

Charleston Club Tattler

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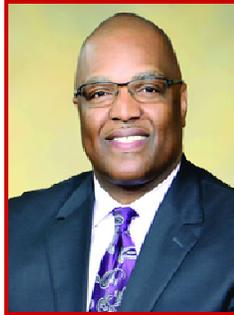
October 1, 2013



Orangeburg Elects First Black Mayor

Michael C. Butler Wins Mayor's Race in Orangeburg, SC

Voters in Orangeburg elected Michael C. Butler as the city's first African-American mayor on Sept 10th. Butler won a four-year term with 53% of the vote. Mayor Paul Miller (incumbent) received 46% of the vote, he has been mayor since 2001. Butler's new term begin Oct. 1, 2013, he is a career specialist at the Technology Center in Orangeburg Consolidated School District 5. He received his bachelor's degree from Claflin University in 1983 and is a life-time member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity. Butler completed graduate courses at South Carolina State and the University of South Carolina and obtained his master of education degree from Walden University in 2006. He has been an elementary school teacher, a middle school assistant principal, a social services case manager, an HIV counselor and an employee of SC State. In 1978, Butler established a Bible study that eventually grew into Victory Tabernacle Deliverance Temple of the Apostolic Faith. He has been the pastor at the church for 22 years. He ran on a platform of revitalizing the city and working on economic development.



Charleston Club Member - Dolores Moultrie Abrams

Dolores Isabelle Moultrie was born and raised in Charleston; the daughter of William Emile and Hattie McCaw Moultrie. Her birthday is December 20th and as a child her family lived at 23 Kennedy Street and 151-B Line Street. Delores and her younger sister, Blondelle Moultrie Williams, attended Immaculate Conception School on Coming Street. Her father worked for the Charleston Fire Dept, he was a fire-engine truck driver and become a Fire Dept Captain. Delores played "guard" on ICS' varsity girls "3 on 3" basketball team. She became a member of The Sodality Society (Catholic Youth Group) and worked as an assistant in the school's library. She also enjoyed singing in the choir, mainly singing at church funerals and weddings. Some students often sang in the choir because they were excused from school classes to participate in the choir. Delores graduated from ICS in the Class of 1948.



Dolores entered Benedict College (Columbia, SC) in the fall of 1948. There she became an active member of the Tiger's student body; on the cheer-leaders squad, choir member, Dean's Office assistant and her beloved Delta

Sigma Theta Sorority. Dolores graduated from Benedict (with honors) in the Class of 1952. Her first jobs were at Ten Mile Hill-Bethune Elementary School (\$175/month) in the north area, and then it was on to A.B. Rhett Elementary (President St.) in the 1950s. In 1960 she married Alvin A. "Abe" Abrams, a member of the U.S. Air Force stationed in Charleston; he was a native of Lynchburg, VA. The couple was married at St. Peter's Catholic Church (34 Wentworth St); Lois Garrison Pearson (fellow ICS classmate '48 and Charleston Club member) was her maid-of-honor. Abe had a 22 year career in the Air Force, he and Dolores had three sons; Alvin, II, Terrence and Henri as they traveled the world. Abe had a "gift" for cooking; he loved family cook-outs. When the family relocated to Washington, he became an avid fisherman and enjoyed gardening. After officially retiring in 1973, he worked at the Rand Corp. Group for 10 years before becoming ill with cancer. Abe died in 2006 and is buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Dolores has had a 40 year teaching career. She was a teacher at Incirlik (Turkey) Junior High (4-years) in Dept. of Defense schools located on U.S. Bases. She was a school administrator (state-side in DC) as principal and assistant principal at P.B. Harris Jr. High, Merritt Jr. High and McGogney Elementary School. She has two Masters Degrees from New York University (1966 & 2002) and did Post Graduate work at George Washington University. Today, now retired, she enjoys her role as Vice-President of the Charleston Club; every meeting she is called upon to give "her" inspirational reading. A week before each meeting she researches her books (e.g. Helen Steiner Rice, St. Jude, etc.) for the appropriate inspirational verse for the group. She is an active participant and volunteer at Assumption Catholic Church's (3401 MLK, Jr. Ave, SE) missions and functions. Delores has six (6) beautiful grandchildren. **If you would like to know something about someone in Charleston, ...ask Dolores!**

Charleston Club Member - Paula Yvonne Edwards

Paula Yvonne Edwards was born in Washington, DC; she is the daughter of Charleston Club Charter-members, **Eric Paul & Marjorie Brooks Edwards**. Her father, Eric Paul Edwards was born in Charleston in January 1918 to Gilbert Franklin, Sr. & Albertha Allen Edwards. Gilbert Edwards was a carpenter in the Charleston area for years and his wife, Albertha worked as a seamstress for the WPA, Tailor's



Men's Wear and Berlin's Men's Store on King Street. Eric had four siblings; Alma Edwards Shokes (principal of Murray-LaSaine Elementary School), Gilbert Franklin, Edwards Jr., PhD. (Dept Chair of Sociology at Howard), Randolph Edwards and Eugenia "Jeannie" Edwards Boykin. The family's homestead was 379 Sumter Street in Charleston. Eric's early schooling was at Miss Izzad's Pre-School, and then it was primary and secondary education at Avery Normal Institute. Eric graduated from Avery in 1937 and entered Howard University. While at Howard he enrolled in the Army ROTC program and HU's Business Club. It was at Howard that he met fellow undergraduate, Marjorie ("Margie") Brooks by asking to share her French textbook. Marjorie was born in April 1920 in Cumberland, MD to Pearl Andrew and Jeanette ("Jenny") Myers Brooks. Marjorie was a very smart student and enrolled in Howard University at the tender age of 16 years old.

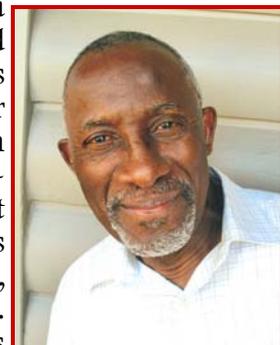
After graduating from Howard in 1941, Eric enrolled in the U.S. Army and served with the 24th Infantry Regiment (historic Buffalo Soldiers Regiments) in the Pacific. In 1943, while Eric was in DC on leave, he and Marjorie eloped and married. After the war they began their family; a daughter, Paula Yvonne and a son, Eric Brooks Edwards. Eric continued in the Army Reserve and rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) (World War II, Korea, & Vietnam) before his retirement in 1978. Eric secured employment at the Postal Service and served as a senior supervisor until retirement. His fellow postal workers called him "Cap" (Captain in the Army) and for his reputation as a hard taskmaster. He helped other Charlestonians with getting Post Office positions over the years. Meanwhile, Marjorie garnered Masters Degrees in English and History, and worked on her PhD at Howard. She became an English professor (Freshman English) at Howard, while volunteering as an editor for the Journal of Negro History. In 1964, she left Howard for Montgomery College, where she became Chair of the English Department and a Dean at the Germantown, MD Campus. She was renowned for her insistence upon excellence from her students and for her tough grading style.

Eric and Marge were very active in the Charleston Club for years. Eric and Marge were married for forty-five years before his untimely death in March 1989. He was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. After Eric's death, Marge organized *The Edwards Project Committee* within the Charleston Club. The purpose of this standing committee was/is to collect funds, non-perishables and clothing for charitable organizations. Eric was a very "socially conscious" man who cared greatly about those less fortunate than he. He was always willing to lend a "helping hand." As the story goes; ... as a young boy he had a newspaper route in Charleston, Eric was known to have paid "the bill" for customers who could not afford to pay! Today, the Club still continues with *The Edwards Project Committee*. Marge continued her participation in the Club until she died in September 2002; she too is buried in Arlington, beside her beloved Eric.

Paula and her brother, Eric are frequent participants and give generously to the Charleston Club's Edwards Project endeavors. This year (2012-2013) Paula will assume the committee chairmanship for **The Edwards Project!**

Charleston Club Member - Clarence L. Holman

Clarence Leon Holman was born in Charleston on September 19th to Samuel and Viola Drayton Holman; the family lived at 29 Poinsett Street (two blocks north of County Hall). His father was a pastor and also worked on the grounds of the historic Magnolia Cemetery; Charleston's oldest cemetery (c.1849). Clarence is one of six siblings; Richard, Helen, Harvey, Rev. Albert and Vivian. His early education was at Hopkins



Kindergarten, Henry P. Archer and A. B. Rhett. He has always enjoyed reading and sports... *"I partially liked the May Day Celebrations at Archer, watching the young girls plat the May Pole!"* He attended Burke High School; played football and basketball on the varsity team, member of the National Honor Society and yes, had a leading role in his Senior Class play in 1957. His high school jobs were as bicycle delivery-boy for Faulkner Pharmacy and a porter and stock clerk at Diana Dress Shop on King St. While in the 9th grade Clarence got into "BIG TROUBLE;" the Harlem Globetrotters were playing at County Hall one Friday, he and three friends decided to "cut-hooky" and go get tickets for the game. After returning to school, the Vice Principal, Mr. Joe "Fess" Moore showed up at their classes and wanted to see each guy in his office on Monday morning, prior to going to class. "Fess" Moore saw the guys at the game, smiled and told them to enjoy the game! They tried to enjoy the game but had a miserable weekend. Monday morning, the four sat in Fess' office for what seemed like hours before he arrived. He sat down, looked at them and said he hoped that they had enjoyed the game. Then to their surprise he said he was not going to punish them any further because they were not problem students and he knew they would not do that again. He was right... *lesson learned!*

In the fall of 1957 he entered S.C. State College and participated in the Army ROTC program, ran on the track team and became a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (Xi Psi). Summer jobs in New York; employed at a machine shop, a corrugated box factory, and in Brooklyn working at a Ban-Lon sweater company. Upon graduation from State (1961) he was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the Army Chemical Corps; serving in Vietnam and Germany. Clarence retired in 1981 as a Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1965 he married Eleanor Calhoun of Anniston, AL, in a military style wedding. One of his groomsmen had to cancel, he needed someone who was in the military... Clarence's "life-line" would be none other than "home-boy," Clarence McNeill who was on temporary duty at

Fort McClellan attending school. If that wasn't enough, his Command Officer called his future bride's home and told her to tell him that if he did not put on his Captain's insignia he would be "out of uniform" because he had received orders from the Dept of Army that he had been promoted.

The Holmans have one daughter, Monica H. Evans (Richard) and a grandson, Richard H. Evans. In retirement, Clarence worked at VITRO Corp and the Army Research Lab as a government contractor. He looks back on his military years and said; *"...it gave me the opportunity to go places and do things I could not, otherwise do. I visited Venice and traversed the canals in gondolas. Toured Florence and stood next to the statue of David. In Rome I went to Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel to view Michelangelo's works. And had the opportunity to climb the stairs of the Leaning Tower of Pisa."*

Charleston Club Member - Lois Garrison Pearson

Lois Maxine Garrison was born and raised in Charleston in 1929 to Larkin, Sr. and Willie Lee Nixon Garrison. She has five siblings; Larkin, Jr., Esther, Amanda, John and Harold. The family lived at 142 Smith St., 8 Park St. and then 498 Rutledge Ave, which became the family homestead. Her father was a painter (ships and buildings) at the Charleston Navy Yard (1901-1996) and her mother worked at the Cannon Street Hospital (1897-1959). Lois started elementary school at Avery Institute through the 5th grade. In the 6th grade she transferred to the Immaculate Conception School. She vividly remembers "the walk" to school with her siblings. Middle school and high school at ICS were very enjoyable for Lois, she played "forward" on the "girls' 3 on 3" basketball team under Coach Robbie Johnson. She sang in the school's choir and an ICS Lions' cheer-leader during the boy's football seasons. At one point during her high school years, one of the nuns approached Lois about *"...would she consider becoming a nun?"* Lois considered it, but discussions with her family lead her to NOT consider it too long. Lois graduated from ICS in the Class of 1948, along with Charleston Club member Dolores Moultrie Abrams.

In the fall of 1948 she entered South Carolina State College, majoring in elementary education. Elementary education has always been her aspirations, she loved working with small children and experiencing their "learning" growth. Maybe that was the unintended goal of the nun that wanted her to join the convent. Lois had a stellar life as a SC State "Lady-Bulldog," academically and socially. Lois M. Garrison graduated from SC State in 1952 with a degree in Elementary Education.

Her first teaching assignment was at Bethune Elementary School in (10-mile Hill) North Charleston. She was in her element, teaching 1st graders and basketball coach for higher graders (winning) girls' basketball team. She left Bethune to teach at Liberty Hill Elementary (North area);



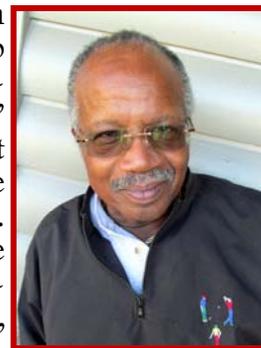
her reputation preceded her... again, she taught the 1st Grade and asked to coach another winning girls' basketball team. Lois' last school in Charleston was at Courtney Elementary on Meeting St. before moving to the Washington area in 1965. In 1958 she married Maryland attorney, Alfonso N. Pearson, Esq. Lois and Alfonso lived in the Washington area for 30 years; she has two sons, Alfonso N., Jr. and Stephen Pearson, here in DC. Lois' Washington area teaching career spans 40 years. She spent 29 years at Stanton Elementary (Naylor Rd. SE), where she became a Critic Teacher for UDC and began working on her Masters and completed her course studies at Trinity College in DC. Some other local schools she has taught are; Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish (Ely Place, SE) and Malcolm X Elementary School (Mississippi Ave. SE).

Charleston Club Member - Reginald W. Russell

Reginald Wilbur Russell was born in Charleston on June 10, 1945 to John H. Russell & Mary Forest Russell. Everyone called him "Reggie" since his early days on Logan Street (in the same block as Fielding Home for Funerals), where he was born. There were eight children in the family; John H., Jr., Phoebe, Wilhelmina, Stanley (deceased), Reginald, Emmett, Carolyn, and Kay. His father worked at the Charleston Naval Ship Yard, while his mother managed the household and eight energetic children. His mother insisted that each of her children have a good education and learn "the ways of the world." They each had to graduate from *"...my Mother's House!"* Reggie says *"...we all had to wash cloths, iron them, scrub floors and learn how to cook; before we left home."*

The family moved to 19 Duncan Street (one block north of Calhoun St.) when Reggie was three years old. It was Duncan Street that became the family homestead. Reggie's early schooling began at Simonton and Buist Elementary Schools, there were a couple of years of "double session schooling" when Simonton Elementary was in repair and/or being remodeled in the 1950s. Reggie and his four older siblings would attend Burke High School, the three younger siblings attended ICS, several blocks north on Coming Street. While a Burke Bulldog, he became fully emerged in the "Bulldogs-lifestyle;" The Art Club, The Palattes (social club), and The Parvenue Newspaper's Staff. His favorite teachers were Mrs. McGriff in English and Mr. P.T. Martin in homeroom. Reginald W. Russell graduated from Burke High School in the Class of 1963; this year the Class of 1963 celebrated their 50th Anniversary-Reunion with a week of festivities in Charleston.

During the height of the Vietnam War years, he was drafted in 1965 into the U.S. Army and served a 1-year tour in South Vietnam (1966-1967). When asked about his first jobs; he recalls working at the "O Street Car Wash" in NW shortly after relocating to the Washington area. It was a typical "Washington July hot-day" summer; Reggie



worked there for ONLY two days; *he couldn't take it!* Then, it was the cafeteria at the Census Bureau, dish washing; at this point he knew *this was not working*. Shortly thereafter, he landed an apprentice job as an offset pressman at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md. Reggie learned the mechanics of the printing press business (units, folders, inking systems), his career flourished and promotions soon followed. He spent 36 years at NIH before retiring in January 2000 as the Chief of Printing Procurement (1st Black Specifications writer within NIH). In 1969, he married Elaine Stephens Russell, from Bowman, SC; the couple has two sons, Reginald W., II and Duane; and a daughter, Stephanie. The family has lived at their 515 Shady Glen Drive, Capitol Heights MD home for the last 45 years. They are the proud grandparents of Jamari and Jeloni Morgan (daughter's kids), whom Reggie routinely brings to Charleston Club meetings so that "the boys" can "learn their roots!"

The Birmingham Four ~ 50 Years Ago... Sept. 15, 1963



President Barack H. Obama's statement commemorating the 4 tragic deaths: *"Today, we remember Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson, and Cynthia Wesley who were killed 50 years ago in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing. That horrific day in Birmingham, Alabama quickly became a defining moment for the Civil Rights Movement. It galvanized Americans all across the country to stand up for equality and broadened support for a movement that would eventually lead to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Earlier this year, I was honored to meet with family members of those four precious little girls as America posthumously awarded them the Congressional Gold Medal, one of our nation's highest civilian honors."*



This is the Congressional Gold Medal honoring the four little girls killed in the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing on September 15, 1963. The medal was presented to their families on September 10, 2013, in a ceremony at the U.S. Capitol.

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .

- **MOJA Arts Festival:** A Celebration of African-American and Caribbean Arts Sept. 26 - Oct. 6, 2013. This will be the 30th annual MOJA Arts Festival, produced by the City of Charleston Office of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with the MOJA Program Committee. The festival offers a variety of arts and cultural programs, including theatre, dance, literary, visual arts, jazz, gospel, reggae, chamber music as well as many free, family-friendly events. The 2013 poster image is Harvesting Sweetgrass by the late Charleston artist Charles DeSausure.
- **Cheryl Boone Isaacs**, a veteran film marketer, was named the **President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences** in August 2013. The Academy, which produces the annual **Oscar Ceremony**, has not had a female president since 1983, and has never had an African-American president in its 86-year history.
- Thursday, September 12th was the 148th anniversary of the founding of **Avery Normal Institute** on **Tuesday, Sept 12, 1865**. Avery Normal Institute was a nationally recognized African-American educational institution that trained young adults in professional careers and leaderships roles for eighty-nine years.
- **Denzel Washington** and **Diahann Carroll** will star in a Broadway revival of Lorraine Hansberry's 1959 drama **"A Raisin in the Sun"** in the spring of 2014. Mr. Washington will play Walter Lee Younger, the ambitious young man at the heart of the play. Ms. Carroll, in her first Broadway appearance in more than 30 years, will play Lena, the Younger family matriarch.
- **CBS** has a new prime-time TV newcomer, **"Reckless"** filmed this summer in Charleston. The series plays on the relationship between a Southern country girl attorney and a Yankee litigator who are courtroom adversaries. The heat rises as they struggle to hide their attraction, clashing over a police sex scandal that threatens to tear the city apart.
- The **University of Illinois** has its first African-American student body president. **Damani Bolden**, a senior from Chicago was elected last spring and installed as president of the Illinois Student Senate. He says a love of politics drove him to run for the position. "It's just something I was born to do. I love to serve people and I love education. In student government, the two merge together."
- Former Charlotte Mayor **Anthony Foxx** was sworn in as the nation's 17th Secretary of Transportation. Secretary Foxx spent his first days meeting employees and holding meetings on important issues facing the Department. Foxx was confirmed by the full Senate in a unanimous vote of 100-0 on June 27th.
- The **Greater Charleston YWCA** has announced its Second Century campaign to raise funds and increase memberships for the Charleston women's organization founded July 4, 1907. The Second Century campaign pays tribute to the thousands of volunteers and corporate, municipal and civic leaders who support their mission to eliminate racism and empower women. The Charleston YWCA currently has some 400 members. The Second Century campaign seeks to enroll another 200 members.

- *The Fly on The Wall!*