

# Charleston Club Tattler

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## Champion of Black Women dies at 97

### Dr. Catherine M. McCottry dies in Charleston

In the age of being a physician was a rare vocational choice for African American women, Catherine McKee McCottry was preparing herself for her life's work. The daughter of John and Violet Miller McKee, Dr. McCottry was born on February 3, 1921, in Charlotte, NC. She received her professional preparation and training at Barber-Scotia Junior College, a finishing



school for young women, in Concord, NC. Her B.S. degree in Biology was earned at Johnson C. Smith University (1941), and she earned her MD from Howard University School of Medicine (1945). The renowned surgeon, Dr. Charles Drew, taught her surgery at Howard University.

Dr. McCottry was the first female student from Johnson C. Smith University to obtain a medical degree. Her specialty was Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB-GYN) for which she was a resident at Harlem Hospital (New York City), Good Samaritan Hospital (Charlotte, NC), and Providence Hospital (Chicago, IL). After finishing her residencies, Dr. McCottry returned to Charlotte, where she practiced medicine from 1946 to 1952, and was that city's first African American female physician.

In 1952, she moved to Charleston, to join her husband, Dr. Turner M. McCottry, who was practicing medicine there. (They had married while both were medical students.) She set up practice and became the first African American female practitioner in OB-GYN. She and her husband were the first African American medical team in Charleston. Additionally, this outstanding surgeon desegregated the Charleston hospitals in the late 1960's.

For over 45 years, Catherine McCottry helped to educate the community on health matters. As chairperson of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority's Health Committee, she developed a program for pregnant teenage girls for counseling in prenatal care. She initiated a countywide hypertension program to alert 15-23 year olds on the nature of the disease. She diligently worked with the American Cancer Society in fundraising, sponsoring clinics, and presenting symposia on cancer awareness. For her service, the American Cancer Society presented her with a gold pin. Among her numerous awards are: Medical Alumnae Award from Howard University for 50 years of dedicated service; The Palmetto Medical, Dental, and Pharmaceutical Association of S.C. Service Award; an award for being a lifetime member/contributor to the COBRA Sickle Cell Anemia Program, Professional and Human Service Award

from Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; The Women Who Make a Difference Award, with letters of commendation from President William J. Clinton, Senator Ernest Hollings, Senator Strom Thurmond, and Congressman James Clyburn. Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley issued a proclamation that May 23, 2000 was Dr. Catherine M. McCottry Day. The Charleston Branch of the NAACP summed up Dr. McCottry's service to humanity by giving her the Honorary Circle and Trailblazer Award "in recognition for her vision, courage, and fortitude where her contribution has been and remains a glowing example for all."

Dr. Kitty McCottry died on Tuesday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, three days after her 97<sup>th</sup> birthday. She was the beloved mother of Tammy McCottry and Charles (Barbara) McCottry, loving and devoted sister-in-law, Cynthia McCottry "Cinny" Smith, and the loving grandmother of five grandchildren. Celebration and Thanksgiving services were held on Saturday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at Zion-Olivet Presbyterian Church, on Rivers Avenue, in North Charleston.

### Black Lives Matter leader Buried in Charleston

A Charleston, Black Lives Matter leader ~ who made headlines last year after being seen jumping over yellow police tape in an attempt to snatch a Confederate flag-has died after being shot in New Orleans. Muhiyidin d'Baha,



whose legal name was Muhiyidin Moye, died Tuesday morning, February 6<sup>th</sup> the New Orleans Police Department confirmed. Police said that the 32-year-old activist sustained a gunshot wound to the thigh and was rushed to a hospital where he later died of his wounds. "The incident is the subject of an active and ongoing investigation," officials said.

Camille Weaver, a niece, said that police said that d'Baha was shot in the leg while riding his bike through the city around 1 a.m. Weaver said that he tried to ride five more blocks after the shooting. A vigil celebrating the activist was held at North Charleston City Hall, where family and friends spoke out about the sudden loss.

"We are lost right now," d'Baha's sister Kimberli Duncan said. "But we are going to find our way. "This was his passion; he did it from the heart. He was loving, he was funny, he was smart, but it bothered him, the injustice just bothered him, and it never rested well with him," Duncan added, speaking of her brother's activism. "He took it on as a personal battle."

The family of Walter Scott, the unarmed black man who was shot in the back while running away from now-

former S.C. Police Officer Michael Slager, remembered d’Baha as someone who was continually fighting for justice on their behalf. Slager was ultimately sentenced to 20 years in prison. “I thank God for placing him here to be the soldier that he is, that he was,” Anthony Scott, Walter Scott’s brother, said.

Live5News reports that New Orleans police have yet to identify a suspect. D’Baha caught national attention back in February 2017 after he jumped past police yellow tape and attempted to drag a Confederate flag away from members of the S.C. Secessionist Party in an incident that was caught on a live broadcast and quickly circulated across social media. [A GoFundMe](#) (page) was set up to help d’Baha’s family with funeral expenses; over \$34,500 was raised.

### Free showing of *Black Panther* - The Movie in Chasn

Some 300 students in grades 3-12 were treated to an admission-free showing of *Black Panther* on Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> hosted by The Charleston Chronicle, North Charleston Police Department, Sen. Marlon Kimpson, Rep. Marvin Pendarvis, Joan Robinson Berry, Kerry Forrest, Keith Waring, and several local businesses and civic organizations. The free showing of *Black Panther* was at the Regal Cinemas Charles Towne Square in North Charleston.

*“Black Panther,”* Marvel’s first film directed by an African-American, brought in an estimated \$235 million for its four-day debut in North America Presidents weekend. That’s the fifth biggest opening of all time. The opening for the film starring Chadwick Boseman and Michael B. Jordan did not just shatter expectations, it broke multiple box office records too. It blew away the record for the largest opening for an African-American director.

“Black Panther” also shattered the record for an opening in February. It was the second biggest opening for a Marvel Studios film, behind 2012’s “The Avengers.” The record-breaking weekend was a watershed moment for Hollywood. With “Black Panther” reaching box office heights that have eluded other African-American titles, the film’s totals could impact change in the industry by encouraging diversity in front of and behind the camera.

### Lerone Bennett dies at 89; Historian, Journalist, Writer who Chronicled Black History

Lerone Bennett, Jr., a historian and journalist who chronicled the African American experience in articles and books, including the landmark *“Before the Mayflower”* and a provocative study that charged Abraham Lincoln with being a white supremacist who had no intention of ending slavery, died Feb.



13<sup>th</sup> at his home in Chicago. He was 89 years old. Ebony magazine, where Mr. Bennett was a top editor for more than 50 years, said the cause of death was vascular dementia.

Mr. Bennett, who grew up in segregated conditions in Mississippi, joined Ebony in 1954 and helped make the magazine the country’s largest black-oriented publication, with a circulation at its peak of almost 2 million. In addition to his work at Ebony, Mr. Bennett wrote books that highlighted the struggles and achievements of African Americans throughout history, beginning with his comprehensive 1962 historical study, *“Before the Mayflower: A History of Black America, 1619-1962,”* which has sold more than 1 million copies.

Mr. Bennett’s *“What Manner of Man,”* published in 1964, was one of the first major biographies of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., whom he had known since they were students together at Morehouse in Atlanta. Mr. Bennett also helped direct Ebony’s coverage of the civil rights movement in the 1960s, contributing essays that helped capture the mood of the times. “The basic fact of the Negro situation is shattered community,” he wrote in a 1965 book, *“Confrontation: Black and White.”* “Negro and white Americans do not belong to the same social body. They do not share that body of consensus or common feeling that usually binds people sharing a common land.”

He was critical of the country’s white leaders but was also unsparing toward the black power structure, represented by the NAACP and Urban League, which he said was out of touch with the needs of working-class African Americans. His books about history, such as *“Black Power U.S.A.”* (1967), about the Reconstruction era after the Civil War, and *“The Shaping of Black America”* (1975), which examined the origins of slavery.

“Black people have been in the bone and marrow of this country,” he told The Washington Post in 1993, “part of George Washington, part of Thomas Jefferson, and there is no way to understand what this country is all about unless you understand their role.”

Lerone Bennett Jr. was born Oct. 17, 1928, in Clarksdale, MS. His parents divorced when he was young. His mother worked as a cook. “Since I was a child, I was just fascinated by the printed word,” Mr. Bennett told the Miami Herald in 1985. He was 12 when he began writing for a weekly black newspaper in Jackson, MS, where he attended a segregated high school. He graduated from Morehouse in 1949, working his way through college by playing alto saxophone in jazz bands. He was a journalist in Atlanta before moving to Chicago in 1953 to work for Jet Magazine. A year later, he joined Ebony, where he remained into his 80s. His wife of 52 years, Ebony journalist Gloria Sylvester Bennett, died in 2009.

### Mahogany Books Open Retail Shop in SE Washington

MahoganyBooks is/was an online (only) bookstore that believes in social entrepreneurship. They took a leadership role in the African American community promoting read-

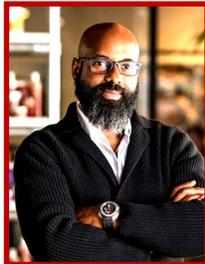
ing, writing, and cultural awareness as tools to improve communities as well as enrich the lives of motivated individuals. Their mission was dedicated to meeting the literary needs of readers in search of books written for, by, or about people of the African Diaspora. In mid-February the family opened their very own retail store, located inside of the Anacostia Arts Center at 1231 Good Hope Rd., SE in Washington DC (202-844-2062).



At its roots, [MahoganyBooks.com](http://MahoganyBooks.com) is (was) an online bookstore that specializes in books written for, by, or about people of the African Diaspora. Started in 2007 by an enterprising husband and wife duo in the Washington DC area, MahoganyBooks is the result of Derrick and Ramonda's love for literature and their desire to see it empower others as it has empowered them. With over 20 years of combined experience in the retail book industry, they have witnessed its high's and low's. That practical knowledge has given them the insight needed to develop a new bookstore model that capitalizes on today's technology. oks.

### Essence Magazine Returns to Black Ownership

Essence magazine returned to Black ownership on Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> when Essence Ventures, LLC announced its acquisition of Essence Communication, Inc. Essence Ventures, is a Black-owned company founded and chaired by Richelieu Dennis, the founder of Shea Moisture.



“We are excited to be able to return this culturally relevant and historically significant platform to ownership by the people and the consumers whom it serves and offer new opportunities for the women leading the business to also be partners in the business,” Dennis said in a statement. Essence Communication encompasses both Essence Magazine, with an annual circulation of 1.6 million, and the Essence Music Festival, an annual summer “party with a purpose” held at the New Orleans Superdome. The festival is attended by nearly half a million people each year.

Essence Communication is being sold by Time, Inc., the publisher of Time magazine, Sports Illustrated and Entertainment Weekly which began its acquisition of Essence Communication with a near-majority stake in 2000. By 2005, Time had acquired Essence wholly, putting a publication focused on serving women of color under White ownership. In this latest transition, the Essence current President Michelle Ebanks will remain at her post and assume a position on Essence Ventures board of directors, the release said. Essence magazine is notable for its all-Black, all-woman executive team. This leadership, including Ebanks, will be given equity stakes in the company going forward, Dennis said. The 47-year-old publication has expanded from print to almost every corner of social media and the internet. The new ownership group will now attempt to further globalize the brand.

### “Poor People’s Campaign” - Revisited

The Smithsonian’s National Museum of African American History and Culture commemorates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary

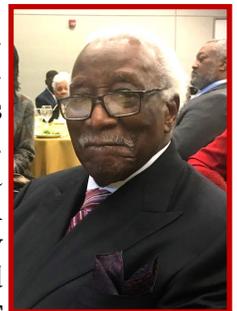


sary of Martin Luther King Jr.’s final human rights crusade in a new exhibition on the *“Poor People’s Campaign,”* a multicultural coalition that began in 1968 to end poverty. The exhibition, *“City of Hope: Resurrection City & the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign,”* features rare archival film and new oral histories with people who helped organize the campaign including Marian Wright Edelman and Andrew Young. It will also feature wooden tent panels, lapel buttons, placards and murals created by and used by some of the nearly 8,000 people who occupied the National Mall in Washington, DC, for nearly six weeks to call the nation’s attention to the crippling effects of poverty for minorities, children and the elderly.

The museum’s exhibition is housed in its gallery at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History as a partner to the exhibition, *“American Democracy: A Great Leap of Faith,”* which explores the history of citizen participation, debate and compromise from the nation’s formation to today. Launching its celebration of King’s birthday, the museum, hosted a media briefing and guided tours of the new exhibition bringing in people who played key roles in building and documenting Resurrection City.

### Judge Fields Receives COBRA's First Drum Major for Justice Award

The Committee on Better Racial Assurance (COBRA) February 18<sup>th</sup> honored Judge Richard E. Fields Sr. with its first ‘Drum Major for Justice Award’. Described as a “lawyer’s lawyer and a judge’s judge,” Fields grew up in Charleston and graduated from Avery Normal School in 1940. He worked shining shoes at Eddie Lewis’ barber shop on Columbus Street while in high school and found that he could gain just as much wisdom there listening to customers.



That didn’t prevent him, however, from going on to West Virginia College (University) where he earned a B.S. Degree in Business Administration. He continued his studies at Howard University Law School and graduated in 1947. In 1949 he opened his law practice in Charleston becoming the first Black attorney to run a law firm in

the city since Reconstruction.

That began a series of firsts for the success-driven barrister. In 1969 he became a Charleston Municipal Court judge and six years later became a Charleston County Family Court judge. In 1980 Fields was elected a S.C. Circuit Court judge and served until his retirement in 1992. In 2004 he became the first recipient of the local chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates' award so named in his honor. Fields said, "Everywhere I went there was somebody at the apex to advise me of where to go next." He credits, among others, the late Joseph A. 'Pop' Moore, Gedney Howe Sr. and Henry Smith as mentors. A member of Centenary UMC, Fields is the widower of the late Myrtle Fields and has one daughter, Diane Fields-Reed and one son, Richard E. Fields Jr. - *The Charleston Chronicle*

**Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .**

◆ In observance of Black History Month, "3 Mo~La~Dic Divas+1" and Company performed in concert Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at Vermont Ave Baptist Church's (Vermont Avenue, NW) 37<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Program emphasizing music relative to African American History and Culture. The four sopranos: Annette McKenzie Anderson, Marilyn Etheridge Gross, Gwendolyn Hines Jennifer, and Latonya Gayle Wrenn delighted the group.

◆ **Charleston Club's 2018 70<sup>th</sup> Grand Reunion July 19-21** is four (4) months away. The club's website has registration information <http://charlestonsclub.org/>. The club **needs everyone** to continue to sign up and register...and **secure their hotel rooms!**

- Souvenir Journal letters requesting Ads for our journal should go out soon with sizes and prices. **We need all club members to solicit a few ads!**
- **Souvenir Journal Pictures** will be taken during the **March 17<sup>th</sup> meeting**. . . be ready!

◆ The next Charleston Club meeting will be **March 17<sup>th</sup>** at Ebenezer AME Church on Allentown Road in Ft. Washington at 2:00 p.m. **Charleston Club members' pictures will be taken at this meeting.** Your hosts for our March meeting will be: **LaShanka Bennett, Veltetta Black, Ned Felder, Ben Randall, and Rose Randall.**

◆ **Mr. Matthew Anthony "Tony" Mouzon, Jr.** entered into eternal rest on Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> in the Sacramento, CA area, he was 75 years old. Tony was the oldest of the three children of the late Matthew A. & Thomasine B. Mouzon, Sr. He graduated from Burke's Class of 1960, and soon thereafter, he joined the Air Force and traveled the world. He had duty stations in Texas, Kansas, Viet Nam, Washington, Korea and California. Tony and his wife, Sheila were married for 52 years before her death last year. The family moved to Antelope, CA in the late '80s and made it their HOME! Tony is survived by his two daughters, Teslene and Marlene and five grand-daughters. Funeral services and burial, with full military honors held in California.



• **Mrs. Alma W. Moseley**, the mother of Charleston Club member, **Norma McKayhan**, died in February in Charleston - Funeral Services Celebrating the life of Mrs. Moseley, were held on Sunday, Feb. 11<sup>th</sup> at Church House of Ministries Christian Church, on Jamison Rd, in Ladson, SC. Interment was at Carolina Memorial Gardens, on Rivers Avenue in N. Charleston.



• **Mrs. Everlena Glover Fields** entered into eternal rest on Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> in Charleston; she was 88 years old. She was married the late Deacon Emeritus Eddie Fields, Sr. for over 60 years and served on the Deaconess Board. Her parents were the late Reverend and Mrs. Byas Glover of Johns Island. Mrs. Fields was the mother of Charleston Club member



**LTC (retired) Terrance I. Fields** (and his wife, Vonda) of Woodbridge, VA. Mrs. Fields was a beautician and worked in nursing care for over 40 years. Everlena Glover Fields had three other children: Carolyn Martin (Avon), Jean Jones, and Eddie Fields, Jr. (deceased). The Home-going Services were Friday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at her "Home-Church of 70 years," Morris Street Baptist Church in Charleston.

• **Mrs. Catherine Elaine Briggs**, the longtime Treasurer of the Charleston Club passed away on Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> in Maryland. Funeral services are scheduled for Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 11:00 a.m. at Gethsemane United Methodist Church, 910 Addison Road South, Capitol Heights, MD 20743. A feature article about Catherine Briggs will appear in the April edition of The Tattler.



**Happy Birthdays!**

**March 2018**

**Sandra McNeill** - Mar. 2<sup>nd</sup> ~ **Clarence Dudley** - Mar. 7<sup>th</sup>  
 ~ **Denise Ravenel** - Mar. 9<sup>th</sup> ~ **Mary Wade** - Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> ~  
**Audrey Dudley** - Mar. 16<sup>th</sup> ~ **Ethel Bothuel** - Mar. 18<sup>th</sup> ~  
**James Gillard** - Mar. 20<sup>th</sup> ~ **Mignon Clyburn** - Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 ~ **Kenneth Brown** - Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>. **- The Fly on The Wall !**