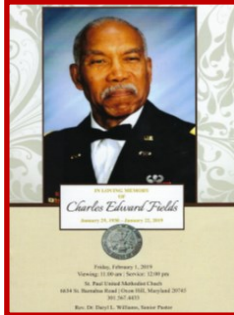




Charlie Fields Dies at 88

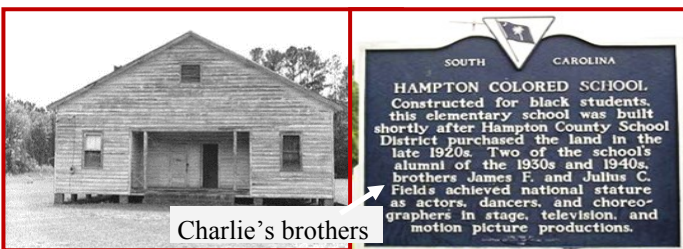
COL (Ret.) Charles Edward "Charlie" Fields

Charleston Club's former president, COL (Ret.) Charles Edward "Charlie" Fields died on January 22nd, exactly one week before his 89th birthday. Charlie Fields was born on January 29, 1930 to the late Thomas E. Fields, Sr., and Emma Jennings Fields. His father, was a plumber and the local undertaker (funeral director) and his mother, a home-maker and convenience store operator. Charlie was born into a large loving family (Thomas E. Fields, II, William H. Fields, Nella Morgan, James Fields, Phillip Fields, Julius Fields and Myrna D. Youmans) in Hampton, SC; a very small town about 60 miles west of Charleston (near Walterboro). It was exactly three months after the start of the Great Depression (10-29-1929-1939). The city's census population of 2010 was 2,808, however; in 1930 when Charlie was born, the population of Hampton was 811 residents. Charlie Fields received his elementary education in this Hampton County (segregated) school on Holly Street. This two-room school was built under the leadership of Ervin Johnson, a local African American carpenter in 1929. It served all black students in grades **one** through **eight**. At first, funds were so scarce it was only open from October to March. Eventually donations from the black



ing/working in New York and wanted Charlie to come to NYC to complete high school. Charlie Fields did exceedingly well at Morris High School (Colin L. Powell-alumni) in the Bronx, NY. He excelled academically and proved that he was athletically (track and field) a top tier contender on the tracks. He entered CCNY (City College of New York), and received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Chemistry, and was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the Chemical Corps in 1952 upon graduation. This gifted athlete (from Hampton, SC) was inducted into the City College of NY Hall of Fame for holding a 55-year high-jump record. Charlie was also a graduate of the Army Command and General Staff College and had a Master of Science Degree in Contract and Acquisition Management from the Florida Institute of Technology (FIT).

Charlie met his "wife-to-be" via a cousin in 1949; she was 15 and Charlie was 19 years old. Five years later, on November 26, 1954 Charlie married "*the love of his life*," Irene Wright (Fields) in New York City. The Fields family traveled state-side and overseas, assignments in Germany, Korea and Vietnam as their family grew; they had five children: Charles E. Fields II, Thomas E. Fields III, Karen E. Fields, Alan E. Fields and Kirk E. Fields (also ten (10) grandchildren and two (2) great-grandchildren). Charles held a variety of increasingly advanced positions in nuclear, biological, and chemical defense, technical intelligence, material acquisition management, advanced weapons, and education and training during his career. He was highly recognized as a student of the War College. Moreover, he served in high command posts (e.g. Officer and Biochemist at the Army Chemical Center; Commander of the 17th Chemical Detachment; instructor at the Command and General Staff College; Project Management Officer at Headquarters, Army Material Command; and Dean of Systems Acquisitions Management Education at the Defense Systems Management College {DSMC}). In 1984, Colonel Fields retired from the U.S. Army as Chief of the U.S. Army Armament Research and Development Command Chemical Program and Nuclear/Chemical Surety Office with more than 30 years of dedicated service to his country. Irene pursued an active life as the mother (of five), an officer's wife, home-maker and her own personal interest in business administration (e.g. Business School in Detroit, MI and University of Maryland). In later years, Irene did tax



Charlie's brothers

community allowed it to operate for a full school year. Later, high school courses were offered. This remained the only black school in town until the Hampton Colored High School was built in 1947. Then the old schoolhouse was converted into the lunchroom for the high school. Marker erected by Hampton County Historical Society, 1989.

Charlie was a very good student and a very good athletic; but he didn't know how good he truly was. After 8th grade (c. 1944), he and his family knew that he had to go elsewhere for a high school education. His older brother, William was already liv-

preparations with H&R Block.

In retirement, Charlie did not slow-down nor lose his zest for life and learning. He became more active in his church; St. Paul United Methodist Church...volunteering for Sunday School and adult education studies. He and Irene refurbished an old house of theirs at 227 Fishburne St. in the city. In Ft. Washington, Charlie became an avid expert in gardening...he truly had or developed a "green thumb." Charlie and Irene were long time active members of the Charleston Club, they hosted club meetings and the club's summer picnics at their home for years in Ft. Washington. Charlie served as president of the Charleston Club from 1996 to 2001. *Charlie Fields was an inspiration to his family, his friends and everyone he met!*

Col. Fields is survived by two siblings, Julius Fields and Myrna D. Youmans; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Funeral Services for **Charles Edward Fields, Sr.** were held Friday, February 1, 2019 at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Oxon Hill, MD with Rev. Dr. Johnsie Cogman officiating, she reminded us...*"that as we travel in life's path, we need to have our "life-passport" correctly stamped: Charlie Fields' passport was stamped every step of his LIFE!"* Colonel Fields will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery on Monday, June 3, 2019 at 1:00 p.m. *"...we were fortunate to have shared a small part of this trailblazer's life with him!"* *"His Lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."*

Federal Hate Crime Passes Senate

More than a century after an anti-lynching bill was first proposed by a black congressman, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill in December that would make lynching a federal hate crime. Introduced this past summer by U.S. Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., and two Democrats, Sens. Cory Booker of New Jersey and Kamala Harris of California, the bill defines lynching as the "willful act of murder by a collection of people assembled with the intention of committing an act of violence upon any person." The Justice for Victims of Lynching Act of 2018 also makes it so that anyone found guilty of lynching could face life in prison.

More than 4,000 such acts were reported in the United States during this past century and during the Reconstruction period in the 19th century. At least 185 lynchings were recorded in S.C. between 1877 and 1950, according to a 2017 report by the Equal Justice Initiative. While some states address lynching as a crime, the Senate bill would specify lynching as a federal crime in itself that would warrant enhanced sentencing under existing hate crime codes. Rep. James Clyburn of S.C., currently the third-ranking House Democrat, pledged to do what he could to push the bill toward passage.

Richmond to rename Boulevard after Arthur Ashe

After months of debate, the **Boulevard** (in Richmond, VA) will now be named after Arthur Ashe Jr. (July 10, 1943 – February 6, 1993), the groundbreaking tennis leg-

end and Richmond native. The Richmond City Council voted 8-1 in favor of changing the name on Monday. Cheers rang out in the city council chamber when the measure was approved. The man behind the street renaming says the council's decision was an honor. "Anytime we can acknowledge our ancestors, people who have done things greater than us and their works are still helping us and pertinent to today's time, "Ashe's nephew, David Harris Jr., said. "It's a great opportunity." Ashe was the only black man to win the singles titles at Wimbledon, U.S. Open and the Australian Open. Harris made the request in honor of Ashe more than a year ago. "This is an opportunity to truly be able to dig and say hey this is truly something we did during our time versus a later time," Harris told TV 8News.



Ashe's once-segregated hometown boasts an athletic center named after him, and a bronze sculpture of Ashe sits among Richmond's many Confederate statues. Ashe faced segregation from tennis courts near Boulevard. The proposal to rename a historic street for Ashe has been defeated twice since his death in 1993.

Bennett Files Lawsuit to Keep its Accreditation

Bennett College (Greensboro, NC) has filed a federal lawsuit to keep its accreditation, the school's president, Phyllis Dawkins said. A federal judge in Atlanta granted a temporary restraining order, which means the college's accreditation will remain intact while the court case proceeds. The legal proceeding is expected to last months or even years, she said. The action followed the news earlier that Bennett had lost an appeal to its accrediting agency. The college has raised \$9.5 million (vice \$5 M goal) in a dramatic, two-month drive to prove to the agency that it could survive financially. The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges had announced that an appeals committee had upheld a December decision by the accreditor's board to revoke Bennett's accreditation.



Gloria Gantt Wilford (May 23, 1945~January 27, 2019), the third of five children born to parents, Christopher C. and Wilhelmenia G. Gantt; she was 73 years old. Gloria attended A.B. Rhett and graduated from Burke H.S. in 1961 with honors. Gloria grew up as a very active member of Morris St. Baptist Church. Mrs. Wilford graduated from Hampton University where she earned her bachelors in Biology in 1965, with academic honors. Gloria began her professional career with Naval Research Lab in Washington, DC. She enjoyed a career of over forty years of service in medical research, primarily at the MUSC, where she worked as a medical researcher in the Department of Neurology.



In 1991, she married former S.C. State's basketball star, John M. Wilford; he had a 38-year career in coaching, teaching and guidance counseling in the Charleston before his death in May 2009. Gloria continued her life-long relationship with Morris Street Baptist, she became Minister of Music, attended weekly Bible study, leadership council meetings and other activities of her church. She was deeply involved in community activities; the annual Ecumenical program of the YWCA, the Choraliers Music Club, the Burke High School Foundation, a golden member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. (AKA), and a founding member of the Twenty Pearls Foundation.

Gloria loved family, church and community, she made every niece and nephew feel "special" through her constant love and support to them. "Aunt Gloria" was special to them and very much loved and admired! Gloria is survived by her siblings, Harvey B. Gantt (Lucinda) and Aundria Gantt Douglas; nieces, nephews, and a host of cousins, family and friends. She was predeceased by her husband, John M. Wilford; parents, Mr. & Mrs. Christopher C. Gantt, Jr. and two sisters, Chrysantra and Deanna. Home-Going Services were held Thursday, January 31st at her "Beloved Home-Church"- Morris Street Baptist Church, on Morris Street. Interment was at Live Oak Memorial Gardens on Ashley River Road in Charleston.

Fred Stroble (Feb. 1, 1938~Feb. 2, 2019), Veteran Charleston lawman, retired U.S. Marshal, former Charleston police and Charleston County detective died February 2nd; he was 81 years old. Mr. Stroble grew up on North Nassau Street on Charleston's Eastside, he was the youngest of seven children born to the late Reverend Marion and Ruth Stroble. He attended Henry P. Archer and graduated from Burke H.S. He attended LaSalle University (Philly, PA) and later served four years active duty in the Navy and six years in the Naval Reserve.



Stroble joined the City of Charleston Police Department in 1962 as a patrolman. In 1964 he became the first Black motorcycle officer. Later, he worked as a detective with the vice squad. In 1969, he joined the Charleston County Sheriff's Office as the first Black deputy sheriff. In 1972, he joined the U.S. Marshal Service to become the second Black Charlestonian to enter the service. In a 2005 interview, Stroble put into context his service with the U.S. Marshall Service. He noted that in 1789, President George Washington appointed the first 13 U.S. Marshals. In 1960, President John F. Kennedy called on U. S. Marshals to assist in the integration of southern public schools. Kennedy was advised by the governors of several of those states that while he sought U.S. Marshal Service assistance in integrating public schools, the service itself was not integrated. Kennedy called upon his brother Robert Kennedy, who was then U.S. Attorney General, to investigate the status of integration in the marshal service. R.F.K. learned there

were no Black U.S. Marshals in the south. Kennedy ordered the U.S. Justice Department to recruit Black law enforcement officers willing to join the marshal service.

Stroble served with the U.S. Marshal Service for 23 years. He served on special assignments in every state in the United States, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico. The Watergate Trial in Washington, D.C. was among his assignments. He was one of four hundred U. S. Marshals sent to Boston, Mass. during school desegregation. By the time of his retirement in 2008, Stroble had served in law enforcement for 46 years.

Stroble received numerous awards, including the Carter G. Wilson Award for Outstanding Community Person from the Association for Study of African American Life and History, the Phillip Randolph Award for Outstanding Lawmen, and several U.S. Attorney General Awards for Special Achievement. Stroble and his wife Bessie Rollerson Stroble had three daughters – Cheryl Stroble, Winifred Stroble Rouse and Yolonda Stroble Mason. He is survived by his daughters, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Celebration of Life Services were held at Morris Brown A.M.E. Church on Morris St. in Charleston.

Frank Carver Wainwright (Dec. 3, 1944~Feb. 6, 2019) entered into eternal rest on February 6th in Charleston; he was 74 years old. Frank was the youngest of the three brothers of Henry, Sr. and Virdelle Wainwright. He was educated in the public school system on the peninsula and graduated from Burke H.S., Class of 1962. For many years "Frankie" worked in the family business, Wainwright Printers on St. Phillip Street. The company later moved to a King Street location in the 1990s. Wainwright Printers was established in the mid-1890s, it was one of Charleston's oldest black owned companies. Frank was the last of the Wainwright brothers (Henry, Jr., Stanley & Frank) to operate the historic family-owned printing company. Most recently, Frank became a mental health counselor with the Ralph H. Johnson VA Medical Center (V.A. Hospital) in Charleston. He was married to Gretta Middleton Wainwright, and the family lived in the Hampton Park area of the city. Funeral Arrangements/Services were provided by Fielding Home for Funerals. A Memorial Service for Frank C. Wainwright is being planned for a later date.

Louis Solomon Richardson (Dec. 11, 1940 ~ Feb. 8, 2019) entered into eternal rest in Las Vegas, NV; he was 78 years old. Born and raised in Charleston to Solomon and Frances Richardson of Smith Street, he graduated from I.C.H.S. in the Class of 1958. Louis attended Hampton Institute/University where he studied Engineering and became a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He served in the U.S. Army with deployments to South Vietnam, and was stationed in Sierra Leone with the Army Corps of Engineers. His focus in engineering lead him to open his own company, Richardson Construction in Las Vegas



in 1978. His company would go on to build many schools, parks, fire stations, churches, libraries and a number of other commercial and city projects. His dedication to the community was rewarded by businesses and government alike. He has been recognized as a major contributor to the development of the greater Las Vegas community and surrounding area. He impacted many lives through his mentorship, his generosity, sense of humor and his commitment to his family and friends.

Louis is survived by his wife Vicki, two sons and two daughters, and 7 grandchildren. Memorial Services/celebration of a man who will be profoundly missed were held on February 16th at the Palm Northwest Mortuary in Las Vegas. Inurnment at Southern Nevada Veterans Memorial Cemetery, in Boulder City, NV.

Harriett Glover Simpson (June 22, 1921-Feb. 6, 2019) a retired Charleston educator died February 6th in Charleston; she was 97 years old. Mrs. Simpson taught at Burke and was a guidance counselor at C.A. Brown. Her efforts consistently went beyond her job description. In her 36 years as an educator, she only took 10 days sick leave. A Charleston native, Simpson was the widow of the late Alexander T. Simpson, Sr. The couple had a son, Dr. Alexander T. Simpson, Jr., and a daughter, the late Alexis Ivy Simpson Williams. Mrs. Simpson attended Charleston public schools and a graduate of Burke, she received her B.S. Degree in Mathematics and Psychology from Allen University in 1945 and a Master's Degree from S.C. State College (now SC State University). She continued her education at North Carolina College at Durham (now NC Central University), the University of South Carolina and Trident Technical College.



At an early age, Mrs. Simpson joined Mt. Zion A.M.E. Church. A faithful parishioner, she was a member the Willing Workers Club, serving as its President in 1962. She participated in Sunday school, Vacation Bible School and was "mother" of the Superintendent's Bible Bowl.

A member of Class 12, she served as the chairperson of the Centennial Committee in 1982. In the following year, the Harriett G. Simpson Scholarship Fund was established. This evolved into the current Harriet G. Simpson Education Commission. In 1987 and 1991, she was named Mt. Zion's Woman of the Year. The 2019 Mt. Zion A.M.E. Friends and Family Black and White Ball, to be held in April, is planned in honor of Mrs. Simpson's lifelong commitment to servant-leadership and education.

She was a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. since May 967. In 1969, she was named the first Delta of the Year by the Charleston's Alumnae Chapter, she was awarded the Omega Service Award by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, and the Public Service Award by Alpha Chi Omega Society. In 1975, the Arabian Court No. 128 named Mrs. Simpson "Outstanding Female Community Worker."

A former "Block Leader" active in the Neighborhood Watch Program in the Westside community, she was inducted to the "Channel 5 Hall of Fame." During his term as Mayor of Charleston, J. Palmer Gaillard presented Mrs. Simpson with a "Key to the City." In 1994, she was honored for her contributions to education by the MOJA Arts Festival. The S.C. Senate recognized her in 1996 for her efforts in "Educational, Religious and Community Services." The Women's Resource Project, Inc. honored her as "A Legend in Education" in 2015. The National Pan Hellenic Council of Charleston awarded her the Golden Greek Award in 2017. In 2018, she was recognized for her faithfulness to God, her family, church and community by the Women's Missionary Society at Mt. Zion A.M.E.

Mrs. Simpson is survived by her son, Dr. Alexander "A.T." Simpson, Jr.; special niece and caretaker, Flora G. Meyers-Smith; and a host of grandchildren; great-grandchildren; cousins, god-children, sorors, and a host of friends and extended family. Home-going Services were Saturday, Feb. 14 at Mt. Zion AME Church, 5 Glebe St. in Charleston. *"May the Work I've Done Speak for Me!"*

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners ...

- ♦ The next Charleston Club meeting will be **Saturday, March 9th @ 2:00 p.m.** at the **VFW Post 7327, 8350-F Terminal Road** in Lorton, VA 22079 telephone # 703-541-3139. Your hosts are: **John Brooks, Karen Champaign, Clarence Holman, Ron Nelson, and Mary Wade.**
- ♦ Members of The Charleston Club met at the De'Soul Café in Brandywine to celebrate **BLACK HISTORY MONTH** on **Feb. 9th**. Club members, **Audrey and Clarence Dudley** gave excellent presentations on **Dr. Gladys Brown West**, the Black woman from Virginia was instrumental in creating the device known as **GPS**. And, **Archie A. Alexander** an Iowa-born engineer, became one of the nation's most successful businessmen in his engineering field. Secondly, **Sandra Lesibu**, who currently lives in the NYC became a member. Lastly, **Margie Taylor** a local comedian was our host; was a **BIG Hit!**
- ♦ Charleston Club member, **Gilbert "Gil" Knowles**, was the guest speaker at the big **5th Annual Black History Month Gala** on Feb. 16th at The Harbour View in Woodbridge. His topic was... **"Reaching Back for Bright Futures"** it was well received by the gala's audience.



Happy Birthdays!

March 2019 Birthdays:

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