

Association of Negro Teachers Presidents



(Photo: Currie Ballard Collection—Oklahoma Historical Society)

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



*The Ninth Annual Hall of Fame
Ceremony and Banquet*

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

Friday

September 27, 2019

7:00 p.m.



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



Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.

"Thoughts from the President"

For the 9th year, we are celebrating the contributions of another group of esteemed inductees into the Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc. (OAAE). This class has approximately 337 years of combined service to their profession and has embodied high standards for leaving a legacy second to none.

Throughout these nine years, the gravity of the OAAE Hall of Fame has become evident. This organization's mission is to recognize the dedicated Oklahoma African educators in the State of Oklahoma, specifically during the dismal era of "separate but equal" edit. As we consider the responsibilities of these educators of educating the masses with limited and sub-standard resources, a ceremony of recognition is miniscule as compared to their accomplishments.

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."

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 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 OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc. which remains: "Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine 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 Nero".

Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.

President: Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.



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Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr., Mr. Jimmie White*

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A
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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 Forshee
Sapulpa, Oklahoma
Mr. Sylvester "Prof" Franklin
Haskell, Oklahoma

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

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.



2016 Sixth Annual Induction

Mr. Jerry Lee Belton, Sr.
Boynton, Oklahoma
Dr. Karen M. Clark
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Dr. Leon Edd, Jr.
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mrs. Jo Ann Goodwin Gilford
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Ms. Claudette Goss
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mr. Cedric Johnson
Muskogee, Oklahoma
Dr. Anquanita Kaigler-Love
Lawton, Oklahoma
Mr. Wallace Owens, Jr.
Guthrie, Oklahoma
Mr. Herman Cornelius Robbins
Tulsa, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Lena Lowry Sawner
Chandler, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

2017 Seventh Annual Induction

Mrs. Olive Ruth James
Wewoka Oklahoma
Mr. Calvin Rob Johns Sr.
Seminole, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Helen Louise Franks Miner
El Reno, Oklahoma
Dr. Cecelia Nails-Palmer
Tulsa, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Dr. Henry Ponder
South Carolina - Wewoka, Oklahoma

Dr. Dennis L. Portis III
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mr. Nathaniel Quinn Sr.
Boley, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mr. E. M. "Nat" Watson Jr.
Edmond, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Mildred Tilford
McAlester, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Charlotte J. Walker
Clearview, Oklahoma (Posthumously)

2018 Eighth Annual Induction

Mrs. Amelia Louise Swain Alford
Tulsa, Oklahoma
Dr. Ann Marie Allen
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mrs. Marilyn Frances Duncan
Wilburton, Oklahoma
Mrs. Emma Lee Jones Freeman
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mr. James L. Furch
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mrs. Joyce Ann Henderson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Mr. Benjamin Harrison Hill
Tulsa, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Mrs. Judith Ann Carter Horton
Guthrie, Oklahoma (Posthumously)
Dr. Delois Ann McGee
Checotah, Oklahoma
Mr. James A. Senter
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

E. M. "Nat" Watson Jr.

Athletic Scholarship



This scholarship is generously donated by Mr. and Mrs. William "Bill" Ford of Shawnee, Oklahoma and former Shawnee players of Coach Watson. These former students played football under coach Watson at Shawnee High School. Coach Watson had a major impact on the life and success of team members and in return this scholarship has been established to continue the legacy of making a difference in the lives of young athletes as Coach Watson did for so many. For more information on this scholarship, please visit OAAE website at oaaehof.org.

2019 First Recipients of the E. M. "Nat" Watson Jr. Scholarship

Kalaya Lastar Nichols



Kalaya is a 2019 graduate of Wewoka High School with a GPA of 2.91 and participated in cheerleading, band, and FCCLA, Science Club, Student Council, and served as class representative for her senior class. Her honors included Principal's Honor Roll and working as an office aide for the middle school. Kalaya attends Langston University

and will receive aide from the Oklahoma Promise grant. Kalaya resides with her grandparents James and Cathy Blackshire in Wewoka, Oklahoma.

Jaxon Paul



Jaxon attended Tulsa Edison High School where he ran track. He placed first and second in all of his track meets and third in 100m at the 2019 State Meet. Jaxon attends Langston University on a track scholarship. His plans are to graduate with a business degree. He wants to start his own

business to help train kids to get better at whatever sport they play. His parents are Tena and Marcus Paul of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

2019 OAAE Hall of Fame, Inc. Program

Welcome

Dr. Gloria Anderson
Board of Directors: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Invocation

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

Dinner

Aunt Pittypat's Catering
Caterer: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

*Opening Remarks/
Introductions*

Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.,
President: Clearview, Oklahoma

E. M. "Nat" Watson Jr.
Scholarship Recipients

Dr. John Hargrave
Board of Directors: Ada, Oklahoma

*Citations/
Acknowledgements*

The Honorable Rep. Regina Goodwin
House District 73 Tulsa, Oklahoma

2019 Induction Ceremony

Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.
President: Clearview, Oklahoma

2019 Inductees

Mrs. Montecella Lucinda Driver
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mr. Leander "Lee" Roland
Spencer, Oklahoma

Mr. Joe B. Gordon
Wagoner, Oklahoma

Mr. Louis Irving Ryan Jr.
(Posthumously)
Vinita, Oklahoma

Mr. John Edward Haney
(Posthumously)
Guthrie, Oklahoma

Mrs. Joyce Ann Stripling
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mrs. Gertrude Marie Lewis
(Posthumously)
Broken Bow, Oklahoma

Dr. Goldie V. L. Thompson
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Mr. Lee Virgil Patterson Sr.
(Posthumously)
Tulsa, Oklahoma

Mrs. Mildred Nadine Wallace
Wewoka, Oklahoma

Closing Remarks

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

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mrs. Montecella Lucinda Driver

“A Difference Maker”

Mrs. Montecella Lucinda Driver was born January 3, 1945 to Emma and Stanzo Miles in McAlester, Oklahoma. Her parents strongly advocated education for her and her sister, Vera. She attended St. Mary’s Catholic School during her grammar and junior high years and graduated from Toussaint L’Ouverture High School in McAlester. After graduation, she enrolled in Langston University where she pursued a double major in secondary education and sociology. Langston University bestowed a Bachelor of Arts degree to her in 1968. She later earned a Master of Science degree in Education from Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma in 1978. She also completed additional studies in school administration and personnel supervision at OSU in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

In 1968, she received her first teaching assignment at Whitney Middle School in Oklahoma City where she taught World Culture, World Geography, U.S. History, Oklahoma History, Civics, and Economics. After twenty years in the classroom, she accepted the position of counselor at Edison High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In her job capacity, she advised students regarding their academic and career choices. Additionally, she monitored school wide attendance records and ensured that students were on track for graduation.

Mrs. Driver transferred to a new position as Director of Human Relations at the Charles E. Mason Education Service Center in 1990 where she supervised four adults and collaborated with twenty adjunct teachers to develop workshops beneficial to both teachers and students. She was also the Student Leadership Coordinator and Compliance Coordinator.

She retired from Tulsa Public Schools in 1997. She continued her professional career working as the Education Specialist and Outreach Program Coordinator at the Greenwood Cultural Center, Inc. in Tulsa and worked in this capacity for 13 years. During her tenure there, she facilitated a variety of workshops and award-winning programs. In 2003, she returned to the classroom as adjunct professor at Tulsa Community College where she taught Cultural Geography.

In her professional career, Mrs. Driver sought to create a student-friendly learning environment. She developed a rapport with her students, yet she always maintained a professional demeanor that commanded her students’ respect. Her colleagues were enthralled with her ability to effortlessly develop and maintain a positive, respectful relationship with students.

Mrs. Driver continues to remain engaged and active in her community. She was a graduate of Leadership Tulsa, XXVII; volunteers extensively with Youth Leadership Tulsa where she mentors youth. She served as an advisor at Camp Anytown, advocate with DVIS court, and was a board member of Tulsa STEPS, Inc. with Hutchinson YMCA. She initiated voter registration efforts and worked integrally in multiple legislative campaigns.

Her awards and honors include Oklahoma Education Association Glenn Snider Human Service Award (1992), Ben Hill Award (1997), Community Service Award from the Northeast District of SDA Women’s Ministries (2007), Children’s Defense Funds’ Freedom Schools award recipient (2009), and the Tulsa Metro Ministry’s Don Newby Award.

Some of her professional and civic memberships are Tulsa Classroom Teachers Association, Oklahoma Education Association, National Education Association, and Delta Sigma Theta, Sorority, Inc. Also, she is a 45-year member of Antioch Baptist Church where she taught Sunday school.

Mrs. Driver married shortly after graduating college and began her family. Three sons were born – Melvin, Derrick, and Brandon. She inspired and motivated not only them; but also, countless others to pursue careers in education at all levels of academia.

Mrs. Montecella L. Driver’s mantra, “Those of us who choose to teach must never cease to learn” was paramount in her career and life. She wholeheartedly believed in the power of education. As a child, it was instilled in her by her parents; she carried it forward in her professional career and continues to extol its importance. She retired after spending 29 years in public education and 15 years in a private/non-profit.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mr. Joe B. Gordon

“Exemplary Role Model”

Mr. Joe B. Gordon was born July 7, 1954 in Monroe, Louisiana. He grew up in the small community of Bastrop, Louisiana, graduating from the Bastrop High in 1972 where you could name everyone in your graduation class. Gordon credits his 6th grade teacher for pushing him to think outside the box, to be the one to organize neighborhood teams to play ball against each other. She encouraged him to stay true to his passion and she set the foundation for him to pursue education as a career without him realizing what she was doing.

Upon graduation from high school, Gordon received a scholarship to attend Seminole Junior College in Seminole, Oklahoma and from there Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma on a basketball scholarship. There Dr. Jack Dobbins, Coach and Athletic Director, had a huge impact on his life. He emphasized that college was not all about playing basketball, but about receiving an education as well and finishing his degree. He earned his B.S. in 1976 in Physical Education with a minor in Social Studies. After graduating, he tried other jobs for a while. However, nothing compared to the passion he had for athletics and working with children. He was grateful for all the role models in his life who believed in him and challenged him to believe in himself and wanted him to share that blessing with others. He was given that opportunity at Carpenter Middle School in Plano, Texas in 1980. But returned to Oklahoma to work at a children’s home at night and sub for Wagoner Public Schools until they offered him a position in 1982 to coach basketball, football, track and teach physical education for Wagoner Public School. In 1984, he became the social studies instructor at Muskogee Public Schools and coached basketball and football. In 1987, he moved to Wagoner Public Schools to become their Athletic Director and head basketball coach. In July 2008, he became Assistant Campus Director for Indian Capital Technology Center in Muskogee until his retirement in 2016.

During his career, Gordon had received honors and awards as the Oklahoma Basketball Coaches Association District Coach of the Year for 1990, 1998, and 1999, Oklahoma Interscholastic Athletic Association Newcomer Award, Athletic Director of the year, Conference Coach of the year for 1990, 1991, 1994, 1995, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2007. All State Coach 1997, Outstanding Leadership Award for Youth, Wagoner Optimist I 1993 and 1999, Citation of Appreciation of State of Oklahoma in 1993, Faith Seven Coach in 2004, Hall of Fame of Northeastern State University in 2009, and Oklahoma Basketball Hall of Fame in 2013.

Gordon’s professional experiences include: Green Country Conference Coach of the Year 1989, Regional Representative Region 3 year 2 terms, Hall of Fame Board at Northeastern State University, Alumni Association Board at NSU, Oklahoma Basketball Association president 2004, 1999 State Basketball Runner-up, State Basketball Semi-Finals- 2 years, Regional Basketball Champs – 4 years, Area Basketball Champs – 3 years, Regional Consolation – 1 year, District Champs – 9 years, and Conference Champs – 11 years. In addition, he has served as youth guidance counselor for Whitaker State Children’s Hospital in Pryor, Oklahoma from 1982-1991 and as recreation supervisor for the Oklahoma Children’s Center in Taft, Oklahoma from 1977-1989.

Mr. Joe B Gordon, it is no doubt that he will continue to be involved in some aspect with kids during his retirement. “There is no real ending to a career.... it’s just the place where you stop this chapter of the story and a new one begins. You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on people around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want make.” He has and will always be an *exemplary role model* and has made a major impact in many lives. Gordon has been married to Cynthia Gordon for 42 years. They have three children: Joe Gordon Jr., Alan Gordon, and Alanda Gordon. They are proud grandparents of four grandchildren. Mr. Gordon retired from education after 36 years of service.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mr. John Edward Haney

“Progressive Educator”

Mr. John Edward Haney was born on July 19, 1945 in Idabel, Oklahoma. He was the 14th of 15 children born to Beatrice Haney and Goat Haney. He attended elementary and high school at Booker T. Washington in Idabel. In high school, he was recognized for his strong work ethic and leadership skills. His peers voted him to be class president during his freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior years. Even as a teen, Haney was engaged in his community; he was a member of the Knights of Pythagoras and the Hearts Christian Club, both independent teen social clubs. Haney was also a member of the Westside Church of Christ.

In 1963, he graduated from high school and matriculated to Langston University. After two years, he enlisted in the military. As a member of the US Air Force, he served as an Aircraft Warning and Control Officer for four years. He returned to Langston University and earned a B.S. degree in Elementary Education. Later, he attended Central State University (University of Central Oklahoma) in Edmond Oklahoma and earned a Masters of Science degree in Elementary Education in 1973. Later, he enrolled at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Oklahoma where he obtained certification as an Administrator of Education in 1974.

Haney’s career in education began with a teaching assignment at Crooked Oaks Elementary School. He was later appointed vice-principal at Crooked Oaks Elementary. In 1975, he was selected as vice-principal at Guthrie Junior High School. In 1977, he was moved to the High School to serve as Principal. He continued to serve in various administrative roles at Guthrie High, Banner and Central Schools, and Fogarty Elementary until 1990.

His final job completed the circle as he returned to Guthrie Junior High School; this time as principal from 1991-1996. After dedicating 23 years to the education profession, he retired in May of 1996. After a brief battle with colon cancer, he succumbed to the disease on March 19, 1997. He was the father of one son, John Edward Haney, II.

Haney was instrumental in implementing innovative programs in Guthrie Public Schools. The “Basic Classroom Program” offered an alternative for students who experienced difficulty functioning in the traditional classroom setting. The program encouraged and allowed those students to obtain the necessary credits and earn their high school diploma in a non-traditional setting. He also designed incentive programs to encourage and reinforce positive behavior and academic excellence. Students who demonstrated significant improvement were recognized and highlighted within the school. An academic team was formed, and that team competed with other academic teams statewide. It was the first time such a team had been established in the district. The Young Astronaut’s Club was also formed under his leadership. This club was formed to encourage and engage students during the age of exploration in outer space.

Also, he implemented STARS (Super Terrific Academic Rewards for Students); which recognized students each semester for improved grade point average and perfect attendance. Computers were just beginning to be purchased and utilized in the district. Haney had the foresight to know that computer technology was going to have an integral role in the future of education. He hired a library media specialist and computerized the library and encouraged more students to utilize computers for research. This provided additional time for the media specialist to assist them with research.

Haney was well-known to be a fair and patient man with students and faculty. Students and faculty alike appreciated his ability to interact and relate to them on a personal and academic level. It was important to him that he was accessible to his students, faculty, and parents.

He served as a member of the Advisory Committee for the School of Behavioral Sciences at Langston University. He was also, a member of the Human Relations Council for the Guthrie Job Corps. Haney was a proud and active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., and a member of the Christ United Methodist Church in Oklahoma City.

Haney had two passions – the Atlanta Braves and horseback riding club. He was an avid and longtime Braves fan who often viewed the games on TV; he attended a game whenever he traveled to Atlanta. He developed a love for horses while growing up in Idabel. As an adult, he purchased acreage in the country so that he could ride his horses unencumbered.

Mr. John Edward Haney was a humble man who was proud of his McCurtain County roots. He was also a “*progressive educator and administrator*” who implemented creative and non-traditional strategies and techniques to instruct students and successfully build relationships in his community and district.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mrs. Gertrude Marie Lewis

“Shaper of Lives”

Mrs. Gertrude Marie Lewis was born on December 2, 1924 to Delcia and Adel Lewis, Sr. in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. She was the eldest of 14 children. She attended Pleasant Valley and Dunbar Elementary schools in Broken Bow. In 1942, she graduated from Dunbar High School in Broken Bow. She relocated to Holy Springs, Mississippi to attend Mississippi Industrial College where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education in 1946. In 1956, she attained a master’s degree from Bishop College in Marshall, Texas.

Mrs. Lewis began her career in education when she was assigned to teach in a one-room, segregated county school at Tom in McCurtain County, Oklahoma. After two years, she crossed the state line to teach at a segregated school in Center Point, Arkansas; Dunbar Elementary.

After a four-year stint in Arkansas, she returned home to Broken Bow where she remained for the duration of her career. In 1952, she returned to the same elementary school that she attended, Dunbar. During, this time of separate and unequal working conditions and educational facilities, she often served as the teacher and custodian as well as transporting some students to school.

Mrs. Lewis’ daughter, Gerre Lewis-Wright (who nominated her mother) remembers her providing cereal to the students in her classroom because many did not have the financial means to afford a meal. Mrs. Lewis said, “students could not concentrate on an empty stomach.” In addition, she was known to give clothes to students to ensure they were properly dressed.

In 1964, she began her final teaching assignment at Bennett Elementary in Broken Bow, Oklahoma. The federal government required public school classrooms to be integrated; no longer would she teach in separate facilities. Her tried and true approach to teaching did not change. She remained steadfast in her belief, “Every child needs an education, and everyone can learn.” Also, Mrs. Lewis believed a teacher should love teaching and she did; she loved her job. She vowed that a teacher should be patient, compassionate, and treat all students fairly. After 21 years in that capacity, she retired in May 1985 having amassed 38 years in the profession.

Her professional affiliations included: Oklahoma Association of Negro Teachers, Oklahoma Education Association, National Education Association, and McCurtain County Retired Teachers Association. Her honors included: Oklahoma Teacher of the Year (1979), Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce Teacher of the Year (1985), and Broken Bow High School Hall of Fame (2005).

Mrs. Lewis was president of the Southeast Oklahoma Shelter (SOS) for Families and precinct polling inspector in McCurtain County. She was longtime member of Hill’s Chapel CME Church in Broken Bow. She wore many hats within the church: Stewardess, Missionary President, Secretary/Treasurer, Sunday school Teacher, and Pianist.

She married Martin Lewis on December 29, 1945. The two were actively involved in their community. Both were active in the local NAACP chapter, where he served as president. They were also members of the Broken Bow Chamber of Commerce and McCurtain County Democratic Party (and attended the Oklahoma Democratic Convention multiple years). Martin Lewis passed on May 19, 1997 and Gertrude passed on March 16, 2015.

Mrs. Gertrude Marie Lewis was a teacher and role model who shaped the lives of many of her students. Her words, actions, and deeds were very much noticed. This enabled her to make the transition from a one-room classroom with all-Black learners to one with cultural diversity.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mr. Lee Virgil Patterson Sr. *"Heart of A Teacher"*

Mr. Lee Virgil Patterson Sr., born to Charley and Mary Patterson on November 15, 1926, in Okmulgee, Oklahoma, experienced unfortunate circumstances in a family of thirteen children. Despite the obstacles, the children grew up in the State Home of Negro Deaf, Blind and Orphans, known simply as the DB&O in Taft, Oklahoma. Patterson and his brother Alfred believed in an education, therefore; they moved to Tulsa to attend school. They supported themselves as tailors. He graduated high school and went to college on a football scholarship at Shaw University in North Carolina. He missed being at home so he transferred to Langston University. He suffered an injury which ended his athletic career at Langston University. However, he rebounded with a job as a student coach, and graduated with a B.S. degree in Industrial Arts. When duty called in 1951, he honored his country by serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean War. Mr. Patterson received the Korean Service Medal, two Bronze Stars and the United Nation's Service Medal.

In 1954, Patterson began his career in education as a teacher at the Oklahoma State Training School for Boys in Boley, OK where he taught tailoring, math, woodshop and coached boys basketball. He later moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where he was hired to teach at Carver Junior High, then McLain High, followed by Hale High in the Tulsa Public Schools where he taught for more than twenty years. His assignments included arts and crafts, drafting and printing.

Mr. Patterson was the consummate educator. He exemplified the "Heart of a Teacher" as described by Paula J. Fox in her book by the same name. "The child arrives like a mystery box with puzzle pieces inside, some of the pieces are broken or missing and others just seem to hide. The heart of a teacher can sort out the puzzle and help the child to see the potential for greatness from within." He would put the pieces together for many young students who entered his woodwork class. His goal was not just to impart knowledge, but also to create a work of art. He understood that the process would be painfully slow at times, but he knew the students would be successful.

In addition, he was from the old school where women were respected; he opened doors and pulled out chairs. He honored family, he wore suits or well-tailored and pressed work clothes to class, and he welcomed new teachers and taught them the ropes. He never shied away from an opportunity to share his craft.

Mr. Patterson's awards and accolades included: Destination Discovery Inc.'s Volunteer Service Award and the 25th Anniversary Achievement Award; the Outstanding Service Award-Industrial Arts Award, the Tulsa Public Schools Department of Vocational Education and Industrial Arts Award; the Certificate of Recognition - Vocational Industrial Arts Clubs of America; Langston University Alumni Association Outstanding Service Award, the Mid-Western Region Award, and he was a member of the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

A loving husband, Lee Virgil and his wife Violet, (2015 OAAE HOF recipient) celebrated sixty wonderful years of marriage shortly before his death. His legacy of education is seen in the numerous accomplishments of his children and grandchildren. He was a member of the Morning Star Baptist Church of Tulsa, Oklahoma for more than seventy 70 years where he faithfully served as Trustee, Deacon, Sunday School and Vacation Bible School teacher and the Brotherhood Ministry.

Mr. Lee Virgil Patterson Sr. prided himself on being a gentleman and a role model for all students, but especially for young African American men. Being known as a disciplinarian, he was also known for maintaining a keen sense of humor. Above all, he possessed "*The Heart of a Teacher.*"

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mr. Leander "Lee" Roland

"A Difference Maker"

Mr. Leander "Lee" Roland was born to the late Rev. Dr. Dewitt and Eula May Roland on October 17, 1959, the youngest of six sons, five of whom are pastors/ministers, and one younger sister. His father was the pastor for more than 30 years at Saint Luke Baptist Church in Spencer, Oklahoma, and undoubtedly the greatest influence in his life. Roland graduated from Star Spencer High School in 1977. He received his B.S. degree from Central State University in 1968 and completed his M.S. degree from the University of Oklahoma in 1993.

Mr. Roland's educational career began in the Oklahoma City Public School District as a special education teacher at Spencer Elementary Spencer, his hometown community. During his tenure there, within his first four years, he was chosen as the district's Teacher of the Year. Other assignments during his 30 years of dedication to education included: Administrative Intern at the Hoover 5/6 Center, Assistant Principal at Bodine Elementary, Principal of Kaiser Elementary and Linwood Elementary, Area Administrator, and Superintendent's Liaison.

After becoming a principal in the Oklahoma City Public Schools, he was selected and served as the president of the Oklahoma City Principal's Association. He was also the regional representative for the Oklahoma Association of Elementary School Principals and nominated on numerous occasions for the coveted OAESP's Principal of the Year. In addition, he was an active member of both the Oklahoma and National Association of Black School Educators. Among other awards, Roland was a Golden Apple Awardee, as well as being a difference maker in the Putnam City Public School District for his outstanding leadership as principal at Tulakes Elementary. By implementing several programs and improving school performance, the school made the third highest test score gains in the state.

Roland had a stellar reputation as a teacher, administrator and central office director in the Oklahoma City Public School and principal in the Putnam City School District. He continues to make a positive difference as an advocate for children and he continues to make schools a path of hope for the future.

He retired after 30 years in public education, 25 of which were in administration. The most gratifying to him were his last 12 years as the principal of Tulakes Elementary School, a high poverty, high diversity and once failing school that made significant strides and gains under his leadership. In addition to his achievements as an educator, Roland has spoken and presented at countless venues, conferences, workshops and summits across the state and nation, particularly with regards to effectively addressing diversity, poverty efficacy and motivation.

Currently, Roland collaborates with a number of city, civic and community boards, mostly involving the welfare of children. Additionally, he is a motivational speaker, school- and business consultant, and an adjunct Professor of Sociology at Southern Nazarene University where he strives to help future administrators prepare to truly "Leave no child behind." He is also the Pastor of Children and Families at Cherokee Hills Baptist Church. Roland and his wife of 37 years, Wanda, have two children, Irving and Chanel.

Mr. Leander "Lee" Roland demonstrated the qualities and characteristics of an educator and administrator who was a "A Difference Maker" in his community and city. He was often charged with making the difficult decisions and he did so with tact and humility.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mr. Louis Ryan Jr. *"The Great Motivator"*

Mr. Louis Ryan Jr. was born October 2, 1914 in Vinita, Oklahoma, the eldest of nine children to Dr. and Mrs. Louis Ryan Sr. Dr. Ryan Sr., a physician from Tennessee, was a welcome addition to the African American community due to the fact that he built a hospital for the community that had not previously had one. Dr. Ryan passed in 1948, leaving Louis Jr. to help his mother raise his siblings.

Louis Ryan Jr. graduated from Langston University with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1935, and graduated with a Master of Education degree from the University of Arizona in 1958. He later earned a second master's when he received a Master of Arts degree from Missouri State College in 1968.

He began his teaching career at Attucks School in Vinita, Oklahoma, where he taught science and manual arts. Ryan Jr. was greatly influenced by his father in his love of science and in turn, he developed his own love for sharing its wonders with his students. He formed and coached the basketball team at Attucks and led his players to two state basketball championships in 1942 and 1947. In addition, he served as principal during his tenure at Attucks Public Schools. His job, including extra duties, did not pay anything above his basic teacher's salary of \$80 a month. He taught school for 32 consecutive years before he took a single sick day; and, he only took it because he had the flu.

In 1956, Attucks began to be phased out due to a drop-in attendance and the start of the integration process in Vinita Schools. Mr. Ryan began teaching at Ewing Middle School in 1956 to help ease the gradual transition of students into the white school which was completed in 1958. He became an instant hit with the students and faculty. He later moved to the Vinita High School where he worked until he retired in 1979 culminating 44 years of service to Vinita Schools.

Mr. Ryan Jr. was inducted into the Oklahoma Coaches Hall of Fame in 1976, awarded the Craig County Teacher of the Year in 1978, and the Bethel AME Community Service Award in 1978. In 2019, Mr. Ryan was the subject of a special exhibit at the Eastern Trails Museum in Vinita, Oklahoma.

The long-lasting and widespread appreciation for Mr. Ryan reminds us that it is not necessary to be a preacher, evangelist or a civil rights leader in order to spread the message of love and unity. Mr. Ryan's pupils remember him not for the color of skin, but for his charm, his love of science, and his character. He was universally respected by people of all walks of life and ethnicities. He was a good family man and a devout Christian who loved bird hunting and entertained his students and friends with witty stories. He died on November 25, 1981.

Mr. Louis Ryan Jr. will always be remembered as a teacher who was genuinely funny, motivated, and a great science educator and coach. He was "*beloved by students and staff, commanded the utmost respect, a dedicated teacher, personable figure of great warmth and serenity, elegant and dignified man who taught responsibility and gave consequences for your actions.*"

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mrs. Joyce Ann Stripling *“Nurturing Educator”*

Mrs. Joyce Ann Stripling was born on April 6, 1951 in Wewoka, Oklahoma. At the age of one, her family moved to Oklahoma City where she attended school and graduated from Douglass High School. During her childhood, Stripling spent time taking care of her cousins and helping her siblings with homework. While attending school in Oklahoma City, she admired how much the teachers nurtured and cared for their students and their unwavering support of the students. She was so inspired that when she entered Prairie View A & M University at Prairie View, Texas, her decision was to become an educator so that she could nurture and care for children just as her teacher had done for her.

Mrs. Stripling earned a B.S. in Elementary Education in 1972 and her M.S. in Special Education from the University of Oklahoma in 1978. She also received an M.S. in Elementary Administration from the University of Oklahoma in 2001. Additionally, she received certifications to qualify her teaching additional diagnosis under Special Education.

Mrs. Stripling began her career at Dewey 5th Year Center as a regular 5th grade teacher. She later became the Resource/Lab Special Education teacher, teaching only main subjects where she stayed for 19 years. She moved to West Nichols Hills Elementary as their Special Education teacher for Pre-K through 5th and later, through 6th grade. Throughout the years, she was extremely compassionate and concerned in making sure that all children were nurtured. She strived in giving them the social, emotional, and learning skills that pushed them to reach their greatest potential. She was the advocate for the children and parents in all possible ways. Although, she had an administrative certification she chose not to pursue a position in that field but to remain in the classroom where she could better serve her students.

Mrs. Stripling dedicated her life inside and outside of her classroom to help meet the needs of every student. She was a very patient individual who was able to handle many different challenges. Not only was she a woman of her faith, but she used her faith to support her needs in life. She had a heart to give and a will that was unstoppable to ensure that another person was successful. Mrs. Stripling taught children with special needs and she worked to make sure that no matter what level a child was on, she met them where they were. She identified and utilized creative ways to help them grow academically and become more confident in their own abilities. Students and parents loved her because of the unwavering love of her students. She was dedicated to and nurtured her students.

Mrs. Stripling’s accomplishments and awards include: Teacher of the Year Dewey Elementary School and District – 1985, Teacher of the Year West Nichols Hills, Elementary School and District 1995, and Community Teacher of the year West Nichols Hills Area Neighborhood, 1997. She retired in June of 2017 after teaching for 45 years in Oklahoma City Public Schools.

She is actively involved and a devoted member of her church for more than 40 years and answers the call to serve wherever she is needed in her family, church, or community. She serves in several capacities to name a few: Financial Secretary, Youth Director and Youth Choir Director, School/Art Teacher, Trustee, Mission/Choir Member, Announcement Clerk, and Development Fund Chairman.

Mrs. Joyce Ann Stripling and her late husband have two daughters. Today, she remains open to every possibility to advocate and help children. She visits her former school to share her experiences with students and teachers. She knows that whenever an opportunity comes for her to teach a child, she will do it because she says, “Teaching remains in her body and soul.” Through teaching, Mrs. Stripling has been able to pave the way for many students to pursue their purpose in life and advocates to ensure that every child is given an opportunity to succeed.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Dr. Goldie V. L. Thompson “Legacy Pioneer”

Dr. Goldie V. L. Pollard Thompson was born to Arthur and Gloria Pollard of Oklahoma City. As the fourth child and only daughter of the Mr. & Mrs. Pollard, she was raised in the Spencer community. She attended Star Elementary School then attended Rogers Middle School and finished her public-school education by graduating from Northeast High School’s Biomedical Sciences Program in 1993. Following graduation, she enrolled at the University of Oklahoma where she received her B. A. in African American Studies in 1998; M. H. R. in Human Relations in 2000; and Ph D. In Educational Leadership and Policy Studies in 2014.

During Dr. Thompson’s educational time at OU she served as a graduate teaching assistant and was then hired by Oklahoma State of Regents for Higher Education as the Oklahoma Teacher Connection Coordinator (previously called the Minority Recruitment Center Coordinator). This position included supporting teacher education and effective teaching,

In 2012, Dr. Thompson became director of Teacher Education and the Oklahoma Teacher Connection. This job allowed her to work in the State Department of Education and the Office of Accountability as Liaison. Her duties included: coordinating support services for Colleges of Education, overseeing grants to support professional development for K – 12 teachers, working with members of the Oklahoma legislature to promote teacher preparation, providing leadership for mother’s for the academic resources team (SMART) grant, and providing leadership and serve as a liaison for the DaVinci Institute including other duties specific to this office.

Dr. Thompson’s innumerable presentations include the following topics: *The Legacy You Leave in Your Classroom*; *Deconstructing Resiliency: Our Layers of Trust & Care Make Moral Education a Must*; *A day and Age of Accountability & Teaching Pedagogy*; *Recruiting Teachers Early*; *Creating Your own Teacher Workforce*. She has published several articles on the topic of Care, a subject that is of critical concern to her in the education field.

Dr. Thompson is associated with many professional organizations including The Davinci Institute, the Oklahoma Teacher Shortage Taskforce, the Educational Quality and Accountability Council/Task force, the UCO Multicultural Institute Committee, and her Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. In 2013, the University of Oklahoma name Dr. Thompson Outstanding Student Award, in 2014 she was inducted into the University of Oklahoma Jeannie Rainbolt College of Education Hall of Fame and named Outstanding Graduate Student.

In July of 2018, Dr. Thompson was promoted to the position of Assistant Vice Chancellor of teacher Preparation and Special Programs. She represents the chancellor at many meetings on the local and national levels. Her position allows her to collaborate with other state agencies and organizations in the interest of teacher education.

Dr. Thompson is married to Mr. Bobby R. Thompson and they are extremely proud of their two sons, Bobby Thompson, III, and Demarcus Thompson who are University of Oklahoma Students, and daughters, Erin who is an Oklahoma City Public School high school student and Gloria who is preparing for pre-school.

Dr. Goldie V. L. Thompson models herself in such a way that gains her respect from others. She carries herself in a genuinely virtuous manner that enables her to communicate and positively influence people with whom she interacts in her community, church, and work.

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame Inductee



Mrs. Mildred Nadine Wallace

“The Voice of Music”

Mrs. Mildred Nadine Wallace was born on October 11, 1939 to Andrew and Modene Gray in Lima, Oklahoma. As a child, she began piano lessons with piano teacher, Beatrice Banks. As her talent emerged, she began playing at various events in the community – church programs, funerals, and weddings.

Mrs. Wallace attended school in Wewoka. She graduated in 1957 from the segregated Douglass High School in Wewoka and was awarded a full music scholarship to Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri where she attained a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1963. While there, she served as pianist for the all-Black high school organization, the National Homemakers of America (NHA) in Daytona Beach, Florida. She was a flutist with the Missouri Symphony Orchestra and traveled extensively with the Lincoln University concert choir. Wallace was also a member of the prestigious baton and keyboard club.

She started her career in education as a vocal music teacher at Jones Public Schools in Jones, Oklahoma where she taught for one year. The following year, she was assigned to teach the same subject at Wewoka High School in Wewoka, Oklahoma. Former student and colleague, Jean Meredith, said of the nominee, “Her rapport with students was legendary. She taught across-the-spectrum to students ranging from special needs to gifted; from tone-deaf to students who had been studying piano since childhood. She quietly earned their respect; they learned to sing and have pride and self-confidence.”

Mrs. Wallace believed it was important to incorporate wholesome musical activities in daily instruction. In addition to the core subjects, it provided an outlet of positive expression for students, and she tapped into that outlet to produce winners. Her students consistently placed and earned medals or ribbons in the various statewide musical competitions in which they entered. She was immensely proud of her students’ creative attributes. At the end of her 34th year in the classroom; she retired in May of 2002.

Her professional affiliations included: Oklahoma Education Association, National Education Association, Music Educators Association, National Choral Directors, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Some of her honors and awards were Valarie Carolina Award (1991), Wewoka Public Schools Teacher of the Year, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Retirement Award (2002), Mayor’s Choice Award (2006), Douglass Alumni Plaque (2007), as well as other certificates of appreciation during her career.

Mrs. Wallace was the pianist, organist, and recording secretary at Park United Methodist Church in Wewoka. She married her college sweetheart, Ron Wallace and were the parents of five children; Kevin, Karen, Kay, Kwame, and Kwasi. She passed in 2009.

Mrs. Mildred Nadine Wallace was passionate about music and teaching. She was an exemplary music teacher who had the innate ability to extract “the voice of music” from students, many of whom were unaware of that voice. Her impact on them was most evident as a great number of her students later became vocal music coaches and music educators. In her own quiet way, Mrs. Wallace expected and received excellence from her students and in return she received respect from her fellow teachers and students.

In Memory

Inductees Who Have Passed Since Inducted



Mr. Curtis Brackeen
Muskogee, Oklahoma



Mrs. Willie Mae Etheridge
Checotah/Warrior Community



Dr. Henry Kirkland Jr.
Atoka, Oklahoma

Inductee Class of 2011

Inductee Class of 2012

Inductee Class of 2013



Mr. Harold C. Aldridge Sr.
Taft, Oklahoma

Mrs. Thelma Reece Parks
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Dr. Charles E. Butler
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma



Mrs. Lola Parker Dean
Porter, Oklahoma



Mr. Millard L. House
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Mrs. Juanita Lewis-Hopkins
Tulsa, Oklahoma



Mr. Manyles Gaines
Tulsa, OK
Class of 2015



Mr. Jesse (J.D.) Johnson
Altus, Oklahoma

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)



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



Board members and committee members meet at Langston University for a Quarterly Meeting

*Become a Member
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Mail your check or money order to:

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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

Memberships

OKLAHOMA AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATORS HALL OF FAME, INC

Life Membership Options

Life Membership in the OAAE Hall of Fame consists of three options in becoming a life member of our hall of fame. Please read the options below and return to the address below. Thank you for your support for a great cause in recognizing our great educators throughout this state.

OPTION 1: \$250.00 for two (2) years

\$50.00 of five (5) payments for two years

\$25.00 of twenty (20) payments for two (2) years

Two years limited payments (any means)

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One year payment, any means possible for one year

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OPTION 3: \$500.00 one-time payment

Individuals must select option plan and sign off on said plan before signing life membership proposal.

AGREEMENT:

I _____, agree to option _____ to fulfill my obligation to become a life member of the OKLAHOMA AFRICAN AMERICAN EDUCATORS HALL OF FAME LIFE MEMBER.

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Annual Membership

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

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\$35.00 Individual Membership

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\$10.00 Student Associate Membership

\$500.00 Individual Life Regular Membership

\$500.00 Individual Life Associate Member

\$250.00 Corporate Annual Membership

Article 1.0 – Members and Membership

1.1 Regular voting members in good standing shall be anyone who is a current employee or retiree of the Oklahoma public or private educational system.

1.2 Associate Non-voting members shall be anyone who is a supporter of the Oklahoma public or private educational system.

Oklahoma African American
Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.
MEMBERSHIP
110126 N 3830 Rd
Clearview, Oklahoma 74880

***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, Oklahoma 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.

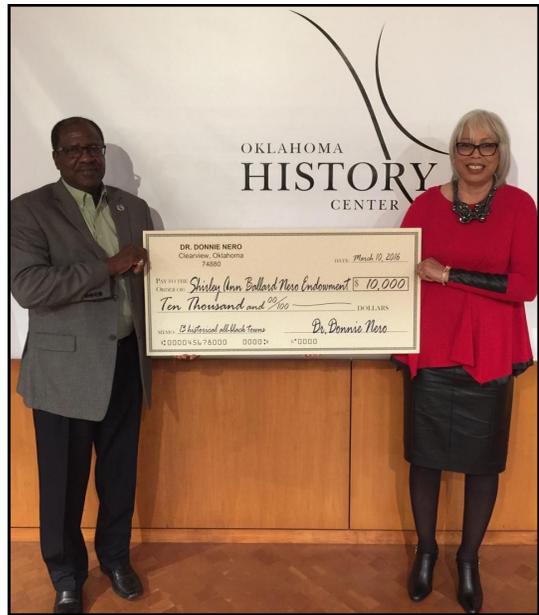
Thank you for your support. We appreciate it.

Sincerely,

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

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

To: Shelly Crynes
Development & Membership Coordinator
Oklahoma Historical Society
800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73105-7917
405 521-2491 Fax 405 521-2492 www.okhistory.org



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.

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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Thank you for your support!

Oklahoma African American Educators Hall of Fame, Inc.

President Dr. Donnie L. Nero Sr.

*110126 N 3830 Road
Clearview, Oklahoma 74880*





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September 2019

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