



Rosenwald School Acres'

Huntsville Heroes

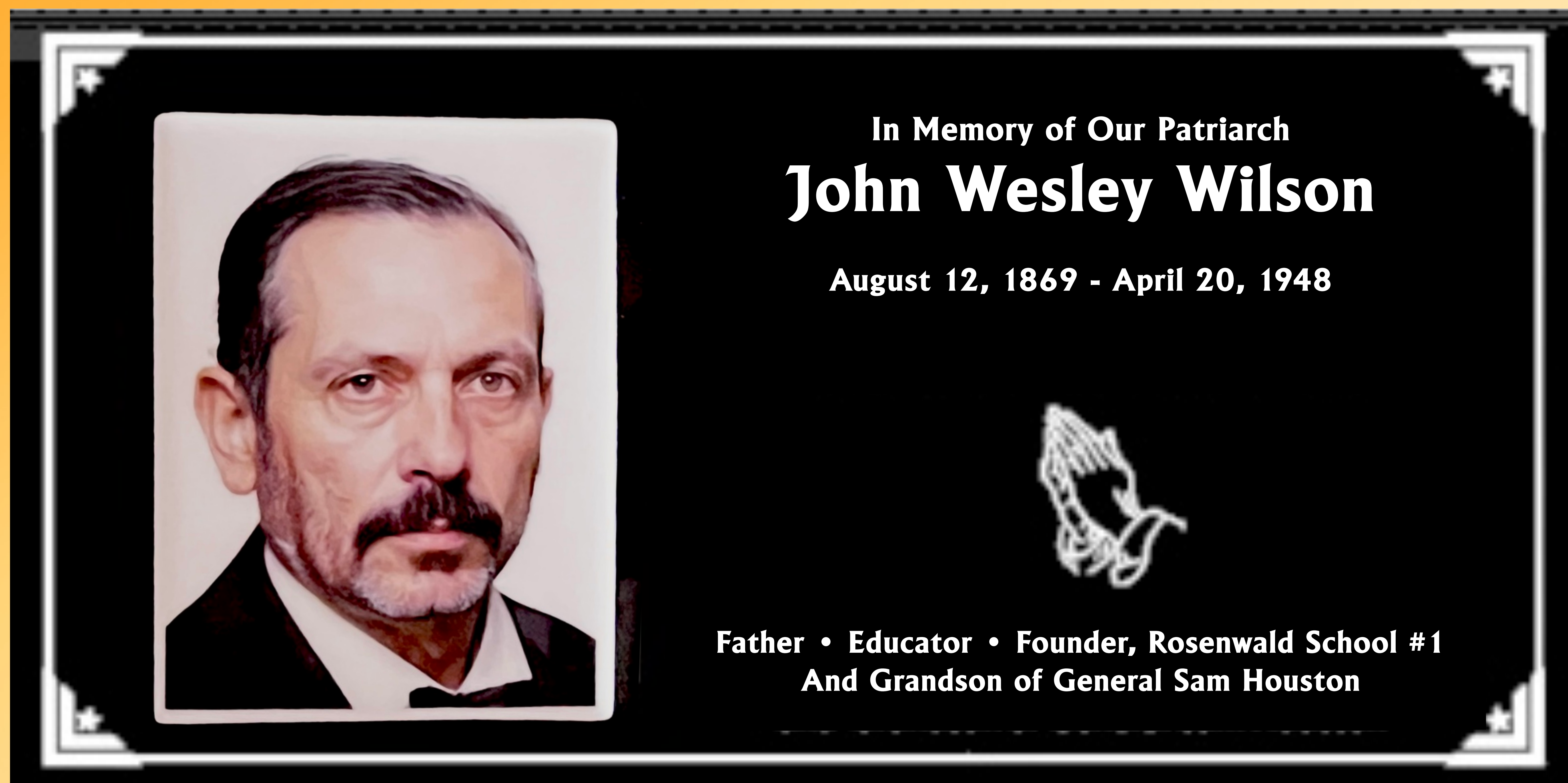
EDUCATION • OPPORTUNITY • ACHIEVEMENT

WWW.ROSENWALDACRES.COM/HEROES



Honoring Walker County's 1st Public School for African American Children...

NEW!
Full color
Headstones!



**CALLING ALL PERSONS CONNECTED WITH
HUNTSVILLE'S ROSENWALD SCHOOL#1: TEACHERS/ALUMNI
...AND ANY FAMILY BURIED IN THE KITTRELL-WILSON CEMETERY!**

Help us preserve our past...for our future!

We are collecting centennial stories and images to preserve and create photo headstones (see above) and biographical posters (like our "**Huntsville Heroes**" Exhibit) honoring anyone connected to **Rosenwald School #1** — Walker County's first public school for Black children—as well as those currently resting in the **Kittrell-Wilson Cemetery**.

See Photos, the "Heroes", our Cemetery Roster & more at rosenwaldacres.com

Join the Rosenwald School Acres Historical Data Project!

Thanks for any stories you can find and send to help us chronicle the lives of patriots whose dedication and resilience helped shape generations of Black achievement in Huntsville...and throughout Texas.

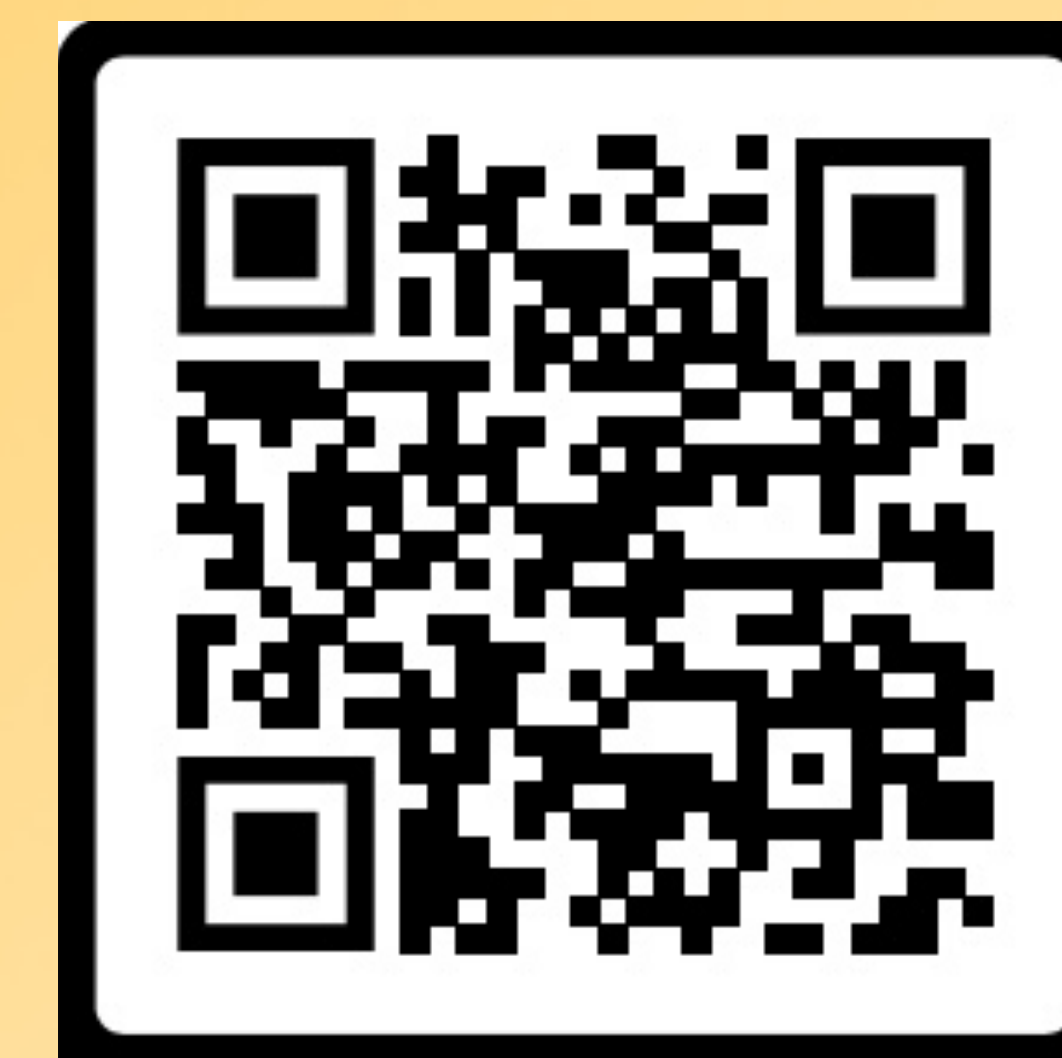


SCAN THIS QR CODE WITH YOUR CELL.

Use the form to upload photo(s) with any bio, story, or obituary of your loved one(s).
We will contact you.

-Kijana Wiseman-Fusilier, M.Ed.
www.kijana.com

Source: Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rosenwald_Fund
<https://rosenwaldacres.com/the-rosenwald-legacy>



Award-winning Master-Degreed Educator & Youth Activist

Mary Helen Wilson Wiseman

JANUARY 25, 1929 - NOVEMBER 8, 2014

★ **Mary Helen Wilson** was born just north of Huntsville, in Walker County, Texas, to Charlie and Pearl Spivey Wilson. She attended, then taught at, Rosenwald School #1, a primary school that was donated, in 1921, to Walker County by her grandparents, John Wesley Wilson, the grandson of General Sam Houston, and Amarintha Kittrell Wilson, the granddaughter of Sam's physician, Dr. Pleasant William Kittrell.

★ Mary Helen always wanted to be an educator, and as a pre-teen, excelled as a Sunday School Teacher to small children. After Rosenwald, Mary entered Sam Houston High School where she graduated as their 1945 Valedictorian and was awarded a scholarship to Tillotson College in Austin, Texas. In the spring of 1947, she received emergency teacher certification from the Texas Education Agency so she could be hired as the Intermediate Teacher at Rosenwald under the guidance of Mrs. Esther Bridges --the same headteacher who inspired her as a child.

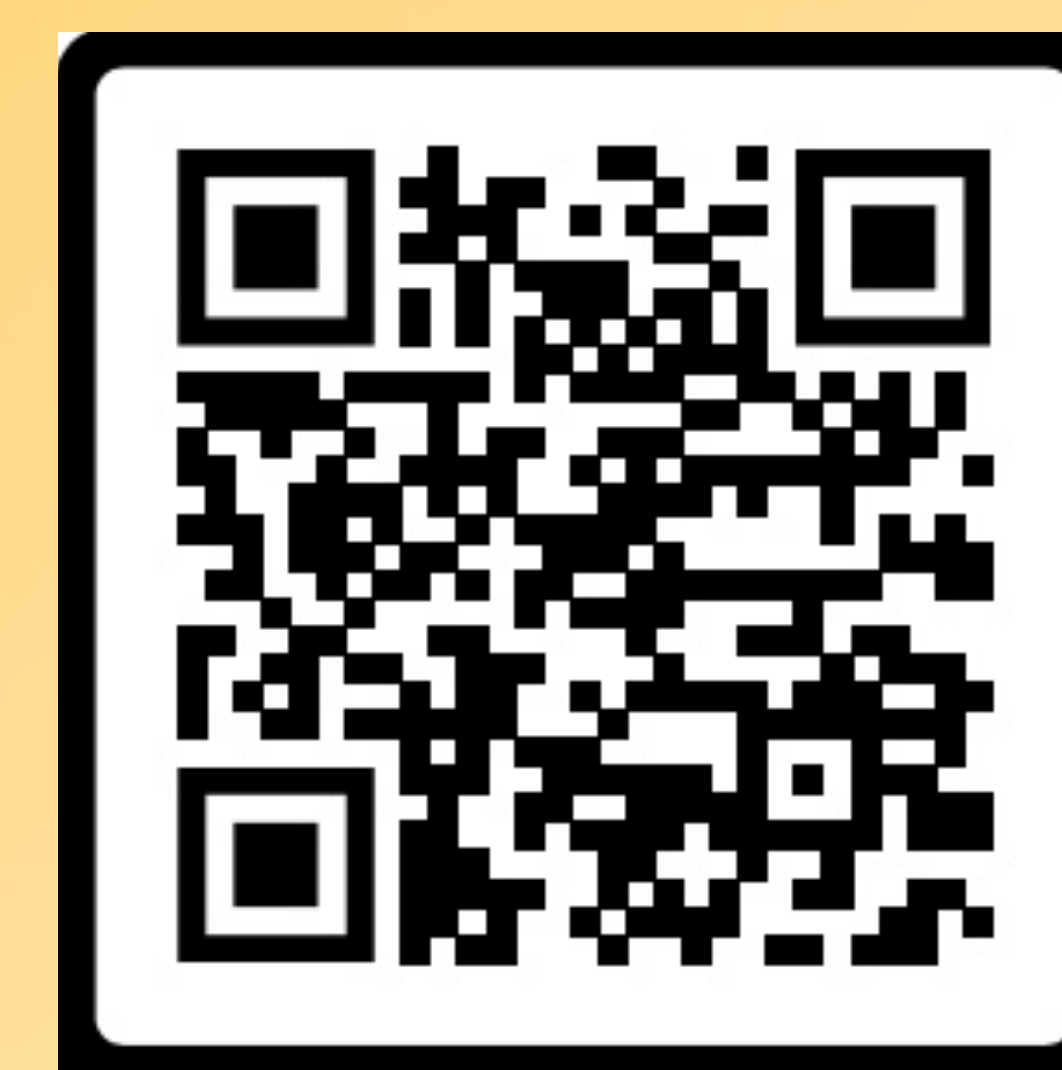
★ In 1950, Mary married El'Ray Wiseman, Sr. (12/19/1927-3/31/1960). In 1952, she received her Bachelor's degree from Mary Allen College. In 1960, her husband died in a tragic car accident, leaving her to raise their 3 children alone. She persevered and in 1964, earned a Master's of Education degree at Texas Southern University.

★ Mary Helen Wiseman, M.Ed., was Easter Elementary School's Teacher of the Month 5 times and Teacher of the Year 3 times. In April of 1992, she was Houston ISD's Employee of the Month, and in 2001, Easter dedicated the new school library in her name.

★ Mary Helen retired after 47 years with the Houston ISD but remained active in the Order of the Eastern Star and other worthwhile community uplift organizations. A Youth Mission Advocate, she groomed young minds for greatness at Liberty Gardens' Cultural Youth Club; the Randon-White Sunshine Group; Second Cavalcade Missionary and St. Luke's Missionary Baptist Churches; as a bereavement counselor at Lockwood & Stripling Funeral Homes, and a faithful Harris County election volunteer.

★ Mary Helen Wiseman, M.Ed., was a lady who touched lives...never too tired to share a helping hand, a word of encouragement, an infectious smile...*and one of her famous hugs...*with anyone in arm's reach!





Navy Veteran, Community Leader and Museum Director...

Stanford Douglas

JULY 26, 1942 - JUNE 17, 2002

★ **Stanford Douglas** was born to John E. “Bud” and Osie Lee Pace Douglas in Walker County, Texas. He was raised in the Wesley Grove community and attended public schools of Walker County at an early age. Stanford was baptized at Wesley Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

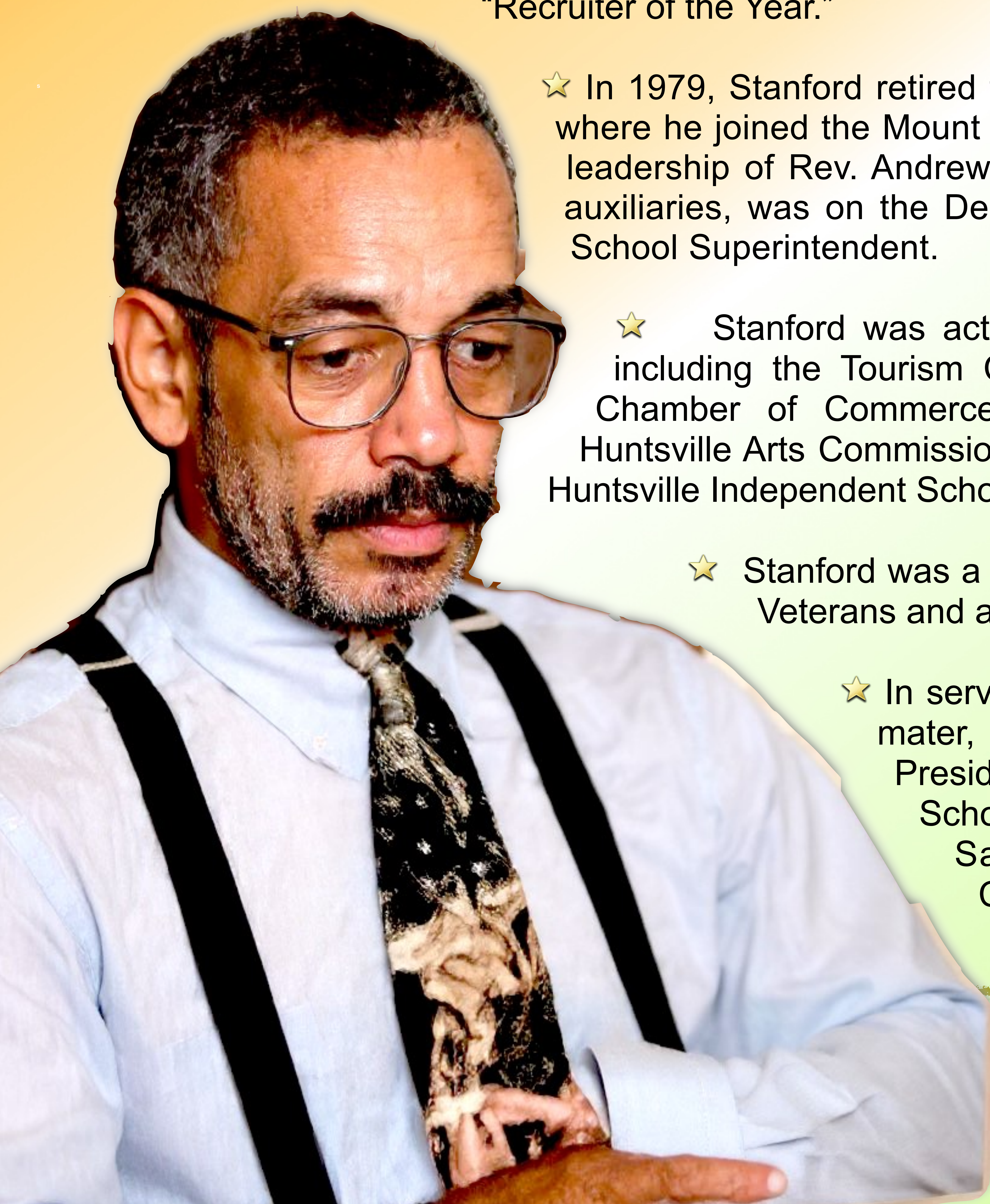
★ After graduating from Huntsville’s Samuel Walker Houston High, Stanford joined the United States Navy, where he served for 20 years as a senior chief. While in the Navy, Stanford was awarded the Good Conduct Award; Navy Achievement Medal with Combat V; the National Defense Medal; the Vietnam Service Medal; and the Vietnam Campaign Medal with Combat V. Stanford was also honored as “Sailor of the Year” and “Recruiter of the Year.”

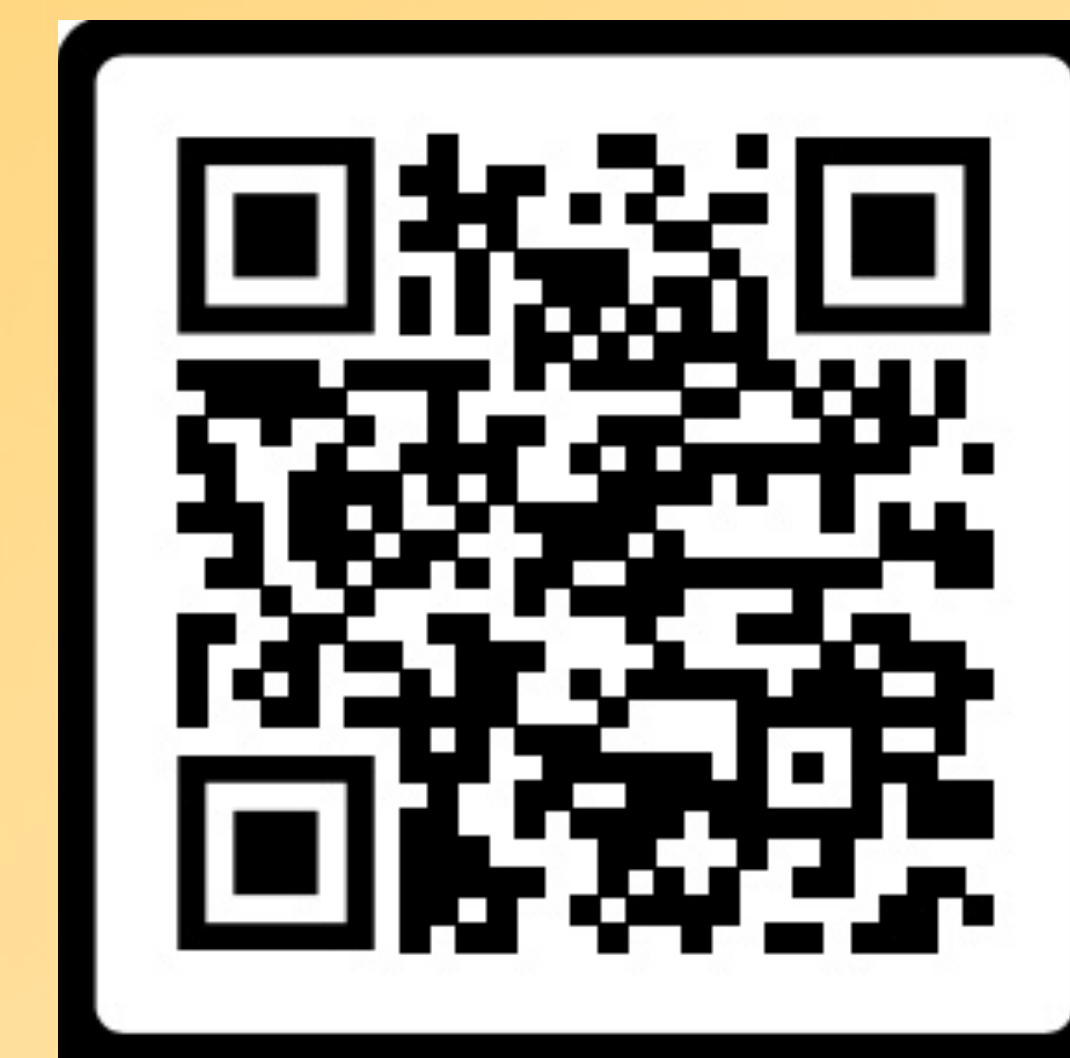
★ In 1979, Stanford retired from the Navy and returned to Huntsville, where he joined the Mount Zion Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Rev. Andrew Isaac. He was active in various church auxiliaries, was on the Deacon Board, and served as their Sunday School Superintendent.

★ Stanford was active in numerous volunteer organizations, including the Tourism Council of Huntsville-Walker County; the Chamber of Commerce; the Huntsville Public Library Board; Huntsville Arts Commission; and the Parent Advisory Council of the Huntsville Independent School District.

★ Stanford was a lifetime member of the Disabled American Veterans and active in other veteran organizations.

★ In service to his community and his former alma mater, Stanford Douglas served as the National President of the Samuel Walker Houston High School Alumni and was the Director of the Samuel Walker Houston Museum and Cultural Center for 8 years.





Civil Servant, Museum Director and “Difference Maker”

La Juana Chandler Glaze

NOVEMBER 19, 1942 - NOVEMBER 25, 2024

★ **La Juana June Chandler** was the eldest child of William David and Avlon Elizabeth Chandler in San Antonio, Texas. The family moved to Huntsville, Texas, where La Juana June accepted Christ and was baptized at First Missionary Baptist Church under the stewardship of Rev. J.R. Woodall.

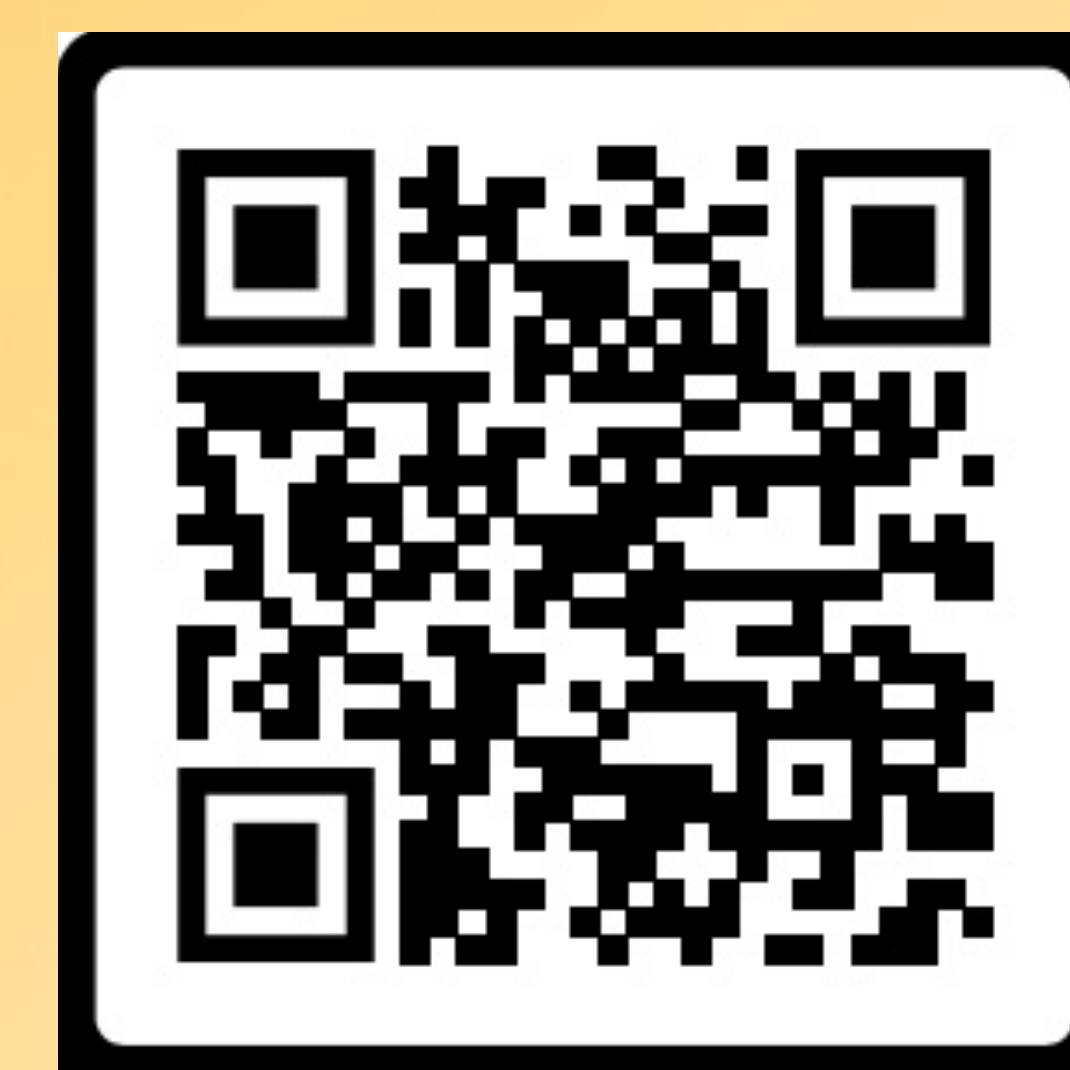
★ La Juana was an exceptional student at Huntsville’s Samuel Walker Houston High School, where she tutored her schoolmates in her spare time. In 1959, La Juana was crowned “Miss Sam Houston.” In 1960, she graduated with honors as the 1960 Class Valedictorian.

★ La Juana continued her education in Evansville, Indiana, where she majored in English and Chemistry. Returning to Huntsville, Texas, she began serving the community by participating in voter registration drives and joined the Walker County Black Chamber of Commerce. La Juana launched a successful 30+ year career with the United States government, working with the Civil Service Administration, Tennessee Valley Authority, and Federal Highways Administration while concurrently studying business and pre-law at Memphis State University and the University of Tennessee Center for Health Services.

★ Upon returning to Huntsville, Texas, La Juana briefly joined and taught Sunday School at Greater Zion Missionary Baptist before reuniting with First Baptist Church.

★ La Juana Glaze began as a volunteer at the Samuel Walker Houston Museum and Cultural Center, eventually becoming the Museum Director and prolific National President of the Samuel Walker Houston Alumni Association until 2022. Her unwavering zeal to serve is evident in her mantra: **“Be a Difference Maker.”**





Army Veteran, Family Man, Rancher and Community Icon...

William Harold Vann

SEPTEMBER 20, 1931 - SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

★ **William Harold Vann**, Army veteran and the youngest son of Willie Aminus Vann and Fannie Naomi Kittrell Vann's children. William and his two sisters were lovingly raised in a Christian home where faith and family were guiding principles.

★ Willie Vann, as he was affectionately known, received his primary school education at Rosenwald School #1. In 1950, he graduated from Samuel Walker Houston High School before attending Prairie View A&M University.

★ When Willie Vann returned to Huntsville, Texas, he answered the call to serve his country by enlisting in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas; Camp Crowder, Missouri; and Fort Sheridan, Illinois. As a member of D Battery, 86 Anti-Aircraft Artillery Missile Battalion in Chicago, William was awarded both the National Defense Service Medal and the Good Conduct Medal in recognition of his dedicated service.

★ After leaving the Army, Willie Vann worked at Delta Airlines for over 13 years before retirement. He cherished his beloved wife, Bennie Mae Vann. The two of them were known throughout the area for their service to the community. Willie Vann especially loved traveling and caring for his land and impressive herd of cattle.

★ This longtime member of Saint Paul Methodist Church was known for his huge personality, generosity, and devotion to others, considering it an honor to care for his parents, grandmother, and others when they could no longer care for themselves.

★ Willie Vann was a faithful member of the Samuel Walker Houston High Alumni Association. He was also a familiar figure as a supporter and horse-backed Texas Cowboy participant in Huntsville's annual Juneteenth Parade.

Source: Research; Obituary, Oral Tradition; Centenarian Interviews

