

# The Comet II

February 28, 2018

Volume 25 No. 1



Booker T. Washington Foundation

www.bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org

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Matthew Addison, Chaplain  
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## \* DEATHS \*

Bishop John Hurst Adams  
Nancy J. Bryant  
Mattie Cooke, '43  
Henry Hunter, '62  
Wesley John Harmon  
Geneva Powell Johnson  
Maxberry  
Serena Louard  
Joseph Francis Priester  
Mary Milledge Cleveland, '42  
James Earl Geiger '63  
Sallie McDaniel-Rose  
Earline Wester  
Richard Snipes  
Donella Brown Wilson, '29  
Charlotte Alston Young  
Edmond W. House  
Irma Kohn Bellinger '41  
Hertisene Lites Gates  
Janice Lorraine "Lo" Nelson '57  
Ella Mae Palmer Hopkins  
Rosa Lee McCoy Prescott Hayes  
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## President's Voice

### Happy 2018 Washingtonians!

As we embark upon a new year, we are excited about what lies ahead for the Booker T. Washington Foundation. The three goals established for 2017-2018 will continue to be our focus for 2018: to perpetuate the heritage of Booker T. Washington High School; to seek community partners and supporters for the Foundation; to establish ongoing financial stability for the Foundation. Your involvement will enable us to move forward to accomplish these goals.

During 2018, we will make a concerted effort to keep you informed using various media tools. We will also seek other opportunities to get the word out to graduates and supporters. Our website is one source of information and we will make sure it is updated with current information.

We are asking that you mark your calendar and spread the word about the following events:

### Friday, June 22

Heritage Banquet 7:00 pm  
Ticket cost: \$85.00

### Saturday, June 23

Foundation Annual Meeting  
Location and time to be announced

### Sunday, June 24

John W. Work Chorus 6:00 pm

We will have our first annual meeting during 2018, and we will organize the Booker T. Washington Alumni Association during 2018. The announcements regarding these events will be included in the next issue of the Comet.

From my message on the website: As we prepare to forge ahead, we are asking that you spread the word, become involved by finding an opportunity to participate, contact us, share ideas and most importantly, keep Booker T. Washington in the forefront.

### *Lest We Forget...*

*Gloria Graham Boyd, '65  
President*



## Class of 1943



Hello Washingtonians!

We are back again to let you know some of our latest news.

It was really great to get in touch with some of the faithful few: Johnnie Mae T. Wheeler, Rosa W. Goodson and Terza Strother Gooden. They are being cared for by their daughters. Pauline B. Richardson is recuperating from the flu. Her sister, Georgella, is doing what she can to assist her.

Pine Grove AME observed Missionary Day on the fifth Sunday in December, 2017. Brown Chapel's first lady, Lisa Rembert, was the speaker. She is the YPD Director for the Columbia Annual Conference.

Nathaleen M. Jenkins was full of smiles because of the great care her sons, Lester and Gregory, who are also Washingtonians, are giving her.

Josephine J. Hall's family provided a great celebration for her 90+ birthday in November, 2017. The fellowship and gifts were greatly appreciated.

A number of us attend the Perrin-Thomas Neighborhood Community Center. Plans are underway for a valentine celebration with a breakfast.

We are anticipating all of the events that have been planned for the month of February as we observe and celebrate Black History, Founders' Day at Allen University, Heart Month, and Lent.

We sadly report the passing of beloved

classmates, Nancy Ellen James Bryant and Mattie Cooke. Both were faithful members of Zion Chapel #2. Nancy was recognized as one of the first three African Americans to graduate from the Columbia Hospital School of Nursing with an Associate Degree.

Beloved retired AME Bishop, John Hurst Adams, a Washingtonian, was respected as a great religious leader and social justice activist. Long-lifer, Donella B. Wilson was remembered for her 108 years and her wit, as well as other contributions.

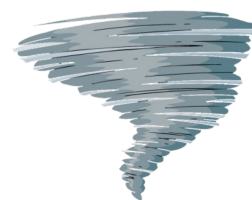
We are still keeping in touch with Rubye B. Collins, who is being cared for by her nephew in Atlanta, GA.

Rosa Walker Goodson is not complaining about being unable to attend the S.C. State Fair. She just basks in the memory of all those she was able to attend.

Our prayers are with our former BTW Foundation President, Albert "AL" Griffin. We look to the day when he will be able to attend meetings and assist with attending to the business of the foundation.

Our class will celebrate its 75<sup>th</sup> reunion during the Heritage Weekend. We are planning to attend in large numbers even if it means coming on canes, walkers or in wheel chairs.

- Josephine J. Hall & Pauline B. Richardson reporters



## Class of 1955

Washingtonians,

In this new year, 2018, we continue to have a difficult time moving forward without the leadership of our beloved, energetic president, Albert Griffin. "Al" suffered a severely debilitating stroke while doing what he loved...working for BTW and the Foundation. Please continue praying with us for his completely restored health so that he can come home soon.

I have been dealing with some health issues also, as well as several other classmates, therefore I have very little to report in this first quarter of 2018.

- Your Roving Reporter, Alonzo Phelps

## Class of 1956

Hello Classmates and Washingtonians!

Our class is happy to make a short report this first quarter. Most classmates whom we hear from seem to be healthy and moving right along. We do not meet as often anymore. Hopefully we will be able to resume our bi-monthly meeting when the weather is warmer and more favorable.

Several of us enjoyed classmate, Surlina Simpson Jumper's surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday party that was held at the Chamber of Commerce Building on January 23, 2018. Her daughter really caught her off guard and we all enjoyed the festivities.

- Johnnie M. Corley Patterson, reporting.

## Scholarship Information



The Booker T. Washington Foundation has several scholarship opportunities available to graduating seniors. All applicants, except for the Susan B. Freeman Scholarship, must be the legal child or grandchild of a Columbia, South Carolina Booker T. Washington graduate. Susan B. Freeman Scholarship is restricted to seniors planning to attend Benedict College. Applications are available on the BTW website: [bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org](http://bookertwashingtonfoundationsc.org). Applications are scored independently by each committee member using a rubric. Scholarships are then awarded to the applicants with the four highest combined average scores. The Scholarship committee review applications submitted. Scholarship recipients are recognized at the Heritage Weekend Banquet and are acknowledged at the John Work Chorus on Sunday.

Questions may be directed to Doris Johnson Andrews, Geraldine Stroman Parker, Ida Spells English or M. LaNelle Kohn. Doris can be reached at (803)754-7736 or email [andy316@net-zero.net](mailto:andy316@net-zero.net) and Geraldine can be reached at (803)754-8093 or email [par-ker@bellsouth.net](mailto:par-ker@bellsouth.net).



The BTW Foundation tries to help graduating legacies reaching to new academic heights.

## Class of 1957

Greetings, Splendiferous Salutations, and God's Blessings to all Washingtonians and others!

Our hearts and minds were filled with very special memories as we embraced "Ole Tornado" students, administrators, and friends of the Booker T. Washington High School Family during our past class reunions. Imagine the joy we felt as the executive Planning Committee brought to a culmination, the exciting plans for our 60<sup>th</sup>-year reunion. What is more, we have One Heart-Lifetime of Treasured Memories of a Rich Heritage, Great Traditions of the Black and Gold, and Legacy of Booker T. Washington High School Tornadoes, Columbia, South Carolina: 1916-1974. Highest Commendations to our president, Jestine Brown Coaxum and treasurer and BTW Foundation Board Member, Wilhelmina Kinard, who always provide exemplary leadership for every event.

Point of privilege and inasmuch as our graduation ceremony was held, Friday, June 7, 1957, honoring 119 students, we extend a message of love to those classmates who were unable to personally celebrate with us. There are specials in loving memory of those beautiful voices in our class that have been silenced but not forgotten. PEACE.

Our reunion theme was "Tornado Spirit-60 Years of Glory, Work and Fun". This was a salute and testimony to our Alma Mater. Our grand initiative was to have as many classmates as possible attend the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Heritage Weekend Celebration, Friday evening, June 23 at the Brookland Baptist Banquet and Conference Center. Several classmates sacrificed and came from Alabama, California, Florida, and Texas. As a class in reunion, the Foundation afforded us a participating role in the evening's events. Classmate John E. Evans, San Antonio, Texas, graciously blessed the food. A delightful meal and opportunity for fellowship followed this joyful assembly and program.

Classmate Benbernetta H. Charles of Huntsville, Alabama, presented each classmate with her handmade gold corsages and boutonnieres for the reunion weekend.

All praises and thanksgiving to God for the largest group ever assembled for morning worship at St. Paul AME Church, Kennerly Road, Irmo, South Carolina, where Reverend Dr. Derrick Scott is pastor. Executive Pastor and classmate, Reverend Dr. Simon P. Bouie, served as our gracious host. We were truly blessed to have Sister Willie Omia Bouie and other family members and friends as our honored guests. Attorney Stanley L. Myers delivered the morning message during The Sports Ministry's "Jersey Sunday". In your walk with God, like Moses, he told the worshipers to consider five elements he had learned from Bible Study and participation in sports. He challenged all to always give your best to God, perform every task with great detail, dream work/teamwork and accountability. A delightful meal was served after worship. Special gifts of souvenir ink pens, bookmarks and treats were passed out during dinner.

- William & Frazier Davis and Mary D. Williams, reporting



## A PIECE OF HISTORY OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL



Main Building

From the beginning in 1916 until its closing in 1974, Booker T. Washington High School was a center for the education and training of young African Americans of Columbia, South Carolina.



Gymnasium

The BTW campus was developed in the southeastern section of Columbia at the corner of Marion and Blossom Streets. In 1923, a three-story fireproof building was erected to house the industrial department of the school. An annex containing 12 classrooms, laboratories, cafeteria and auditorium was built onto the main building in 1927. In 1939 a gymnasium and auditorium were added to the campus. A larger shop building was constructed in 1941 to house vocational classes for boys.



Auditorium



Cafeteria

The 1974 announcement to close Booker T. Washington High School created a furor of disbelief and indignation which permeated a community of loyal Washingtonians, their families and friends. The outcry protesting the sale of the school to the University of South Carolina without any eminent plan to rebuild or relocate the historic African-American landmark resulted in countless public meetings to resolve a highly charged conflict. The student body, alumni, and faculty were distraught. Community leaders rallied and spoke against the decision. On March 12, 1974, Frankie B. Outten, representing the faculty, presented to Richland County School District One Board of Commissioners "A Testimonial to Booker T. Washington High School" which captured the concerns and sentiments of those who were most injured by the school board's decision.

### Deaths Cont'd . . .

Rosa Lee McCoy Prescott Hayes  
Virginia Ann Bush Westray  
Mildred Jane Dean Singletary '60  
Arneatha Pearl Robinson Davis  
Billy Lee William Chambers  
Arthur Jones '58  
Blondell Mitchell Montague '62  
Sallie McDaniel (Adult Education)

Louise Diane Isaac  
Betty Corbin '43  
Thomasina Davis Briggs '46  
JC Caroline  
Jessie Bookert  
Joseph Nelson, Jr.  
Charles English '64  
Barbara Jean Horton '68  
Leon Sutton, Sr.



### A Verse From Booker T. Washington School Alma Mata

SING A SONG OF GLORY, A SONG OF WORK AND FUN! SING A SONG  
OF ALMA MATER, BOOKER WASHINGTON!  
WE THY LOYAL CHILDREN, FAITHFUL TO THEE COME, REVERTLY WE  
BOW TO BOOKER WASHINGTON!  
PRAISE SONGS HAVE RUNG, FOR WASHINGTON, FOR THEE OUR SA-  
CRED SHRINE.  
THY SONS AND DAUGHTERS SHALL FOREVER SHINE.... ..



**Booker T. Washington Foundation**

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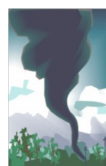
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**About Our Organization**

The Booker T. Washington Foundation began as a way to remember our school which closed in 1974. It was a way to keep the family together and to give our legacies an idea of why we are so passionate about our Alma Mater. Scholarships are awarded to persons who apply and withstand the rigorous prerequisites and requirements. The dues for membership is \$35.00 per year, payable by April 15 of each year. \$25.00 of the total helps pay for utilities and upkeep of BTW/Montieth Cultural Center.

Our Motto:  
"Lest we forget."

**Class of 1964**

Our class had three gatherings since the last publication of Comet 2: 2 class meetings and a Christmas Celebration. A picture is worth a thousand words, so we decided to tell our story through pictures. Enjoy.



November 2017—Class Meeting at Central Baptist Church's Fellowship Hall, hosted by Clarence Goodwin



December 2017—Classmates at Christmas Celebration at Spring Valley Country Club



January 2018—Pot Luck Class Meeting at home of Melvin (Jerald) McKie

**Classmates in Spotlight**

Congratulations to **Geraldine Stroman** and **James E. Parker '63** who celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary on November 17, 2017 with at an anniversary dinner hosted by their nieces.



**James E. '63 and Geraldine Stroman Parker '64**

Welcome home **Doris Johnson Andrews**. Doris has been in Houston, Texas three times leading to and since the birth of her grandson, Hunter Hypolite on June 26, 2017. Doris says she keeps her money in the kitty for her travels to Texas.

Congratulations to **Mary Wilson Guinyard**. Mary and her family recently returned from a Jamaican and Cayman Island Cruise that they shared in January 2018.

Congratulations to **Eugene Wallace**, grandson of **Catherine McGorder Whatley** for receiving the **MLK Award** for Outstanding Leadership in his school, church and community. He is in the Magnet Program at E. L. Wright Middle School.

**Condolences**

Class regrets the passing of 1 classmate:  
**Charles English**

- Doris Johnson Andrews and Geraldine Stroman Parker, reporters

