

Charleston Club Tattler

Volume 21, Issue 108

A publication of The Charleston S.C. Club of Washington, D.C. Area

Website: <http://charlestonclub.org/>

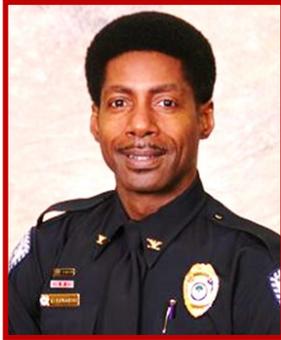
February 1, 2018



Chief Burgess in N. Chasn

Chief Reggie Burgess Becomes N. Charleston's 9th Police Chief

On Thursday, January 11, 2018, Reginald "Reggie" Burgess, 52, was sworn in as the Police Chief of the North Charleston Police Department, becoming the agency's ninth police chief since the city's incorporation in 1972. Burgess is a life-long resident of the City of North Charleston.



After graduating from Bonds-Wilson/North Charleston High School in 1984, Burgess attended Morgan State University, later receiving a dual degree from Claflin University, majoring in Criminal Justice and Sociology. He joined the ranks of the North Charleston Police Department, starting at the entry level of patrolman in 1989.

"When I was a teenager, growing up in various neighborhoods in North Charleston, there was a television show called "SWAT," said Reggie Burgess. "Although it was Hollywood fiction, the show created a spark for me to explore serving my community through police work, to protect all who felt victimized. I knew becoming a police officer would allow me to have a direct impact on improving my city and the neighborhoods where I grew up." He continued, "Becoming the police chief of the City of North Charleston is truly a blessing. Mayor Summey has entrusted me to positively motivate, influence, lead and guide the police department personnel, and to improve the quality of life for the citizens of North Charleston."

Burgess often recounts a quote from his former high school principal, Theodore Collier, who said, "If it's to be, it's up to me!" Over the last 29 years with the North Charleston Police Department, Burgess climbed the ranks of the department, and was named Assistant Chief of the department in 2013. "Reggie Burgess embodies our city and his passion for this community is unparalleled," said Summey. "His aptitude for the police work and crime-fighting knowledge will lead the department to new heights, and his presence in the neighborhoods signals a new dawn for community relations. Reggie has given his entire professional career to the North Charleston Police Department, and this appointment is a deserving achievement for an individual so intrinsically engrained in the community of North Charleston."

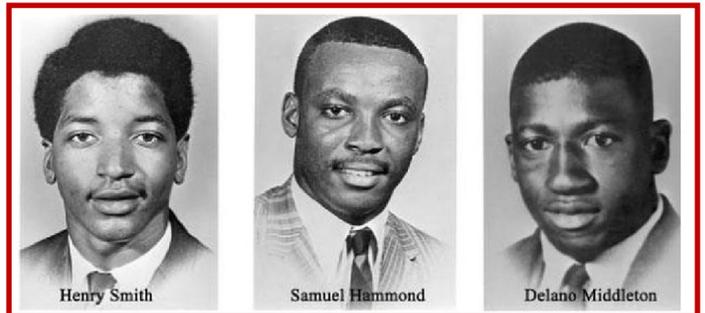
South Carolina National Action Network President Elder James Johnson, a North Charleston resident and long-time critic of the department's policies and practices after Monday's announcement Burgess would lead North Charleston police said, "Since former Police Chief Jon Zumalt retired

in 2013, I've called for a Black police chief in the City of North Charleston. Reggie Burgess was passed over to hire Driggers just because Driggers and the mayor are friends."

That Burgess is from North Charleston and has lived in North Charleston Black communities all his life creates a unique bond with the city's nearly 50 percent Black population, Johnson said. That bond will help Burgess in forging relationships that can impact the city's unprecedented homicide rate, Johnson said. North Charleston had 35 homicides in 2017 making it one of the nation's most dangerous cities per capita.

"Burgess is from the community and I feel like the people will embrace him. Burgess was caught between a rock and a hard place under previous administrations in the police department. Now that he'll be chief, I believe he'll do a good job. While our criticism of the department won't stop because there's a Black chief, I think it's a new day in North Charleston," Johnson said.

50 years - The Orangeburg Massacre (1968)



It's been 50 years since The Orangeburg Massacre took place in Orangeburg, SC at South Carolina State University on February 8th, 1968. This horrific incident which ended with three young men, Samuel Hammond, Henry Smith, and Delano Middleton were killed and 27 other students wounded. It was the worst example of violence on a college campus in South Carolina's history. The incident began when approximately 200 students gathered on February 6th to protest the segregation of black patrons at the nearby All Star Bowling Lane. The first demonstration proceeded without incident. The following night many of the students returned to resume the protest but in this instance fifteen of them were arrested. The third night, February 8th, tensions were already running high on both sides from the previous night's arrests.

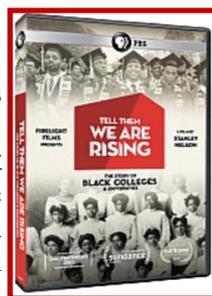
The students gathered on the South Carolina State campus instead of at the bowling alley this time. They built a bonfire which a law enforcement officer attempted to put out. In the process he was injured by a piece of a banister thrown from the crowd. A highway patrolman then fired his gun into the air in an attempt to calm the crowd. Upon

hearing the shot, other officers, thinking they were being fired upon, opened fire into the crowd of students. Hammond and Smith who were S.C. State students and Middleton, a 17-year-old high school student, were killed and 27 other students were wounded. The high death and injury totals came in part because officers used shotguns with buckshot when they fired into the crowd. Many of the victims were shot in their backs or through the soles of their feet as they ran. None of the students were armed.

Nine (9) officers were held responsible for the shootings and were brought to trial on charges of excessive force at a campus protest. All nine were acquitted of all charges. The only person who was charged and sent to prison as a result of this incident was Cleveland Sellers, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) representative who was convicted of inciting the riot that had led to the shootings. Sellers was later pardoned for his role in the incident. The day after the shootings Governor Robert E. McNair spoke of this as “one of the saddest days in the history of South Carolina.”

Tell Them We Are Rising

A haven for Black intellectuals, artists and revolutionaries - and path of promise toward the American dream - Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have educated the architects of freedom movements and cultivated leaders in every field. They have been unapologetically Black for more than 150 years. For the first time ever, their story is told. Directed by award-winning documentary filmmaker Stanley Nelson, *Tell Them We Are Rising: The Story of Black Colleges and Universities* examines the impact Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) have had on American history, culture, and national identity. Beginning with the earliest attempts at education to today’s campuses, the 90-minute film will air nationally on the acclaimed PBS series, Independent Lens on **Monday, February 19, 2018**. The project was funded with support from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the Lumina Foundation.



Jackson State Establish Grant Writing Center for HBCU

Jackson State University’s Department of English will create a grant writing resource and training center to help faculty members from historically black colleges enhance their skill in developing proposals for funded research and programming. The flagship HBCU announced the program in December, which will be funded by more than \$443,000 awarded by the National Science Foundation, which is an off-shoot of a five-year grant writing academy



the school established to assist JSU faculty in grant writing support.

The current grant is designed to translate the lessons of the Academy to an online grant writing program for small and mid-sized HBCUs. The project aligns with the goal of the HBCU undergraduate program to provide assistance to its community to increase faculty research capacity. The project’s potential for transformative impact is based both on its uniqueness as an approach to supporting small, resource-impooverished institutions and on the promise it offers to increase collaborations between scholars at different institutions. The structure of the project will also encourage collaborations across science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines.

Proposal submitted by JSU faculty through the grant writing Academy have been awarded more than \$5 million, with 16 % of proposals from current academy participants and 42 % of grant proposals written from academy graduates have been accepted for funding.

Black History Month - February 2018 History

The *Colored American Magazine*, published from 1900-1909, was of great cultural, historical, and literary significance. Its editors and publishers included such prominent African American figures as Booker T. Washington and the novelist Pauline Hopkins, and it was one of the first general magazines to address itself to an aspirational and genteel African American readership. In fact, Abby Arthur Johnson and Ronald Maberry Johnson identify it as “the first significant Afro-American journal to emerge in the twentieth century.” Earlier African American publications were either “religiously affiliated or connected to the abolitionist movement.” In contrast, the *Colored American* described itself as the first magazine “distinctly devoted to African American interests and to the development of Afro-American art and literature,” and its content included short stories, essays, and serialized novels. The magazine initially focused on black history, biographies of notable African American men and women.



The magazine’s publishing structure also extended its focus on African American interests, marrying business with literary endeavors. The magazine was launched under the umbrella of the Colored Co-operative Publishing Company, founded by Walter Wallace and Jesse W. Watkins. The Colored Co-operative Publishing Company was an attempt to attain both financial and editorial control in a publishing enterprise, to found a race literature, and to preserve the history of black Americans. Advertisements for books sold by the Colored Co-operative fill the pages of the magazine, and the history of the magazine cannot be separated from that of the company.

For much of its first four years, the magazine’s most prolific contributor was Pauline E. Hopkins. Hopkins also

served as editor of the Women's Section, and was appointed literary editor in May 1903. Hopkins's contributions to the magazine included short stories, biographical essays, editorials, and serial novels. In both her fiction and her non-fiction writings, Hopkins was uncompromising in her critique of racial oppression in Jim Crow America.

Although the *Colored American* reached a peak circulation of more than 17,000 households, it was the largest African American magazine at that time until the NAACP's *Crisis* overtook it. The magazine's financial circumstances were shaky throughout its ten-year history. In the spring of 1904, Fred R. Moore, with assistance from Booker T. Washington, bought the company and magazine, and they were moved to New York from Boston. Washington's involvement was concealed to strengthen his influence on the magazine.

While the *Colored American* was specifically aimed at a black audience, a third or more of the magazine's readers were white patrons. Miss Hopkins was a faithful and conscientious worker, and did much toward the building up of the Magazine. For its remaining five years the magazine gradually became more politically middle-of-the-road and, as a consequence, less focused on women's issues and less concerned with literature as a vehicle for political engagement. It is as though the *Colored American* became a different magazine after Hopkins left. Rather than emphasizing the "genteel radicalism" that Hopkins advocated for, the magazine, under Washington's control, began to move toward a more conciliatory politics, shifting its focus away from racial injustices of the past and present toward positive coverage of African American achievements, particularly in the business world. This shift is indicated in more coverage about Washington and his endeavors and the increasing number of pages devoted, for example, to fraternal orders, such as the Masons and the Elks. In contrast to Hopkins's mission of using literary texts to argue for black equality, the "Publishers' Announcement" section of the June 1906 issue states that the magazine is explicitly not focused on activism: "A magazine which devotes itself to difficult and complicated social problems or which addresses itself merely to those who are highly educated and cultured cannot, of course, hope to reach the masses of the people. In short it is the aim to make this magazine a national monthly newspaper, addressed to the whole body of our race rather than a select few." In other words, Washington's magazine stayed away from ruffling the feathers of white supporters and de-emphasized literature's role in race politics. As W.E.B. Du Bois wrote in *The Crisis* magazine, a magazine that would later come to emphasize the same links between literature and black activism, the *Colored American*, after moving to New York, became "so conciliatory, innocuous, uninteresting that it died a peaceful death almost unnoticed by the public."



"The Ballers" of Charleston - True Story

Charleston's Sports "Ballers" started in the winter of 1992, some former Burke H.S. football players thought it would be great to get former members together for fun, fellowship and sharing of memories. Many of these play-



ers had migrated from Charleston to Northern states since the 1960s/70s, seeking new opportunities. School-mates (players) from New York, Philadelphia, Washington and New Jersey had talked about getting together for years when they would see each other during holiday and summer visits in Charleston. Atlantic City, NJ was considered a relatively convenient gathering place, some of them had worked summer jobs in Atlantic City during earlier days. Atlantic City was experiencing a boom, it was no longer just the home of the Miss America Pageant, but it was becoming a casino city. The decision was made that they would meet at *The Sands Casino and Hotel* for two days; have lunch, gamble a bite, and renew their "ole bonds."

Burke H.S. has always had a rich tradition of sports since the beginning of their athletic program in 1938. Anyone growing up in Charleston and familiar with Burke's Football team history has heard the nicknames "Tippy Joe" (Joseph Evans) or "Mackie" (Douglas McArthur Goodwin). You rarely escaped any of Charleston's high schools in those days without getting a nickname. And so, former players like, Leroy "Leapy" Green, a quarterback (BHS Class of 1959) and David "Raggy Mouth" Green a running back (BHS Class of 1961) thought it was time to get as many of the former "football players" as possible together for some fun, fellowship and sharing of memories. Soon the group got its own nickname, "The Ballers." The group met for a couple of years in the Jersey area, what started out as a few former players grew. Soon students from other city schools got invited to their gatherings; Bonds-Wilson, C.A. Brown, I.C.S., and Laing.

In December 2008, Benjamin "Goola" Mitchell (BHS Class of 1960) decided to re-organize a "Ballers" gathering after he returned to Charleston in retirement. The need was the same, now he was "home" and many of his fellow ball players, cheerleaders (Joan Green), and majorettes who also came home to retire or to visit family for the holiday, needed that same vehicle. Every year since then, alumni from Avery, Bonds-Wilson, Burke, C.A. Brown and I.C.S. gather at the Golden Corral in N. Charleston, the day

after Christmas (or soon after) to break bread and share fond memories. Charleston Club member Clarence "Muscles" McNeill was at the first meeting in Atlantic City in the early 1990s and at the 2017 gathering in Charleston. Other household names that have attended Ballers' functions include; Chris Mitchell, Teddy Brown, Alfred N. Brown to mention a few.

The Ballers started out as a way for the group to continue their connections, this year they had 25 members attending; Chris Mitchell, Albert Alston, Raleigh Murphy, Ben and Spuddy Pickering. This year, Coach Earl Brown, retired Burke basketball/football coach since 1982, shared that he began to purchase and distribute toys and bikes for children living in the east side of Charleston. The Ballers thought this would be a great opportunity to also give to this great cause and will organize a toy drive during their next gathering for 2018.

Senator Doug Jones Hires a Black Chief of Staff

Alabama's newly elected Senator Doug Jones has hired Dana Gresham, an African-American Washington, DC insider, as his chief of staff. Jones, was sworn in on Jan. 3rd, is the only Democratic U.S. Senator with a black chief of staff although two Republican U.S. Senators-Tim Scott of S. C., and Jerry Moran of KS - have hired black chiefs of staff.



The Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, a Washington - based think tank for Black elected officials pushed Jones to hire a diverse top staff because so few African Americans hold those positions. Gresham, a Birmingham, native has held leadership roles in presidential administrations and for members of Congress. He led the Legislative Affairs Office at the Department of Transportation during the eight years of President Obama's administration and he has worked on Capitol Hill 14 years. In 1994, he was awarded a B.S. Degree in International Politics from Georgetown University.

Jones also announced three other senior staff hires. Mark Libell as legislative director, Ann Berry, a black woman, as transition advisor, and Katie Campbell as deputy legislative director. All three are Alabama natives and who have considerable experience. Jones said in a statement, "Today I'm proud to announce that we have recruited four outstanding individuals to join our team."

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners ...

♦ **Rosa Parks'** refusal to give up her bus seat 62 years ago was only the beginning. Premiering on **TV One** on February 11th, *Behind the Movement* offers a closer look at how the history-making Montgomery Bus Boycott was planned in just three days and ultimately led to the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s/960s. "It was reported that I was tired and that wasn't true," states **Meta Golding** as Rosa Parks. "I was tired of all the injustice, all the fear and indignity that they were putting us through. That's the truth." Premiering during Black History

Month, this original made-for-television movie honors the contributions of many unsung heroes of this watershed moment in the Civil Rights struggle. The film recounts the inner workings and behind the scenes preparation that took place during three intense days between the fateful evening when Parks refused to give up her seat through the launch of this significant protest. While Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a prominent leader of the Montgomery Bus Boycott, there was a chorus of lesser-known heroes, including Rosa Parks, who galvanized the most successful boycott of its time.

♦ **Charleston Club's 2018 70th Grand Reunion July 19-21** is 5 months away. The club's website has registration information <http://charlestonsclub.org/>. The club needs people to continue signing up and registering for their hotel rooms. Committees are finalizing respective plans for club's reunion!

- The committee's **Grand Reunion Time Tunnel** still needs YOU! Contact **Ken Brown** if you are a long-lost soloists and/or group to sing "your hearts out" at the reunion...it will be a JOY to our club members, families, and friends.
- Souvenir Journal letters requesting Ads for our journal should go out in February with sizes and prices.
- **Souvenir Journal Pictures** taken during the January 13th meeting went extremely well. The deadline to submit your own picture is February 28th.
- Arrangements are being made to set-up for pictures at our **March 10th meeting**... be ready!

♦ **Burke's Class of 1963's 55th Anniversary Reunion** - The Charleston Club Members are invited to BHS' Class of 1963 - 55th Reunion Finale - *An Evening with Janine Gilbert-Carter, International Jazz Vocalist*, Saturday, June 16, 2018, 7:00 p.m. at Harborside Hotel, (\$50.00 Per Person -- Dinner Included), 6400 Oxon Hill Road, Oxon Hill, MD. 20745. Click here for the details for the event. <https://classof1963burkereunion.com/event/>

**The 55th Reunion of Burke High School
Class of 1963 Cordially Invites You to**

**An Evening with Janine Gilbert-Carter
"International Jazz Vocalist"**
Saturday, June 16, 2018 - 7:00 PM
Harborside Hotel, Oxon Hill, Maryland

**RSVP and Attendance Payment of \$50.00
Cost \$50.00 (\$51.80 if Paid via Internet)**



Due by March 31, 2018

Happy Birthdays!

February 2018

Marian Bennett - Feb. 3rd ~ **Arnette Cobb-White** - Feb. 4th
 ~ **Elizabeth Alston-Santos** - Feb. 7th ~ **Ralph McNeill** - Feb. 9th
 ~ **Mary Lou Palmer** - Feb. 10th ~ **Rosalie Randall** - Feb. 13th
 ~ **Bernice Johnson** - Feb. 18th ~ **Velveeta Black** - Feb. 21st
 ~ **Brenda Owens** - Feb. 25th. ~ *The Fly on The Wall!*