

Presidents of the Association of Negro Teachers



(Photo: Currie Ballard Collection—Oklahoma Historical Society)

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



*The Sixth Annual Hall of Fame
Ceremony and Banquet*

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

Friday

September 30, 2016

7:00 p.m.



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



Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.

“Thoughts from the President”

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

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

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

The Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. museum, located in Clearview, Oklahoma, has become a historical tourist destination, attraction, and place of interest for history enthusiasts. The Town is one of the original Thirteen All-Black towns of the Oklahoma and is centrally located between Tulsa and Oklahoma City in Okfuskee County, accessible from Interstate 40. This is a “must see” museum.

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

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

Sincerely,

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

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



Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.

Dedication

Hilma Bernice (Ligions) Barnes

January 31, 1925
May 22, 2016



The Board of Directors of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. dedicates this Sixth Annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Banquet to the memory of Hilma Bernice (Ligions) Barnes who served as a charter Life-Time member of the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. Her passion for learning and equality are key components for her im-

peccable contributions to the organization. She was a staunch supporter of the Hall of Fame and she wrote the first check in support of construction of the OAAE Hall of Fame Building in Clearview, Oklahoma.

Hilma Bernice (Ligions) Barnes was born January 31, 1925 in Clearview, Oklahoma. She graduated from Clearview High School and received a B.A. in Home Economics and Nutrition from Tuskegee Institute (Tuskegee University). She taught school at Little Hill and Clearview, in Okfuskee County, Oklahoma before marrying Paul R. Barnes in December 1950. She moved to Paterson, New Jersey in 1952, where she taught Home Economics for thirty-seven years until she retired in 1996.

As a member of the Paterson Community, Mrs. Barnes worked with many organizations to better the community socially and educationally. She was an active life member of the Passaic County Section of the National Council of Negro Women, where she worked faithfully with Project Apple. She was one of the founding members of Lambda Kappa Mu Sorority, Chi Chapter, and served as the youth coordinator for many years. She was a life member of the Paterson Branch of the NAACP, AARP.PCREA, Eastside High School XX'S Association, a board member of the Friends of the Paterson Library, Paterson Task Force, Planned Parenthood and Treasurer for the Dillard's Goldsboro High School Alumni & Friends, New Jersey Chapter. She volunteered to help others and received many accolades, plaques, awards and citations for her dedicated and untiring community services. She was active in the Calvary Baptist Church of Paterson for 62 years serving as a Trustee, member of the Golden Keys Senior Club and on the Board of Directors for the Church Community Center, Inc

Mrs. Barnes never forgot her Clearview roots. She returned often for Clearview's school reunions and generously supported the alumni association through monetary gifts. In addition, she graciously entertained and welcomed anyone in her home who was visiting in the New York City area. She and her husband were host to all who visited.

Mrs. Barnes is survived by her husband of 65 years, Paul R. Barnes, one son, Raymond G. (Crystal) Barnes, and one grandson, Spencer M. Barnes, and one brother, Foster Ligons of Oklahoma City.



Life –Time Members

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.

Hilma L. Barnes - Paterson, N.J.
Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.-Clearview, OK
Albert Johnson Sr. - Lawton, OK
Eunice Edison - Lawton, OK
Shirley A. Nero- Clearview, OK
Don Shaw, Esq.- Idabel, OK
Dr. Jack Paschall- Ada, OK
Orlando E. Hazley - Tulsa, OK
Kay Hargrave - Ada, Oklahoma
Dr. John R. Hargrave - Ada, OK
Michael Carolina - Edmond, OK
Dr. Freeta Jones-Porter - Oklahoma City, OK
Joy Hill - Idabel, OK

Esther King - Warner, OK
Gale Parker- Oklahoma City, OK
Ruby J. Peters- Lawton, OK
Dorothy Bradley - Lawton, OK
Jimmie White-Warner, OK
Sharon Hill-Wooten-Idabel, OK
Samuel Combs III, - Tulsa, OK
Rita Combs - Tulsa, Oklahoma
Dr. Deena Fisher - Woodward, OK
Dr. Anquanita Kaigler-Love - Lawton, OK
Dr. Harold C. Aldridge - Tahlequah, OK
Lou Eddie Goodlow Burris - Broken Bow, OK
Eugene DuPriest Jones, III - Oklahoma City, OK

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.



2011 Inaugural Induction

Mr. Curtis Brackeen
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Mrs. Willie Mae Etheridge
Checotah/Warrior, Oklahoma
Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr.
Atoka, Oklahoma
Rev. Willie B. Parker
Spencer, Oklahoma
Mr. William Robert Patterson
Lawton, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

Dr. Meshack M. Sagini
Langston, Oklahoma
Mr. Eddie Walter Warrior
Muskogee, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Jimmie Beatrice White Williams
Idabel, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Dr. La Verne Ford Wimberly
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mr. Tom Anthony Withers Jr.
Clearview, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

2012 Second Annual Induction

Mr. Harold C. Aldridge Sr.
Taft, Oklahoma
Dr. Chalon E. Anderson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dr. Loretta Brown Collier
Tulsa, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Gladys Marie Foshee
Sapulpa, Oklahoma
Mr. Sylvester "Prof" Franklin
Haskell, Oklahoma

Mr. Willie Frank Hurte
Oklahoma City, OK
Dr. Mendell L. Simmons
Norman, OK (Posthumously)
Mr. Albert Johnson Sr.
Lawton, Oklahoma
Mr. Herbert Clarence King
Lawton, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Dr. Frederick D. Moon
Oklahoma City, OK (Posthumously)

2013 Third Annual Induction

Mrs. Eva Gallimore Boyd
Chickasha, OK (Posthumously)
Mrs. Lou Eddie Goodlow Burris
Broken Bow, Oklahoma
Dr. Ada Sipuel Fisher
Oklahoma City, OK (Posthumously)
Mr. Charles L. Henry
Lawton, OK (Posthumously)
Mrs. Lettie Ruth Hunter
Oklahoma City, OK (Posthumously)

Dr. Freeta Jones-Porter
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dr. Betty G. Mason
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dr. Willard G. Parker
Muskogee, OK (Posthumously)
Ms. Thelma Reece Parks
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Dr. Wanda J. Pollard-Johnson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

2014 Fourth Annual Induction

Dr. Charles E. Butler
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mrs. Valerie Inez Carolina
Wewoka, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Lola Parker Dean
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mrs. Juanita Lewis-Hopkins
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Mr. Millard L. House
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mr. Jesse "J.D." Johnson
Altus, Oklahoma
Ms. Mary "The Fox" Johnson
Ardmore, Oklahoma
Mr. Charles B. McCauley
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Violet A. Patterson
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Dr. Willa Allegra Strong
McAlester, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

2015 Fifth Annual Induction

Mrs. Nancy Ola Randolph Davis
Spencer, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mr. Manyles B. Gaines, Jr.
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Dr. Ernest L. Holloway, Sr.
Boley, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Marilyn Ballard Jackson
Clearview, Oklahoma
Mr. James Roy (J.R.) Johnson
Muskogee, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

Mrs. Clara Mae Shepard Luper
Hoffman, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Dr. Gloria Joan Pollard
Spencer, Oklahoma
Dr. Jimmy V. Scales, Sr.
Idabel, Oklahoma
Dr. Virginia L. Schoats
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Dr. Valree Fletcher Wynn
Lawton, Oklahoma



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Oklahoma Historical Society Liaison: Larry O'Dell



2016 OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc. Program

Welcome

*Dr. John Hargrave
Ada, Oklahoma
Board of Directors
Hall of Fame & Financial Committees*

Invocation

*Mr. Jimmie White
Warner, OK
Treasurer
Board of Directors*

Dinner

***Opening Remarks/
Introductions***

*Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.
Clearview, Oklahoma
President - OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.*

***Citations/
Acknowledgements***

*The Honorable Regina Goodwin
Representative District 73
Tulsa, Oklahoma*

2016 Induction Ceremony

Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.

2016 Inductees

Mr. Jerry Lee Belton, Sr.
Boynton, Oklahoma

Mr. Cedric Johnson
Muskogee, Oklahoma

Dr. Karen M. Clark
(Posthumously)
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Dr. Anquanita Kaigler-Love
Lawton, Oklahoma

Dr. Leon Edd, Jr.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
(currently New Jersey)

Mr. Wallace Owens, Jr.
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Mrs. Jo Ann Goodwin Gilford
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mr. Herman Cornelius Robbins
(Posthumously)
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Ms. Claudette Goss
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mrs. Lena Lowry Sawner
(Posthumously)
Chandler, Oklahoma

Closing Remarks

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

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductees



Mr. Jerry Lee Belton, Sr.

"Am I Right or Wrong?"

Mr. Jerry Lee Belton, Sr. grew up poor, raised by his mother, who described him as "tough." He was the middle child of ten, born and raised in Boynton, Oklahoma. His mother made him work to earn money for school clothes and challenged him to continue his education to improve his lifestyle. His mother told him, "Jerry, if you truly believe in something, pursue your goals." Jerry's dream was to get an education and return to Boynton as the first black coach in that district. That proved to be a challenge, but sports would be the avenue to achieve his dream.

Mr. Belton learned a valuable lesson of good communication skills due to the fact that he did not live with his father. Communicating with him meant the difference between going to bed hungry and having a nice meal, so to speak. In addition, he learned the power of networking and relationship building.

In 1973, he was the State of Oklahoma's leading basketball scorer with a three-game scoring record of 100 points in the Tournament of Champions. He graduated in 1973 and went on to play baseball and basketball at Northeastern Oklahoma A & M College. Mr. Belton was the first of his immediate family to attend college.

In 1977, he received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Northeastern State University, a Master's Degree in Secondary Education and an Education Administrative Certificate in 1980.

In 1978, Mr. Jerry Belton began his 19 years of a coaching career at Okmulgee Junior High. The next year, he moved to Boynton, the chance and opportunity he had been waiting for, where he became the Boynton Cardinal Boys basketball coach. In his second year, in 1980, he led his team to a state championship. During his career at Boynton, he won 17 district championships, 16 regional championships, 15 area championships, and six state championships. His teams won more state championships than any class B teams with 452 wins and 91 losses. He said, "I wasn't just winning for me, I was winning for everybody in the community."

Mr. Belton received many awards for his accomplishments including being inducted into the Tournament of Champions Hall of Fame and being named Coach of the Year to Small Schools and Regional Coach. The OSSBA Basketball Association presented him a 20-Year Gold Pin and he was honored one of NSU Outstanding Alumnus.

Mr. Belton went on to serve as principal and Interim Superintendent at Boynton before taking the position of Assistant Director and later, Director at Indian Capital Technology Center (ICTC). He retired in 2009. He was named the Muskogee County Educator of the year in 2005, inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in 2006, the Basketball Coaches of Hall of Fame in 2007, and the distinguished service award in 2009. Mr. Belton retired from ICTC in 2009 after 32 years as an educator.

Mr. Belton and his wife, Georgiann, have been married 40 years and they currently reside in Boynton on their ranch. They have three sons: Jerry Jr., Jermaine, and Gregory, seven grandchildren, and one on the way.

As the first African-American coach at Boynton High School, *Mr. Jerry L. Belton, Sr.* became a coaching legend. He viewed education as the "equalizer" for all – no matter where they came from; education was their opportunity to rise above. He stressed it to his students, players, and his own sons. No one was immune. They are forever grateful for his support and encouragement.



Dr. Karen Marie Clark (Posthumously)

"Because I Chose To Make A Difference"

Dr. Karen Marie Clark was born in Chicago, Illinois in 1953. She attended Illinois State University and received a Bachelor's degree in Broadcast Journalism. She went on to receive a Master's Degree from Central State University (UCO) and her Doctoral degree in Education from Oklahoma State University. In 1974, she married Ronald Clark.

Dr. Clark devoted over 20 years of her life to community advocacy and education as a print and photo journalist, community organizer, education administrator, college professor, and academic department chair. She contributed a vast amount of her experience to work done with the Black Dispatch, the Urban League of Greater Oklahoma City, the State Department of Education, St. Gregory's and Langston University.

In addition, she gained substantial regional and national leadership experience in these organizations: Jack and Jill of America, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., The Links, Inc., and Chums, Inc.

Dr. Clark educated, mentored, and prepared hundreds of students for life after college. Her tough -yet-caring approach to working with students left an indelible mark on their development as adults and productive citizens. Dr. Clark taught in the classroom at the university level for over 20 years and was an employee at the State Department of Education prior to pursuing a doctorate in Educational Technology at Oklahoma State University. Dr. Clark's desire was for her students to be prepared in the basic areas of education to avoid the many struggles some students encounter when they were not quite academically prepared.

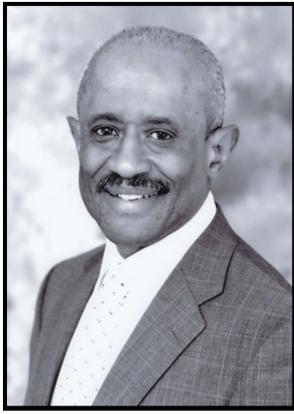
She received numerous awards in her illustrious career. Some were: Journalism Educator of the Year, National Association of Black Journalists in 2005 (first recipient), and 1st place in Organizational Communications for "Scope" Magazine, Jack and Jill of America, Inc, Editor awarded by the National Association of Black Journalist, Region VII Conference, 2003.

Dr. Clark's Professional Affiliations include; National Association of Black Journalists, Oklahoma Association of Black Journalists, Oklahoma Broadcast Educators Association and National Association of Parliamentarians.

A published author, Dr. Clark wrote the book, *Word Usage for African Americans: A Simple A to Z Guide* in 2003. Later she authored, *Our Special Time: A Celebration of African American Life in Poems and Essays* in 2008.

Dr. Clark died on October 26, 2011. She is survived by her husband Ronald Clark, and sons Darian, Kyle and Bryant, and daughter Ariel, and three grandchildren Malachi, Samya, and Anaise.

A wordsmith and phenomenal instructor is how some described *Dr. Karen M. Clark*. She had a powerful way of using a pen and microphone and took great care to ensure that her students were active learners in class and in life. Her former students will long remember her for her enthusiasm and passion.



Dr. Leon Edd, Jr.

"Praise Is The Way To Achieve"

Dr. Leon Edd, Jr. was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma, the son of Dr. Leon and Lula Louise Edd, Sr. They encouraged him at an early age to love learning. With an eye for beauty, he began watching animals and drawing sketches of them before grade school. While in elementary school, his parents encouraged him to take on a leadership role in caring for his younger brothers as they entered the school system. During his elementary years, he continued his love for art and became proficient in reading and began to write stories about his artistic creations.

His ninth grade teacher, Juanita Lewis at Marian Anderson and Carver in Tulsa, encouraged him in the love of writing and research. She praised him and he quickly learned from her that in most instances, praise is the way to achieve the outcomes you desire. At Booker T. Washington H. S., legendary coach Ed Lacy convinced Dr. Edd that he had the intelligence, size and potential to become an outstanding state wrestling championship qualifier. When he graduated from high school in 1965, he knew he wanted to become an inspiring art teacher and wrestling coach.

Dr. Edd graduated from Central State University and was ultimately hired at Northeast High School in Oklahoma City as the Visual Arts, English teacher, and wrestling coach. It wasn't long before he realized that he would have a greater impact on more students as a Guidance Counselor. He attended Central State once more and obtained a M.S. in Guidance and Counseling and went to work at Classen High School. He then enrolled at the University of Oklahoma to begin the doctoral program in Education Administration, of which he completed in 1983.

Over the next twelve years, he served the OKC Public School District as Assistant Principal at Northeast High, Principal at Star Spencer High, and Principal at John Marshall High Schools. In 1984, Dr. Edd became the Superintendent at Millwood Public Schools, where he led the District for ten years until he retired to accompany his wife on job relocation to New Jersey.

During his tenure, Dr. Edd received many awards and recognitions including: OKC Eastside Family Branch YMCA Human Support Award, 1980; Oklahoma City Principals Association, Dedicated Service Award, 1984; A Salute to Oklahoma Achievers, Community Services Award, "as a motivator and role model for our youth of our community," Seventh Day Adventist Church, The Department of Community Service, 1990; and St. Johns C.M.E. Church Outstanding Service, Community Leader, 1992. He was a dedicated member of the Gold Triangle Club of Greater Oklahoma City YMCA, Gold Triangle Club of Eastside Branch YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City, and the Silver Triangle of Eastside Branch YMCA of Greater Oklahoma City.

Dr. Edd acknowledges that he had many mentors along the way. Three that come to mind are: Dr. Melvin Todd who was Principal at Northeast High, Dr. Betty Mason who supervised him as Director of Secondary Education, and Dr. Tom Payzant who advised and supported him when he was Superintendent of OKC Public Schools.

Dr. Edd is the proud father of three children, Rodney, Robyne and Layna, one God-child, Tawanna and the grandfather of nine. He and his wife Tycene continue to reside in New Jersey.



Mrs. Jo Ann Goodwin Gilford

"All Children Can Learn"

Mrs. Jo Ann Goodwin Gilford was born on September 18, 1933 in Tulsa; the third of eight children, Edwyna Anderson, Edward Goodwin, Jr., James "Jim", Jeanne Goodwin Arradondo, Carlie Goodwin, Robert K. Goodwin, Susan Goodwin Jordan, and Onetha Manuel born to Edward L. and Jeanne B. Goodwin, Sr. She grew up in a time when education was not for all. She was persistent and worked hard and enrolled at Fisk University after graduating from Tulsa's famed Booker T. Washington High School in 1951. After one year, she relocated to attend Kansas State Teacher College where she earned a B.S. in 1955. She received an M.S. from Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, Oklahoma in 1970.

Mrs. Gilford's career in education began when she was hired to teach in Des Moines, Iowa; followed by a stint in Washington, D.C. and Heidelberg, Germany. Then, in 1961, she returned to the states and was hired in by Tulsa Public Schools; becoming the first African American hired the district. Her first task was to integrate Burroughs Elementary; which she did successfully. Mrs. Gilford was named the Director at Post Elementary School Youth Center for Visual and Performing Arts in 1984. She became principal at Alcott Elementary in 1986. She was the first African American reading supervisor of junior and senior high schools in Tulsa. She was very effective at her job. Her expertise in teaching reading resulted in increased in student scores; often advancing one or more grade levels.

Mrs. Gilford has served as a Classroom Management Consultant for multiple schools in Tulsa. Because of her management skills, suspensions were significantly reduced and attendance dramatically improved. An ardent advocate for children; one of her major accomplishments was her successful effort to ban corporal punishment in Tulsa Public Schools. Her work in this area reaffirmed the belief that all children can learn as stated by the schools' philosophy.

Mrs. Gilford had an accomplished educational career. Some of her awards and recognitions include: Booker T. Washington High School Distinguished Hall of Fame Foundation Inductee, Metropolitan Tulsa Urban League, Inc., Marion Taylor Service Volunteer Award, Service/Volunteer Award From Greely/Hawthorne, National Education Association National Teacher of the Year - 1965, Winner of Effective Principal Award, and Coordinator of HIPPPY (Home Instruction for Pre-School).

Mrs. Gilford is a member of Oklahoma Education Association, National Education Association, NAACP, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc., and First Baptist Church, North Tulsa. Mrs. Gilford is the mother of Michelle and Lisa, grandmother of Ryan, Page, and Nicholas; and great-grandmother of Landon and Aalani. She was married to Ernie Fields, Jr. and later to Lucius Gilford, Jr.

Mrs. Jo Ann Goodwin Gilford had a knack for creating "teachable moments" often unbeknownst to her students. She was just that kind of teacher who could turn any situation into an adventure in learning. She will long be remembered by her former students.



Ms. Claudette Goss

“Helping Students Keep Enthusiasm Alive”

Ms. Claudette Goss was born August 15, 1946 in Vian, Oklahoma to John and Maethella Goss. She has lived most of her life in the Oklahoma City area. She attended and graduated from Dunjee High School in the Choctaw School district where she received encouragement, motivation, and mentoring from noted Civil Rights leader and educator Clara Luper. Goss participated in the historic Oklahoma City sit-in movement, as well as the historic March on Washington D.C and was Dunjee's only teen correspondent to the Daily Oklahoman and Times.

After graduation from high school, Ms. Goss attended Central State College (OCU), where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1971, OKC Schools hired her to teach English at Capitol Hill High. She was an English teacher by day, but by night she worked at KOCO writing for the nightly and morning broadcasts. Ms.

Goss eventually became the speech, drama and debate teacher, produced plays, and coached students for competition. After six years, she became a secondary language arts supervisor for Oklahoma City Public Schools.

In 1978, Ms. Goss was hired as a Language Arts specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Education (OSDE). During her tenure at the OSDE, she taught various language arts, speech, diction and voice courses at Rose State College in the evenings. During this time, she traveled more than 20,000 miles presenting state-legislated mandates and staff development workshops for educators. While working for OSDE, she collaborated with other members and helped develop curriculum guides, write papers, and pamphlets that became teacher instructional resources and much more.

Ms. Goss's other professional experiences include: Developed Common Core Language Arts and Reading writing preparation tests for Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Virginia and California; developed End of Instruction Assessments for Ontario, Canada - Canadian Department of Education; created revisions for SAT (Scholastic Aptitude Test) field test program; FCAT Writing-Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test-2005 and 2006 eighth and tenth grades writing test; and Hawaii State Assessment 2006-sample assessment for third through tenth grades.

Mrs. Goss published works include: *Write Angles III: Still More Strategies for Teaching Composition*, Oklahoma Department of Education. 2003, which was coordinated and edited with Oklahoma Writing Project members; *Priority Academic /skills (PASS) Grades 1-12 Language Arts Competencies*, Oklahoma State Department of Education in 1994, 1997, 2000, 2003.

Ms. Goss is a member of several professional and civic organizations and boards: National Council of Teachers of English (Life), Curriculum Commission board, State Supervisors Assembly board, NAACP, Black Caucus and a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Former students describe *Claudette Goss* as a consummate professional and extraordinary educator. She continues to teach as an adjunct instructor in speech and composition courses at Rose State College



Mr. Cedric Johnson

“Put Forth Their Best Effort”

Mr. Cedric Johnson was born on May 13, 1932, on a farm near Clarksville, Oklahoma in Wagoner County. He was the oldest of three children born to Elbert and Hazel Marshall Johnson. Being of both African-American and Creek Indian descent, his family was allotted parcels of land. It was during the depression era that he and his family raised many acres of cotton as a cash crop.

In 1938, Mr. Johnson began his education in a two room school on his aunt's property. In 1940, his parents moved to Tulsa, OK. The living quarters in their apartment did not accommodate all three of the children, thus he and his siblings were separated and he moved to Muskogee to live with his paternal grandfather. He attended Wheatley Elementary and Manual Training Schools until his seventh grade year when the family moved to California. After one year, he returned and in 1951, he graduated from Manual High School. He attended Lincoln Junior College in Missouri and earned an Associate degree. In 1959, he received his BS in Education from Northeastern State College (NSU) at Tahlequah and M.S. in Education in 1962. He also completed post-graduate studies at the University of Tulsa and the University of Oklahoma.

In 1959, he began his career in education as a social studies teacher at Sadler Junior High School in Muskogee and after six years he taught history at Manual Training High School. In 1970, Mr. Johnson was hired to teach history at Muskogee High School. He continued to rise in the ranks of Muskogee Public Schools; serving as Assistant Principal at Alice Robertson Junior High School (1973-75), Sadler Junior High School (1975-81), and West Junior High School (1981-84). Mr. Johnson was selected as Principal at Franklin Elementary School in 1984 – 1987 and West Junior High School from 1987-1990, and The Continuing Learning Center, 1990-1992. He served as Assistant Principal of Muskogee High from 1993 to 1997, when he retired after 38 years in education.

Mr. Johnson served as president of the Muskogee chapter of the NAACP and was recognized for his work with the Muskogee Court Draft Board. He is the former president and charter member of Muskogee Organization for Narcotics and Alcohol Referral, Inc. which is a drug and alcohol treatment center for women. In 2012, nationally acclaimed radio broadcaster Tom Joyner chose him for the Great Man, Great Father Award. His other awards include: The Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc and Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. service awards, the Muskogee High School Class of 1997 Appreciation Award, and appointment to Muskogee County Draft Board 51. His affiliations include: Oklahoma Education Association, National Education Association, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa Fraternity and Black Caucus of School Personnel.

In 1960, Mr. Johnson wed Inez Pearson (deceased) and to this union two children were born: Cedric Jr. and Kelli. He is grandfather to Brandi and Blair, and great-grandfather to Ellis. Mr. Johnson is a member of Grace Episcopal Church in Muskogee where he serves on the church Vestry. He recently completed the program of Theological Education.

Mr. Cedric Johnson was known to be a tough but fair teacher and administrator. He expected his students to put forth their best effort in class and in life. Therefore, because of his influence and impact in their lives, they seldom disappointed him.



Dr. Anquanita Kaigler-Love

“Do All The Good You Can”

Dr. Anquanita Kaigler-Love was born in Cushing, Oklahoma on June 20, 1952. She is the oldest daughter of Ray and Ruby Polk. Traveling with her parents as a military child provided numerous experiences and opportunities to learn and grow in a global classroom. In 1974, Dr. Kaigler-Love's family returned to Lawton, Oklahoma. She graduated from Lawton Public Schools and from Cameron University in Lawton, earning her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education with a minor in English and History. In addition to her multiple degrees, Dr. Kaigler-Love is adept in research and interviewing skills and she is fluent in the German language.

Dr. Kaigler-Love taught fifth and sixth grades in Lawton in the public schools. She continued her education and earned a master's degree with emphasis on Educational Administration from Southwestern University in Weatherford, Oklahoma. In 1994, she was promoted to coordinate gifted and talented students and eventually promoted to assistant and elementary principals.

In 2001, Dr. Kaigler-Love earned a Ph. D. in Education, Administration, Curriculum and Supervision from the University of Oklahoma. In July of 2001, Lawton Public Schools promoted her to the central office, where she became Executive Director of all title programs for the school system. This experience garnered a life-long respect and understanding when working with the Native American population, limited English speakers and the economically deprived. Her 38 year commitment to education and Lawton Public Schools culminated with a celebrated retirement in January, 2013.

Dr. Kaigler-Love is an active member of Union Baptist Church where she works with choir membership and serves as choir secretary. She served as director of vacation bible school and director of Christmas plays and other activities. In addition, she participates with the League of Women Voters, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc., Lawton Art and Humanities Council, MLK Day Advisory Committee, Lawton Weed and Seed Steering Committee, Board Secretary for Lawton YWCA, Young Adult Sunday School Teacher, and is a Motivational Speaker.

Her professional memberships include; American Educational Research Association, Oklahoma School Boards Association Delegate, Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Lawton Area Reading Council, Oklahoma Retired Teachers Association, Lawton Retired Teachers Association, and she is an Adjunct Professor for Curriculum Development at Cameron University

Some of her honors and awards include: National Collegiate Scholar, Lawton Public Schools Principal for Literacy Award, Comanche County Woman of Year Award, Who's Who Among American Teachers, Delta of the Year, Kappa Recognition for Achievements, and NAACP Recognition for Achievements.

Dr. Kaigler-Love is married to Earlon Love, the mother of two, and a proud grandmother.

A famous quote by John Wesley states, “Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as you can.” *Dr. Kaigler-Love* chose to do good, and have a positive impact in the lives of her students.



Mr. Wallace Owen, Jr.

“Have a Germane Attitude Toward Their Fellow Man”

Mr. Wallace Owens, Jr. was born on a ranch in Summit, Oklahoma. It was while he was raising cattle and laboring on the family ranch that he developed an appreciation of nature. He spent countless hours observing wildlife in nature. Upon graduating from high school in 1953, he enlisted in the United States Army where he would later participate in the Korean Conflict. This experience exposed him to the European art scene and further stimulated his fascination with life and nature.

Returning to the United States, in 1955, Mr. Owens enrolled at Langston University. In 1959, he earned a B.S. in Education. He was immediately hired at Sterling High School in Greenville, S. C., where he established the district's first art program. Later, he moved to San Jose, CA where he worked briefly for Lockheed Missiles Company. He still yearned to be a part of the art world; so, in 1965 he returned to Oklahoma and enrolled at Central State (UCO) where he completed studies and earned a Master of Arts in Education degree.

In 1966, he matriculated to San Miguel de Allende, Mexico to study at Instituto Allende. It was there that his creative mind was rejuvenated, and he developed a deep and abiding love for the study of art, the country, and the people of Mexico. He was certified as a Master of Fine Arts in painting. He then returned to his alma mater, Langston University to begin his career as an art instructor. During his tenure and as department chair, Langston graduated more African American art teachers than any other university in the State of Oklahoma.

During the summers, Mr. Owens often studied abroad. He studied at the American Center for Artists in Paris, France. He was chosen as a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Rome where he studied art history in Rome, Florence, and Venice in Italy. Through the African American Institute, he studied the art and culture of West Africa while traveling extensively throughout Ghana, Togo, Dahomey, and Nigeria.

In 1980, Mr. Owens was hired as an Associate Professor of Art at the UCO in Edmond. Following an eight-year stint at UCO, he retired in 1988; having devoted 26 years to education.

During his career, his biography appeared in “Outstanding Educators of America” in 1975. His painting, “The Creeper” was chosen to be included in the State of Oklahoma's permanent art collection in 1978. In 1997, Langston University tabbed Mr. Owens to render a sculpture to commemorate its centennial anniversary, a 25-foot sculpture, “Uranus” located on the LU campus. He was inducted into the NTU Art Association African-American Hall of Fame in 2010. He belongs to many Arts and Humanities and Educational Associations.

Mr. Owens and his wife, Dr. Carolyn T. Kornegay, reside in Guthrie, where in 2005; he founded the Owens Arts Place Museum (OAPM). It is the first and only fine arts museum in Logan County. The non-profit museum's purpose is to promote fine arts education and experience for students and groups in the community.

Mr. Wallace Owens, Jr. is a nationally acclaimed educator, teacher, artist, scholar, and humanitarian who possessed the innate ability to foster and inspire his students to create magnificent pieces of art. He continues to share his talent with individuals in his community.



Mr. Herman Cornelius Robbins (Posthumously)

“Sharpen Their Critical Thinking Skills”

Mr. Herman Cornelius Robbins was born in Fort Gibson, Oklahoma on July 23, 1928. He attended elementary and junior high school in Wagoner and graduated from Wagoner’s Lincoln High School in 1947. He attended Langston University, where he majored in Vocational Agriculture and minored in science and earned his B.S in 1951. He earned a Master of Science degree at Oklahoma State University and continued post graduate studies at the University of Tulsa,

In 1947, he began working in the business sector as a handyman and truck driver at Hanna Lumber Company in Tulsa. He was promoted in 1952 to the position of building engineer. He worked his way up and in 1960; he was tabbed for a supervisory position with the company as department head of general hardware. This position was one not generally assigned to an African American man. He continued to impress the owners with his depth of knowledge and common sense approach to business. In 1965, management made him manger of Hanna Lumber Company Store #1. He was accountable for every aspect of the store; hiring, sales, advertising, purchasing, inventory control, public relations, and compliance. With that bold move, he became the first African American man to hold that title. While working in this position, he was also chosen to be a member of the Hanna Lumber Company Board of Directors.

After 23 years with Hanna, he decided to take financial expertise to the field of education. In 1969, he wrote a letter to Dr. Alfred Philips, then President of Tulsa Junior College. In it he wrote, “I feel-personally-that the Junior College will be an asset to our community and that I can make a contribution in this area of education.” Based on his resume and application, he was hired immediately as Mid-Management Coordinator and Business instructor.

In 1974, he became an Associate Dean for Evening Programs and Summer School and the Talkback Television Lab Coordinator at TJC. Mr. Robbins ascended to the rank of Vice-President of Business and Auxiliary Services in 1976 and he remained in that capacity until his retirement in 1995; having accumulated 25 years in education. During his years of teaching and supervising students, he always strived to ensure that students sharpen their critical thinking skills so that they were competent and competitive in the real world.

Mr. Robbins was a member of many service and professional organizations in his community. Some were Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Delta Kappa, Rotary Club of Tulsa, American Red Cross, Tulsa Urban League, Langston University Alumni Association, Oklahoma Association of Junior Colleges, and Prince Hall Masonic Lodge.

He was a faithful member of North Tulsa-First Baptist Church. He wed the love of his life, Flossie, on September 28, 1951. They had seven children – Jacquelyn, Herman Jr., Ronald, Gerald, Carol, Beverly, and Kelly.

Mr. Herman C. Robbins was never one to back away from a challenge. He did not intend to become an educator, but when the call came to serve, he accepted. The results - the opportunity for positively impacting the lives of both students and colleagues; who would commonly preface his name with the words, “My Good Friend.”



Mrs. Lena Lowry Sawner (Posthumously)

“Demanded the Best Education”

In 1874, Mrs. Lena Lowery was born in Richmond, Indiana. Little is known about her early life, educational background and awards. What is known is that in 1902, she became principal of Douglass High School in Chandler, Oklahoma. The following year she married George W. F. Sawner, a wealthy local businessman. From 1902 to 1934, Mrs. Sawner served as Douglass School Principal where she distinguished herself as a master educator, activist, humanitarian, and elegant role model. She demanded that the quality of education received at Douglass be equal to or better than that provided in the segregated white school system.

During her reign, more than ninety percent of Douglass’ students who entered the ninth grade earned a high school diploma. Graduating students possessed the self-confidence, academic knowledge, and social skills needed to meet the challenges of a competitive world, and she utilized the best strategies to create an atmosphere where it was not impossible for students to be successful. The students idolized Mrs. Sawner. She was elegant and a very classy lady who wore the latest styles. Information on the success and accomplishments of African Americans was in every corner of her school. Distinguished African Americans would often visit Douglass School to encourage and motivate the students. Those who visited included; Oscar De Priest, Roscoe Dunjee (editor of the Black Dispatch newspaper) in Oklahoma City, and Thurgood Marshall, future U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Mrs. Sawner was one of Oklahoma's first pioneer African-American activists. She was a member of the Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers, a group instrumental in improving the skills of Black teachers. Douglass School was the first county school to provide free adult education and literacy classes. She spent her life building the black educational system and helping to empower the black community, especially the youth. She organized county wide contests to motivate students and recognize their achievement and was considered a 'Senior Teacher' in Lincoln County. In 1911, the Governor Louis Lacey of Oklahoma appointed her to represent the state at a conference of Black Educators in Omaha, Nebraska.

In 1916, during her tenure, Douglass High School became one of only six separate high schools to become accredited in Oklahoma. She served in all executive positions of the Oklahoma Negro Educational Association. In 1940, she received an award for 40 years of service to Oklahoma Schools. At one time, she was the only female principal in the state and recognized as having the longest tenure at one school in the state. In 1947, Mrs. Sawner received a national award for organizing 4-H clubs throughout Lincoln County.

Mrs. Sawner is remembered with much love and devotion. Her adopted hometown of Chandler, Oklahoma and the Pioneer Museum owns and display many of her possessions. Her family donated many of the items including a silver trophy given to her by patrons of Douglass High School. Mrs. Sawner died on March 1, 1949.

A pioneer activist and educator, *Mrs. Lena Lowery Sawner* defied stereotypes in an era when women were expected to be demure, she stepped up and demanded the best education for her students in a segregated school system. As a result, her students benefitted from the fruits of her labor.

OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.



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



Board of Directors & Committee

Pictured left to right: Henrietta Hicks, Donnie Nero, Euncie Edison, Esther King, Bobbie Booker Albert Johnson Sr., Anita Arnold, Jimmie White, Shirley Nero, and John Hargrave. Not pictured: Harold Aldridge Jr., Gloria Anderson, Deena Fisher, Orlando Hazley, and Sharon Hill-Wooten.

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Teachers are expected to reach unattainable goals with inadequate tools.
The miracle is that at times they accomplish this impossible task.
Haim G. Ginott

***Shirley Ann Ballard Nero Endowment Fund
Focus on All-Black Towns***

The Oklahoma Historical Society (OHS) is honored to announce the creation of the Shirley Ann Ballard Nero Endowment to benefit historical programming for historical black towns. Dr. Donnie Nero donated the initial amount to the fund. The OHS will continue to fundraise to increase the endowment, including an annual Juneteenth event at the Oklahoma History Center.

Shirley Nero, a native of the all-black town of Clearview, Okla., taught at Sapulpa and then Porum public schools for thirty years. Nero received four different teachers of the year honors. In 1994 the Sapulpa School Board presented her the Distinguished Service Award. She sits on several boards, including the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame. In 2016 she was a recipient of the Pinnacle Award, which honors outstanding women for their work as role models to women and children in the Tulsa community.

The Shirley Ann Ballard Nero Endowment provides money every year for research, programming, exhibits, and/or events related to the Historically Thirteen Original All-Black Towns of Oklahoma. One of Shirley's passions is Oklahoma history and especially the state's unique story of these black towns. No other state had as many all-black communities as Oklahoma. This occurred for several reasons, primarily the granting of land to freed slaves of the Five Civilized Tribes, and African Americans making land runs and settling near one another.

Because of you and your generous support, many superior programs will be offered, one-of-a-kind artifacts will be preserved and unique and interesting exhibits will be created. Your special gift will help the OHS take a major leap forward with collecting, preserving and sharing the extraordinary history of Oklahoma!

You will be pleased to know that you will be listed as a donor in a future issue of Mistletoe Leaves and the OHS EXTRA! Newsletter. In addition, you will be recognized as a member of the Oklahoma History Legacy Circle which was created to recognize donors, both living and deceased, who have made contributions of \$1,000 or greater to an OHS endowment fund. Because endowment donations provide perpetual income to the OHS, membership in the Legacy Circle also is perpetual.

If you are able, please consider the OHS with your generosity in the future? There is so much more to be collected, preserved and shared and your support is vital.

Thank you for your support. We appreciate it.

Sincerely,
Dr. Donnie L. and Shirley A. Nero Sr.

Please make a tax exempt donation tonight to the Shirley Ann Ballard Nero Endowment Fund at the Oklahoma City Community Foundation:

To: Shelly Crynes
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Oklahoma Historical Society
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Gone But Not Forgotten

We Need Your Help Today!!!!!!



Remember those "good 'ole teachers" we had back in the day? Those who are responsible for us being who and where we are today.

You can help keep their legacies alive by providing their names, the name(s) of a relative or a contact person to procure information to be included into our archival database.

This information will be evaluated and considered for future inductions into the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. Those who taught during the segregation era will be given priority consideration.

As we age and depart from this earth, it is imperative that we capture these contributions, averting further loss of past generations.

Please email your information to: Shirley Nero, annnero@aol.com or Donnie Nero, dr.donnielee@aol.com.

OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION OF NEGRO TEACHERS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Author: Dr. Melvin Todd (Oklahoma Historical Society)

OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc.

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

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