

Quander News

Over 350 years of quality family connections

QUANDERS
UNITED



Greetings, Quander Family!

As the leaves turn and we embrace the change of seasons, we're excited to share the latest updates and stories from our family. This edition is packed with all the things you love—birthdays, announcements, and articles submitted by our family members.

We're thrilled to share some cherished photos from our 99th Reunion, where we connected, ate, and celebrated our family. Plus, we're honoring those in our family who have proudly served in law enforcement roles.

Have questions, stories, or suggestions? We'd love to hear from you—just send them to the email below. We're also on the lookout for family recipes to feature in future editions and our cookbook.

Please share this newsletter with others in the family, and let's keep the spirit of togetherness alive. Enjoy the read!

Warm regards,
Kelci Reedy
Newsletter Editor

Submissions for the next newsletter are due
Sunday, November 3, 2024

Email QuandersUnitedInc@gmail.com

****Article word count should not exceed 400 or it may be subject to edit to conserve space.****

In this newsletter you can expect:

Announcements
& Birthdays

99th Quander
Family Reunion

Spirit of Nellie M.
Quander Still
Lives – in Vice
President
Kamala Harris

Quanders in Law
Enforcement
Highlight

Announcements

Vanessa Blair-Lewis' Contract Extended

Vanessa Blair Lewis (pictured, left), Head Coach of Women's Basketball at George Mason University, has signed an extension agreement through the end of the 2028-2029 season. The team finished 4th place in the Atlantic 10 Conference Tournaments this year.

Read more on George Mason University's website here:

<https://gomason.com/news/2024/6/26/womens-basketball-george-mason-head-coach-vanessa-blair-lewis-agree-to-extension>



Tracy Jeffries Riley Recognized on Top Contracts Execs List

Tracy Jeffries Riley has been recognized on a list of top contracts executives to watch in 2024.

Read more about why Tracy was recognized here:

<https://washingtonexec.com/2024/07/top-contracts-execs-to-watch-in-2024/24/>



Announcements

Justin Dion Bell And Leveta Smith Tie the Knot!

Justin Dion Bell, son of Joyce Bell and grandson of Rose Quander Neverdon, was joined with Leveta Smith in Holy Matrimony on August 1st. This marriage brings Leveta's children Latoyia, Paris, Lodisee, Steven and her grandchildren Neveyah, Kalonnie, and Harmoni.



100th Quander Family Reunion Photo Display

The 100th Reunion planning has begun, and the committee is collecting family photographs for a photo display. Photo submissions may consist of an individual, multiple individual settings, and special events; just be mindful that the photographs are appropriate for public viewing. The committee asks that you provide the name of the individuals in the photographs and if known, indicate what event the photograph represents. The recommended photo file attachment is PDF, PNG, or JPEG.

If you would like to include your family photographs in the display, please email them to Kelci Reedy by May 31, 2025. The photograph submittal per person limit is five (5) photographs.

Email: kelci.reedy@gmail.com

Announcements

Donation Drive & Rage Room Event for Domestic Violence Awareness Month

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. There is a donation drive event that starts on September 29, 2024. These items will be used for the Peace & Love event at the Room of Rage on October 27, 2024. (The flyer for the Peace & Love event is on the next page.) Please support, if you can!

One of the sponsors of the event is Solid Foundation Inc, which was founded by Cousin LaTasha Ward.



THE ROOM OF RAGE PRESENTS

Peace & Love

an Event for
Domestic Violence
Awareness Month

join us at the
ROOM OF RAGE

Scan to register



4771 Allentown Road
Morningside, MD 20746

OCTOBER
27th
2024
3PM - 7PM

arrive at 2:30 to
complete waiver



**Donations
needed**

see back

sponsored by:



one love life Center
strengthening communities through individual empowerment



All Things K

Birthdays & Anniversaries

September

September 1 - Joseph Howard Quander, Sr.*
 September 3 - Lauren Diggs, Shameeka Butler
 September 5 - Erica Ware
 September 8 - Anita Short
 September 9 - Jalia Rhodes
 September 14 - D'mitri E. Quander
 September 16 - Djakarta Ford, Latreia Jackson
 September 17 - Dana Ali McPherson
 September 20 - Dionne Harrell, Greg Peters
 September 22 - Vickie Walker
 September 25 - Joy Paige-Mitchell

October

October 1 - Veronica Redmond, Justin Dion Bell, Emily Quander, Eugene Short
 October 3 - Danielle Jackson, Milan King
 October 4 - Michelle Grimes
 October 8 - Deitria Johnson
 October 16 - Katalina Masembwa
 October 17 - Gerald Kenneth-Brandon Bell, Qiana Winslow
 October 18 - Marcia Robertson
 October 20 - Taylor Masembwa-Hammond
 October 21 - Jonathan Hillary
 October 23 - Cameron Winslow
 October 25 - Cynthia Winslow
 October 26 - Ysabella Quander-Smedley
 October 27 - Mark Stone
 October 29 - Benjamin Short
 October 30 - Michael Quander, Jr.
 October 31 - Michael Landa-Bell

November

November 2 - Diann Quander Walton, George Walton
 November 3 - Dominique Golden
 November 4 - Triston Quander
 November 5 - Meagan A. Ward
 November 7 - Joseph Ward, Sr.
 November 9 - Romeo Johnson
 November 11 - Cortney Reedy, Pamela Mitchell Gill, Michael Winslow
 November 12 - Robin Burns
 November 13 - Lowell Matthews
 November 14 - Ronald Jordan
 November 15 - Dana Quander
 November 16 - Olivia Quander, Kai Williams
 November 17 - Kenneth Grady Quander II
 November 20 - George Walton
 November 23 - Maia Riley
 November 24 - Eric Rhodes
 November 25 - Veronica Ritter, Eric Rhodes
 November 26 - Jasmine Grimes
 November 27 - Alexandra Grimes
 November 28 - Mary Jo Blair
 November 29 - Jamila Stone, Lynnette Jordan
 November 30 - Mirinda Anderson White

Anniversaries

September 12 - Robert & Lorraine Taylor
 September 26 - Yuneek & Wayne Johnson
 October 3 - Yvette and David Jackson
 November 17 - Brittany and Sharif Jennings

99th Quander Family Reunion

What an incredible time we had at the 99th Quander Family Reunion! From the tour of Moorland-Spingarn Research Center to the stories and laughter at the cookout, it was a great time.

We owe a huge thank you to the hardworking members of our planning committee. Your dedication made every detail of this event come together seamlessly. We are deeply appreciative of your time and effort:

Anthony Grimes, Michelle Grimes, Rosalyn Hillary, Shakhan King, Larryl Matthews, Dana McPherson, Carol Porter-Chittams, Kelci Reedy, and William Q. Taylor

We also extend a special thank you to those who supported the committee with their help and contributions along the way! A special shout out to Latrell Caton for capturing these beautiful moments from our cookout.

We can't wait to see everyone next year as we celebrate a monumental milestone: our 100th Quander Family Reunion! Let's make it one for the history books!





Quander Family Reunion

Submitted by Akia Quanderjordan

During the weekend of August 9-11th, the Maryland / D.C. Quanders hosted the 99th Quander Family Reunion in Prince George's County, Maryland. The family group known as the Quander Family Reunion consists of two major divisions, the Southern Clan and the Northern Clan. Those of us from Maryland and D.C. are the Eastern or some say the Mid-Atlantic Clan. Nevertheless, we hosted our Southern and Northern cousins for the weekend.

As a member of the Quander Historical and Educational Society, I usually travel with the founder, Rohulamin Quander and his wife, Carmen, to family events. We were scheduled to attend the Meet and Greet, which was held at the Hampton Inn in Glenarden. We were late. We had to go to a pinning ceremony for new students entering Howard's Law School. A cousin from the Southern Clan and a descendant of West Ford requested Rohulamin to pin him. His name is Ke'Lien Thomas.

We left Howard and got to the Meet and Greet late. We did have time to fellowship with certain relatives, and we were able to consume some good food.

The picnic was in Watkins Regional Park on Saturday afternoon. When we got there, we couldn't find the lot right away. It's a good thing we didn't. There was a group of cousins who caught an Uber from the hotel, and the driver told them he didn't know the park. Fortunately for this group of cousins, we took one with us to the picnic lot. Ro dropped us off and went back to pick up the others.

Ro picked up Shakhan King from Atlanta; Ken Mitchell from Philly; and a few others. There were cousins who came in from Bermuda, Maryland, Delaware, Virginia, and other parts of the country.



Gina Miller (left) and Akia Quanderjordan (right) at the cookout.

Ro and I set up the historical table and display. We sold copies of the books on family folks. We answered questions about the people on the displays we set up.

When the food was blessed and folks lined up, I almost jumped for joy. There was potato salad, macaroni and cheese, veggie baked beans, hot dogs, hamburgers, turkey burgers, and much much more. There were sodas and water, cookies and cakes. Cousins were fellowshiping and food was plentiful. There was one cake that had been adorned with the country of Ghana flag. I got a piece. It was simply delicious.

On Saturday morning, some family members went to Howard University to view the collection in the Moorland Spingarn Library.

There was a brief business meeting [during the cookout]. People were told that tickets had been obtained for visiting the African American Museum of History and Culture on Sunday.

Others went to Saint Joseph Catholic Church for the mass. All in all, it was a wonderful weekend.

Quanders Gather for 99th Family Reunion

Submitted by Rohulamin Quander

As our Quander family members gathered to celebrate and observe our 99th annual family reunion, the excitement in the air was already looking forward to next year, 2025, when the family will gather from all points to commemorate the centennial of an event that was initially a simple convocation. Indeed, on August 15, 1926, 42 members of the family assembled at the home of Sadie Quander Harris and her husband, Tom Harris, in Woodlawn, Virginia, Fairfax County, and initiated what has become a sustained legacy through these many decades. This family unit is traditionally identified as The Quander Family Reunion (QFR).

Hardly did they conceive that 99 years later, plans would be taking shape for the 100th observance, 1926-2025, and the dawning of the second century of the annual Quander Family Reunion in 1926. Arriving at this junction in our celebration has been a unique experience. Although many of the older family have passed on, moved away, or maybe lost interest in the annual event, the continuity of the celebration remains. New members are born into the family or marry in and take up the mantle to keep the celebration ongoing.

So what did we do to observe and celebrate for this year, 2024? In anticipation of the 99th reunion, cousins Dana McPherson and LeShaun Quander Mosley arranged with Charice M. Thompson, Director of the Manuscript Division, Moorland Spingarn Research Center (MSRC), Howard University, for an exhibit of photographs and documents featuring family history on Friday. Then, on Friday, August 9th, the first day of the reunion weekend, several family members attended the display. They were



Rohulamin Quander speaking to family members at the cookout.

enthralled to learn of the magnitude of the stored documents that cousin Rohulamin Quander has placed at MSRC since 2007.

As is traditional, on Friday evening the family gathered at the Hampton Inn, [Glenarden], Maryland, the host hotel for the traditional Meet and Greet. At least 50 of us enjoyed “being family,” with no agenda established, just a time to relax. Food was varied and plentiful, cards were being played, and the conversation was lively and gregarious. Unique about this reunion was that the Maryland component of the family, generally noted as...

(Continued on Page 19)

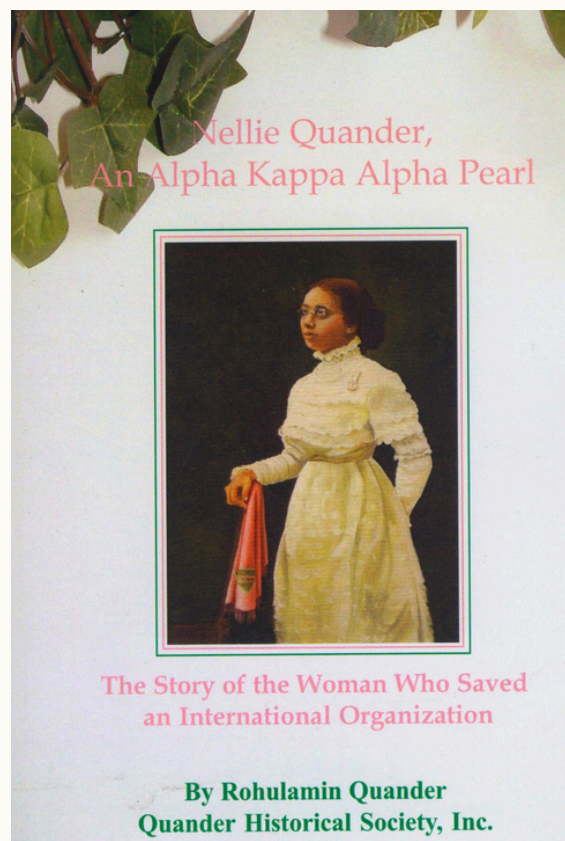
Spirit of Nellie M. Quander Still Lives – in Vice President Kamala Harris

Submitted by Rohulamin Quander

In January 1908, the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., was founded at Howard University. The founding principles of this nascent sorority were sisterhood, scholarship, and service to all humankind. Charged with that responsibility, for the past 116 years the national sorority has discharged that commitment with grace, focus, and encouragement to many others, including those who are not members of the organization.

Vice President Kamala Harris (BA, 1986, Howard University), and a member of AKA, pledged herself to a commitment of extending service to others, and from that objective she has not shrunk, surely influenced by the character and example set by Cousin Nellie M. Quander (1880–1961), the first Supreme Basileus (national president) of the sorority, 1911-1919. AKA women make a positive difference in their own lives and the lives of others, particularly of color, who follow. Born in Washington, DC, Nellie graduated from the old M Street High School (now the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School) in 1898, completed the Miner Normal School with high honors in 1900, and embarked upon a 50-year teaching career in the D.C. Public Schools Colored Division.

She brought much more to the table, the bounty of which continues to be presented and to expand. A Founder of the Phyllis Wheatley YWCA Colored, Washington, D.C. in 1905, she held virtually every elective office on the board during her 51-year affiliation. Active in the Suffragist Movement, she led the fight for Howard University women and other people of the African Diaspora, to be able to participate without segregation in the Suffrage March 3, 1913, March for women's voter rights, which eventually led to the



passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and female access to the ballot box in 1920.

As well, Nellie's activities in the labor movement led to her appointment by Alice Dunbar Nelson, widow of the famed poet, to evaluate and report the living, working, housing, and overall treatment of "Colored" women in Detroit during World War I military production efforts. She reported her findings to Emmett J. Scott, Sr., Special Assistant for Negro Affairs to the Secretary of War, the highest-ranking...

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Quanders in Law Enforcement

This quarter, we are highlighting family members who have served in law enforcement roles. Thank you for protecting and serving!

Note: the information below has been provided by family members. Please note that the details listed for each family member may not be fully accurate. Family members who have passed are marked with an asterisk (*).



Quanda (Mitchell-Price)
Grasty *



Siblings Anthony Grimes
and Michelle Grimes



Kilonzo Masembwa *



Solomon Masembwa



Guy V. Mitchell, Sr.



Davon Quander



Paul Quander, Jr. *



William Q. Taylor

Corporal Ellis - Has served 8 years with Prince George's County Police Department

Quanda (Mitchell-Price) Grasty * (Photo 1) - one of the few female police officers in the 1950s; served in the Juvenile Aide Division of the City of Philadelphia

Anthony Grimes (Photo 2) - Retired from the Prince George's County Police Department after 29 years of service

Michelle Grimes (Photo 2) - Retired as a Sergeant from the Prince George's County Police Department, served 23 years

Kilonzo Masembwa * (Photo 3) - Prince George's County Police Officer

Solomon Masembwa (Photo 4) - Retired Prince George's County Police Officer

Bradford Mitchell - A City of Philadelphia police officer for 33 years

Guy V. Mitchell, Sr. (Photo 5) - officer; standing as a member of FOP 1

Davon Quander (Photo 6) - 15 years of Counterterrorism/Government Physical Security experience; Federal Trade Commission for the past 12 years and the Coast Guard for 3 years; Electronic Security Equipment (Physical Access Control Systems, closed circuit TV's, HSPD - 12 Personal Identity Verification Credentials) as well as performing investigations; oversees a team of 40

armed officers; responsible for the security of 10 Federal buildings around the country to include New York, Cleveland, Chicago, Dallas, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Atlanta, and two in Washington, D.C.; takes extreme pride in serving and protecting our Government personnel, equipment and the visitors conducting business at his agency

Paul A. Quander, Jr. * (Photo 7) - Deputy Mayor of Public Safety for the District of Columbia; CSOSA; Deputy Director of Department of Corrections; Assistant U.S. Attorney's Office for D.C.; D.C. Director Of Criminal Justice Coordinating Council; D.C. Director of Police and Fire Clinic; first D.C. Director of Court Services and Offenders Supervision Agency (nominated by former President George W. Bush); D.C. Assistant Attorney for the office of the Attorney General

William Q. Taylor (Photo 8) - Retired Lieutenant, Deputy Director MPD Training Academy, Office of Professional Standards, (IAD), Commander Data Processing, Administrative Lieutenant 5th District, Patrol Lieutenant 7th District, Commander Recruiting Unit, Disciplinary Sergeant Training Division, Personnel Liaison Background Supervisor for Exempt Employees of the DC Government, Instructor Training Academy, Administrative Officer-3rd District, Old Clothes Tactical Officer-3rd District, Patrol Officer - 3rd District, 153rd FBI National Academy - 1988

Have You Seen This Sign?
Submitted by Katalina Q. Masembwa



Located in the meridian in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue in Takoma Park, Maryland, it was erected on June 23, 2023, in memory and honor of our young Quander relative, Kilonzo Musili Masembwa, son of Katalina Quander Masembwa, the grandson of Joseph A. Quander, Sr., and the great grandson of Clarence C. Quander.

Kilonzo was killed in the line of duty as a Prince George's County Police Officer. On the morning of November 10, 2000, Ofc. Masembwa was dispatched to assist fellow officers in a possible breaking and entering in progress at Langley Park- McCormick Elementary School. As he proceeded to the scene, Ofc. Masembwa lost control of his police vehicle on the wet pavement in the 7400 Block of New Hampshire Ave., Takoma Park, Maryland. The police vehicle then left the roadway and struck a utility pole. Ofc. Masembwa was fatally injured as a result of the single vehicle collision. The memorial sign is erected near the site of the accident.



Kilonzo was born in December 1973 in Washington, D.C, the youngest son in a family of four boys and a girl. He graduated from St. Jerome's Elementary School in Hyattsville, MD, and Archbishop John Carroll High School in Washington, D.C. While at Carroll, he became interested in music and was very active in the glee and drama clubs. After high school, he attended Bowie State University, where he studied communications and journalism, and was recognized for outstanding achievement in those fields. In 1994, Kilonzo was inducted into the National Broadcasting Honor Society, Alpha Epsilon Rho. At Bowie State, he contributed to a number of projects, including directing a cable talk show, "Point of View," and a documentary on Prince George's County's Community Oriented Policing initiative. He graduated cum laude

from Bowie State University in 1995 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications with a concentration in broadcast journalism.

After graduating from Bowie State, he was hired by WUSA Channel 9 as a production assistant. The station was interested in hiring him after he completed an internship there while still in college. During his early time at Channel 9, Kilonzo had limited available time outside of his new employment. Therefore, he decided to leave to pursue his life-long love for music and later began employment with Giant Food at its Landover headquarters for a short stint.

Subsequently, Kilonzo decided to pursue his interest in law enforcement, which he



**Kilonzo, at aged 12, with
older brother, Solomon**

acquired over time from his oldest brother, Solomon Masembwa, Jr, who joined the Prince George's County Police Department in 1986. For one of his final class assignments in college, Kilonzo was provided an opportunity to ride along with his brother, Solomon, in a police vehicle. From there, Kilonzo's interest in law enforcement continued to grow, and he applied to the PG County Police Department. He was appointed to the Prince George's County Police on December 6, 1999 as a member of Session 93. During his academy training, he maintained a scholastic average of 98.7, earning him the Joseph K. Brown Scholastic Achievement Award. Upon completion of his academy

training in June 2000, Kilonzo was assigned to Hyattsville's District I Station. During his short time at District I, Kilonzo successfully completed the Field Training Program and began serving the Prince George's County community. He was said to be very meticulous in every new task and was constantly striving to enhance his knowledge and learn the intricacies of his job. Police Officer First Class Kilonzo Masembwa served the Prince George's County Police Department for just under one year.

At the time of his death, Kilonzo Masembwa was 26 years old and survived by his parents, Solomon M. Masembwa, Sr. from Kenya, Africa, and Katalina Quander Masembwa of Washington DC; an older sister, Ngoki; and three older brothers, Solomon, Jr., David, and Kanyi. It might be noted that his father (d. 2015) traveled to the USA via the Kenyan Educational Airlift program with Barack Obama, Sr. The Masembwa Family is forever grateful to Sergeant Lynn Grant, one of Kilonzo's classmates in Session 93, for her devotion and diligence in working with the Maryland State Highway Administration and other officials in getting approval to install the dedication sign in honor of one of PG County's Fallen Heroes, Kilonzo Masembwa. In addition, Kilonzo's name can be found on the National Law Enforcement Memorial's wall in Washington, DC, at Memorial Panel 25 West, Line 22.

To see more pictures of the ceremony at the Sign Dedication, go to:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/146291848@N02/albums/72177720309391262/>

Tribute to Kilonzo Masembwa by Ashley Masembwa

You may see the first image, and see just another Law Enforcement Officer. PFC Kilonzo M. Masembwa, son of Katalina (Quander) Masembwa. Brother of Ngoki, Solomon, David, and Kanyi. Uncle to Marshel, Ashley and Taylor. And cousin and nephew to a line of Quanders who miss him dearly.

We see a man who made music in his back bedroom and introduced me to my first true love, music. The Man who would lay down on the ottoman in the living room, grab hold of my and my sister's hand and sing "Let's all pile on the rabbit!" We see a man that gave love and smiles like they were lollipops and cupcakes. And I see a man who taught me to love unconditionally no matter what.

He gave his life when he put on his badge everyday. Uncle Kilonzo stayed up at night patrolling so that he could make the streets that we grew up on safe. He valiantly SACRIFICED his LIFE; to avoid ending or injuring another on November 10, 2000 and for that we are forever grateful.

Gone too soon but forever our protector.



Fort Belvoir Reevaluates Its History

Submitted by Rohulamin Quander

Fort Belvoir is interlaced with the history of our great nation. Founded on the banks of the Potomac River and located adjacent to historic Mount Vernon, Fort Belvoir traces its beginning from the Douge Indigenous people, and served as the home of Colonel William Fairfax (Belvoir Manor), providing a place of growth and learning for young George Washington. It now hosts the Department of Defense's largest construction effort with over \$4 billion from the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Act.

In 1915, the U.S. Army began utilizing the installation as an engineer training facility. America's entry into World War I in 1917 led to military construction, and resulted in the founding of Camp Humphreys, named for Major General Andrew A. Humphreys, a distinguished engineer and administrator. As the Camp grew, permanent brick buildings were erected in a Georgian Colonial Revival style. President Franklin D. Roosevelt renamed Fort Humphreys as Fort Belvoir to establish the installation's colonial links. "Belvoir," a French word meaning "beautiful to see," was the name selected originally by Colonel William Fairfax to describe his colonial plantation. Well before Emancipation in 1863, Osman Quander, the free born son of Charles and Nancy Carter Quander, was a major landowner in the immediate area, known as Woodlawn. His sons, Lewis and Felix Quander likewise owned farmland in the tract.

With war clouds gathering in Europe, and the eventual outbreak of World War II, the U.S. Army dramatically expanded Fort Belvoir, the effect of which mandated relocation of the resident civilian population elsewhere in the early 1940s. Consequently, the majority of the Woodlawn area-based Quander family members were forced to sell their properties to the U.S. government through eminent domain, often at a personal financial loss.

Only now, some 80 or so years after World War II ended, the federal government, local Fairfax County officials, and likewise the commanding staff at Fort Belvoir are reevaluating Fort Belvoir's history, with an eye towards giving proper recognition to the African American and Indigenous population's history that was...

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Quanders United Committees

We need your help!

An organization is only as good as its active members. We have several committees, old and new, that need your leadership, skills and time. Please consider actively participating in one or more of the following committees:

- Communications
- Event Planning
- Family Outreach
- Fundraising (sub-committee)
- Historical
- Senior Advisory

Save the Date!

We're excited to announce that our 100th Family Reunion will be held August 8-10, 2025! Mark your calendars and join us as we celebrate this incredible milestone together. It will be hosted by the Virginia branch.

More details about the location, activities, and how to RSVP will be sent after we receive them. We can't wait to make more special memories with all of you!



Quanders Gather for 99th Family Reunion (Continued)

the Quanders United, Inc., took the lead to host the event, which is a recognition that Quanders are many, universal, spread out, but still ONE FAMILY. That aspect was not initially included when only the directly Mount Vernon-descended Quanders were involved in the first reunion in 1926.

The annual picnic on Saturday afternoon was held at Watkins Regional Park, Upper Marlboro, Maryland, with at least 100 family members present. We enjoyed a wonderful spread that featured hot dogs, hamburgers, baked beans, string beans, potato salad, macaroni and cheese, salmon, a most delicious chicken salad, assorted desserts, including a large cake that bore a "Happy 99th anniversary" icing inscription, cookies, and soft drinks. Everyone had their fill and a wonderful time.

Quanders United President, Michelle Grimes, convened the traditional annual meeting, which focused primarily upon setting the stage for next year. Robin Quander Whitmire, 2025 lead planner, requested volunteers to step forward and assume committee responsibilities for everything, including publicity, site selection, guest speakers, and reaching out to reclaim fallen away family, and to recruit new family blood to join us in our family's centennial celebration.

Cousin Rohulamin Quander, drawing upon the importance of retaining documents that relate to our history, underscored how much of our history has been lost. Citing Nellie M. Quander as an example, he referenced several categories of her sustained community involvements for

which she kept journals and diaries, only to have them trashed when she died. Having been the first national president of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., he commented upon how valuable it would have been to benefit from her perspective on the early days of AKA, and particularly with respect to the October 1912 internal breakup when several sorors broke away to form Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

As the reunion weekend drew to a close, several family members attended Catholic mass at St. Joseph's Church, Landover, Maryland, a fitting tribute to our sustained Christian beliefs. However, this experience was unique and a first, as most QFR members are Baptists and Methodists, but also recognize other religious beliefs. This was the first time that the Quander reunion's annual observance included a Roman Catholic religious service.

Also available on the Sunday, several family members closed out the reunion weekend with a visit to the Smithsonian Museum of African American History and Culture. As we concluded the celebration, we pledged ourselves to make the Centennial Celebration and Observance on August 8-10, 2025, truly an "Event to Remember!"

Submitted by:
Rohulamin Quander
Quander Historical and Educational
Society, Inc.
202-487-9922 (cell);
email: rquander@aol.com

Spirit of Nellie M. Quander Still Lives – in Vice President Kamala Harris (Continued)

For about 25 years she operated the after-school program in the Miner Teachers College building on Georgia Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C., overseeing the children's activities while their parents were at work. An early member of the Association for Negro Life and History (now called ASALH), she participated in several women's book clubs and consulted with Dr. Carter G. Woodson for many years.

It is in the atmosphere of all of the aforementioned, that Kamala Harris, our current vice president and now candidate for the presidency of the United States, come to mind. A 1986 graduate of Howard University, Harris embraces the sorority's principles, now seeking to make those principles and her commitment a nationwide example. She has served as city and state prosecutor, Attorney General of California, U.S. senator, and as Vice President to President Joseph R. Biden. She is now in line to succeed him as our 47th President upon a favorable outcome on November 5, 2024, when United States goes to the polls. Harris's life has always been, and still is one dedicated to rendering service to others.

Shortly after [Harris'] election to the office of vice president, Rohulamin Quander received a telephone call from her office, asking for a copy of his book, *Nellie Quander, Alpha Kappa Alpha Pearl, the Story of the Woman Who Saved an International Organization*. The request was immediately honored, as the author well knew that the vice president was not only a sister to Nellie Quander, but likewise a person molded into Nellie Quander's image, focus, and determination to render service to others as she, herself, climbed up the ladder to success.

Fort Belvoir Re-evaluates Its History (Continued)

an integral component for many years prior to the militarization of the site.

In a study commissioned by Christine E. Wormuth, Secretary of the Army, it was noted that the plan is to select sites in the fort that would benefit from improved historical interpretation, including the installation of signs, markers, displays and a website, all of which would enhance visitor understanding of a more diverse history of Belvoir, and concomitantly, the Woodlawn area. Based upon that directive, an ad hoc Fort Belvoir History working group has been formed, and is evaluating how this directive can be achieved. Among the tasks to be undertaken will be the renaming of streets and other suitable structures to include various Indigenous tribal presence that has been here for thousands of years, previously ignored African American war heroes, and prior property-owning families, whose ancestors were relocated from Woodlawn during the 1940s expansion.

While no decisions on plans have been made, it was noted that other than in one small previously segregated area known as Youngs Village, named after Colonel Charles Young, the highest ranking African American during the World War I era, there are no streets named for African Americans in the fort. Further, it was suggested that some street or site re-namings might include Quander, Holland, and Jasper, among other names, as these surnamed people all lived on or immediately adjacent to the land that they lost due to eminent domain. As well, it was noted that several members of the aforementioned families are interred in the Woodlawn Cemetery, which lies undisturbed on the ...

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Fort Belvoir Re-evaluates Its History (Continued)

Belvoir site, immediately adjacent to the former location of the old Woodlawn Methodist Church, which was required to relocate.

This is the same site where family member Rohulamin Quander delivered the keynote address in July 2023 upon renaming Robert E. Lee Road as E.O 9981 Road (Executive Order 9981), a reference to President Harry S. Truman's Executive Order of July 26, 1948, which officially integrated our military forces.

Submitted by: Rohulamin Quander, July 27, 2024
The Quander Historical and Educational Society, Inc.
Phone: 202-487-9922; email: Rquander@aol.com

Thank you for reading!

QUANDERS UNITED	quandersunited.org
Facebook	Instagram