

Crystal River, FL

Unity Church of Christ Written in Heaven

Crystal River, FL

Upcoming Events

Citrus County African American Read In

Sunday, February 23, 2025 | 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Curtis Peterson Auditorium (3810 W Educational Path, Lecanto, FL)

Citrus County's community comes together to encourage all of us to read together, centering African American books and authors.

Divas of Soul with Cece Teneal

Sunday, February 23, 2025 | Dinner @ 3pm ~ Show @ 4pm

BraLonni's B&B (6359 SW CR 307, Trenton, FL)

Grab your friends and be ready to get blown away by the powerhouse vocals and the soulful tunes of world traveled Cece Teneal.

FCMG Cemetery Quarterly Clean Up

Saturday, March 15, 2025 | Saturday 8am-12 noon

Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery (9640 W Garden St, Crystal River, FL)

www.friendsofcmgcemetery.com

Join us for a day of community and historical preservation as we clean and tidy up our historical cemetery. Bottled water & lunch provided.

Floral City Strawberry Festival

Saturday & Sunday, March 1 & 2, 2025

Saturday 9 am - 5 pm • Sunday 9 am - 4 pm

www.gostrawberryfest.com

The Floral City Strawberry Festival celebrates its tasty namesake with a full weekend of fun that has been a local tradition for generations.

Spring Fling Dance

Afro-American Club of Citrus County

Saturday, April 5, 2025 at 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm

Knights of Columbus (2389 W Norvell Bryant Hwy, Lecanto, FL)

www.afro-americanclub.org

Festive and Fun event to raise scholarship funds for Citrus County Students.

High Stakes Charity Casino Gala

Citrus Colorectal Cancer Foundation

Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 6:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Citrus Springs Comm Center (1570 W Citrus Springs Blvd, Citrus Springs, FL)

www.citrusccr.com

Turn up the stakes and raise support for the Citrus Colorectal Cancer Foundation!

Jazz at the Carver Center

Saturday, April 26, 2025 at 6:00 pm

GW Carver Community Center

(95 Three Sisters Springs Trail, Crystal River, FL 34429)

Enjoy a wonderful evening of Jazz with the Corporate Cool Cats, light bites, and adult beverages. Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens partners with the Citrus County Historical Society to raise funds to support our Historic Crystal Memorial Gardens project: A Florida Historical Landmark Marker Aquisition and Installation.

"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



FRIENDS OF CRYSTAL MEMORIAL GARDENS INC

2nd Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Gala

MISSION

To preserve, beautify, and advocate for the historic Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery, located in Crystal River, Florida. We also work to restore dignity and honor to those interred there who were forgotten and ensure a peaceful resting place that memorializes the departed and honors their families in our community for generations to come.

Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery

Crystal Memorial Gardens is a historic cemetery and was formerly known as Crystal River African-American Memorial Gardens. Because of the practice of segregation, the act of separating people on the basis of race, cemeteries were also divided racially.

Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery originally belonged to Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church, which was founded on October 4, 1884. Mt. Olive MBC is the oldest black church and the second oldest church in Citrus County, Florida.

Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church deeded the Crystal Memorial Gardens Cemetery to the "Community" in 1976. A community based Board of Directors was created to operate the cemetery that is still in place today.

Friends of Crystal Memorial Gardens is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization to solicit funding from charitable foundations and community groups and we are registered with the State of Florida.

Contact Us

PO Box 194, Crystal River, FL 34423

Website: www.friendsofcmgcemetery.com

Email: friendsofcmgcemetery@gmail.com

Phone: (352) 464-3393

