

# Charleston Club Tattler

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## Sen. Hollings Dead at 97 Years Old

### Charleston's Sen. Ernest Frederick "Fritz" Hollings Dies

With the passing of Sen. Ernest Frederick "Fritz" Hollings our nation, our state and The Citadel family lost a patriot who devoted his life to serving others. Fritz Hollings was born in Charleston, on Jan. 1, 1922. He was raised at 338 President St. in the Hampton Park Terrace neighborhood



from the age of 10 until he enrolled in college. His father was a paper products dealer but the family business went broke during the Depression. Hollings graduated from The Citadel in 1942 and immediately entered the Army; and was decorated for his service during World War II. Back home, he earned a law degree from the University of South Carolina in 1947.

Hollings campaigned against desegregation when running for governor in 1958. He built a national reputation as a moderate when, in his farewell address as governor, he pleaded with the legislature to peacefully accept integration of public schools and the admission of the first black student, Harvey B. Gantt to Clemson University. "This General Assembly must make clear South Carolina's choice, a government of laws rather than a government of men," he told lawmakers. Shortly afterward, Clemson was peacefully integrated.

He lived an incredible life, as a cadet, soldier, governor, senator and citizen, Fritz Hollings cared deeply about those who were less fortunate. He focused on the importance of keeping our nation strong and secure. His funeral was April 16<sup>th</sup> on the Citadel campus. Former Vice President Joe Biden delivered the eulogy. Biden and Hollings cemented a close relationship in Washington, as they served as desk-mates in the Senate, so Biden's appearance was widely anticipated. Other speakers included Gov. Henry McMaster and U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., the third-ranking Democrat in the House of Representatives.

Biden and Hollings' friendship has been well-documented, including during their last public appearance together in 2017, when Biden, appeared for Hollings' statue unveiling at the federal courthouse in Charleston. "Fritz is the reason I was the vice president of the United States and a United States senator," Biden said at the time. "You instilled an enormous amount of confidence in me, Fritz." He said Hollings was "one of the greatest senators

this state has ever had." He represented South Carolina in Washington for six terms (38 years) from 1966-2004.

### History of "Brown v. Board of Education"

May 17, 2019 will mark 65 years since the landmark *Brown v. Board* decision. On May 17, 1954, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Earl Warren delivered the unanimous ruling (9-0) in the landmark civil rights case *Brown v. Board of Education* of Topeka, Kansas. State-sanctioned segregation of public schools was a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> amendment and was therefore unconstitutional.

The case that came to be known as *Brown v. Board of Education* was actually the name given to five separate cases that were heard by the U.S. Supreme Court concerning the issue of segregation in public schools. These cases were *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, *Briggs v. Elliott*, *Davis v. Board of Education of Prince Edward County (VA)*, *Bolling v. Sharpe*, and *Gebhart v. Ethel*. While the facts of each case are different, the main issue in each was the constitutionality of state-sponsored segregation in public schools. Again, Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund handled these cases.



When the cases came before the Supreme Court in 1952, the Court consolidated all five cases under the name of *Brown v. Board of Education*. Marshall personally argued the case before the Court. Although he raised a variety of legal issues on appeal, the most common one was that separate school systems for blacks and whites were inherently unequal, and thus violate the "equal protection clause" of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. He also argued that segregated school systems had a tendency to make black children feel inferior to white children, and thus such a system should not be legally permissible.

Meeting to decide the case, the Justices of the Supreme Court realized that they were deeply divided over the issues raised. While most wanted to reverse Plessy and declare segregation in public schools to be unconstitutional, they had various reasons for doing so. Unable to come to a solution by June 1953 (the end of the Court's 1952-1953 term), the Court decided to rehear the case in December 1953. During the intervening months, however, Chief Justice Fred Vinson died and was replaced by Gov. Earl Warren of California. After the case was reheard in 1953, Chief Justice Warren was able to do something that his predecessor had not—i.e. bring all of the Justices to agree to support a unanimous decision declaring segregation in

public schools unconstitutional. On May 17, 1954, he delivered the opinion of the Court, stating that "We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of 'separate but equal' has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. . ."

### Free Student Fare Pilot Program Begins in Charleston

The Charleston Area Regional Transportation Authority (CARTA) has launched a new Free Student Fare pilot program that allows students in the system's service area ages 6 and older to ride CARTA for free. The new program is available to both public and private school students and applies to all CARTA services. "The Free Student Fare pilot program is a win-win and accomplishes several important things," said CARTA Board of Directors Chairman Mike Seekings. "First, it familiarizes a new generation with transit in the Lowcountry. Second, it reduces barriers to mobility for students who may otherwise have no transportation. After-school jobs, the public library and opportunities for recreation are all now within reach at no cost. Finally, riding the bus is a safer option than putting teens behind the wheel on our congested highways." The program is currently slated to run through August on a pilot basis and will be monitored for possible extension. Students will not be required to show ID in order to board at this time. CARTA buses can be tracked in real time by downloading the [Transit App](#). Trips can be planned and details on CARTA routes and services can be found at [RideCARTA.com](#). Questions regarding the program should be directed to CARTA marketing and communications manager Michelle Emerson, who can be reached at [memerson@bcdcog.com](mailto:memerson@bcdcog.com) or (843) 529-0333.



### S.C. State's Tyrell Richard Records the World's Top Time

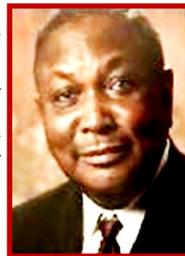


S.C. State University senior sprinter Tyrell Richard recorded the world's top time thus far this year in the 400 meters in helping the South Carolina State track teams to a solid win at the North Florida Track and Field Invitational Friday at Hodges Stadium (University of North Florida (UNF)). Richard captured the 400 meters in a time of 44.81, the top time in the nation and world this year and his second-best clocking all-time. The Georgetown native earlier won the 400 meters at the NCAA Track and Field Indoor Championship in a time of 44.82, the top time in the world in that event this season.

### Rev. Dr. Willie Givens, Jr. Passes at 85

Charleston Sen. Marlon Kimpson perhaps said it best – a giant tree has fallen. Rev. Dr. Willie Edwin Givens Jr. pastor emeritus of First Missionary Baptist Church in Summerville died March 22<sup>nd</sup>. He was 85 years old. Rev. Givens was the oldest son of the late Willie E. Givens Sr. and the late Hattie Coleman Givens. He graduated from Immaculate Conception High School in 1952 and earned an Associate of Arts degree in General Education from Palmer

College and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Religion from Charleston Southern University. He earned a Master of Theology Degree from Southern Bible Seminary in Birmingham, AL and a Doctor of Divinity degree from Morris College in Sumter. Givens retired as a manager in the Industrial Relations Office after 30 years as an employee at the Charleston Naval Shipyard. Givens demonstrated the same determined leadership in both his spiritual and secular lives.



Rev. Givens was actively engaged in church, civic and political affairs. He had a strong propensity for justice and used his gifted leadership abilities to serve his community, city, state and nation. He was the First Vice President of the Charleston Branch NAACP and was a prominent leader in the turbulent civil rights movement. He was among the first African Americans to be named to the South Carolina Department of Probation, Parole, and Pardon Board where he staunchly advocated for Blacks in an unjust criminal justice system. He was a member of the Community Reinvestment Board of BB&T Bank, the Charleston County Board of Tax Assessment and Control, and was a member of the Board of Directors of Santee Cooper.

He also served on boards for Jenkins Orphanage, the Robert Gould Shaw Boys Club, the Advisory Board of the First Steps State Educational Program and the YMCA of Charleston. He was a former member of the Board of Trustees for Benedict College in Columbia and a former chairman of the Board of Trustees for Morris College in Sumter. In addition, he was a member of Gothic Lodge #212 Free and Accepted Masonry and Beta Kappa Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Rev. Givens' spiritual journey began at Salem Baptist Church, serving as a Sunday School teacher, a Sunday school superintendent, a deacon and later became licensed and ordained as a minister. Givens became pastor of First Baptist Church in 1973 where he served 43 years until his retirement in 2016. During the ensuing years he led as moderator of the Charleston County Baptist Association, past president of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Brotherhood Convention, past president of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of S.C. and past first vice president of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc.

His various leadership positions, Givens influenced the lives of many who knew him and even more who didn't know him. "It was amazing how he would do all those things. He had the passion to do them. Whatever he did, he went to the top," Holt said. "Dr. Givens was unbelievable, a unique man with a no-nonsense approach who insisted that if you were going to do something, you had to do it right. I never understood his energy level. He was relentless. He didn't give out, he wore out!"

### Ancestral Reburial Celebration

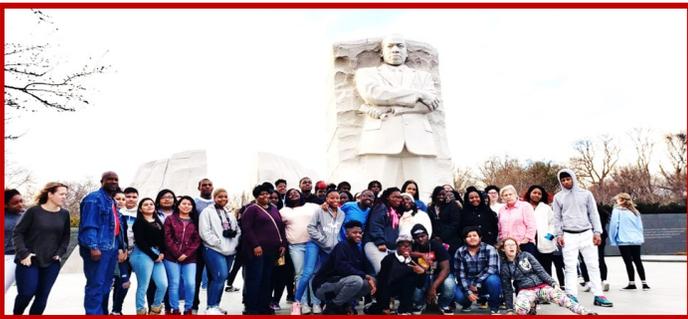
The Gullah Society and the City of Charleston are planning for the reburial of 36 people of African descent that were uncovered near Anson Street in 2013. These individ-

uals were buried between 1760 and 1800. The community is encouraged to attend a **'Rise Up'** celebration and honor these individuals; family and friends are invited to join in the **Memorialization!**

The Ancestors' Reburial procession and ceremony will take place on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019**, at the College of Charleston, then the procession will walk towards the re-interment site near the Gaillard. On **Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>**, there will be an **Eccumenical Service at 4pm**, at St. John's Reformed Episcopal Church on Anson St.



**North Charleston H.S. (NCHS) Seniors Visit DC**



North Charleston High School (NCHS) seniors were treated to the opportunity of a lifetime in March, when they were taken on a school field trip to Washington, DC to visit the U.S. Capitol, African American Museum, Arlington Cemetery, along with other memorable sites. The trip was a culmination of fundraising efforts, staff donations, and a contribution from the North Charleston High School Booster Club. What would have been an almost \$600 trip was whittled down to just \$125 per student. The cost included transportation provided by Kelly Tours, a three-night stay in Washington, all meals (including snacks), and tickets to all scheduled attractions. Chick-fil-A contributed by meeting the students at the first rest stop on the interstate to treat the students to a catered lunch on their way out of town.

Carolyn Southall is a business education teacher and the senior class sponsor. Part of her duties, she explained, is to make sure the graduating class has a unique experience that students would not ordinarily get in the classroom. "The population at North Charleston High is such that if it were not for the school and the contributions from the community, the kids would not have many opportunities," said Southall. "All they know is the world in which they live which is often challenging and sometimes problematic. Not all fit that mold; however, a lot do." For many of the students, it was their first time leaving the state. According to Southall, their faces lit up when she told them they were officially out of South Carolina when they crossed the border into North Carolina. "This was not just a field trip," said Southall. "It was an experience of a lifetime. I saw students come alive in a way I could have never imagined. All these kids know is their reality. What

they learn in the classroom is great. However, the students need to experience new and exciting things outside of the school to help them better understand the world in which they live. We have to go above and beyond their scope of perception and show them what is out there."

**Revitalizing the New Reynolds Avenue - in N. Charleston**

Through several business initiatives, Metanoia Community Development Corporation in North Charleston's Chicora/Cherokee neighborhood is continuing its efforts to insure



that residents of the community will maintain their presence in the rapidly transforming community previously relegated to urban blight for more than two decades. Chicora/Cherokee, the community adjacent to the now defunct Charleston Naval Shipyard, was among the most adversely affected neighborhoods directly impacted when the naval shipyard closed in 1996. The shipyard's demise signaled further deterioration of businesses and the quality of life for residents in North Charleston's southernmost quadrant. But since being designated a 501c3 non-profit in 2004, Metanoia has worked to invest in neighborhood assets, build leaders, establish quality housing and generate economic development. Last week Metanoia CEO Rev. Bill Stanfield offered an update on the non-profit's business activities. Metanoia owns three buildings on Reynolds Avenue, 2019-2021 Reynolds Ave. Renovations to the building at 2019 Reynolds Avenue, formerly Swinton's Dry Cleaners, is slated to soon begin. Renovations to 2021-A Reynolds Avenue was the first completed and now is home to Dell'z on the Macon, a popular health food cafe/restaurant that serves traditional American cuisine, smoothies and juice bar. The building also is home to Metanoia's Youth Entrepreneurship Program.

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

- ◆ The **next Charleston Club meeting** will be held on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019** at 2:00 p.m. at the **VFW Post 7327**, located at **8350-F Terminal Road** in **Lorton, VA**. Your hosts for the next meeting: **Arnette Cobb-White, William Perry, Allan Raphael, Carl White and Elizabeth White**.
- ◆ **Colonel (Ret.) Charles "Charlie" Fields** (who died back on January 22<sup>nd</sup>) will be interred at **Arlington National Cemetery** on **Monday, June 3, 2019** at 1:00 p.m.; a reminder notice of this event will follow via e-mail in late May 2019.
- ◆ Ross University School of Medicine and Tuskegee University Partner to Address Physician Diversity in the U.S. ... The United States is facing a critical absence of diversity in medicine, and the disproportionately low numbers of African-American doctors is causing negative health outcomes in communities across the country. Reflecting its commitment to improve diversity among the nation's doctors, Ross University School of Medicine

(RUSM) has entered into an agreement with Tuskegee University in Alabama to increase the number of African-American students who enter medical school at RUSM, and ultimately become physicians. This educational pathway allows qualified Tuskegee students who earn full acceptance into the medical school to receive a scholarship covering full tuition for the first semester. These students will spend the first two years of medical school at the RUSM campus in Barbados.



**Jacqueline Louise McNeill**, the sister of Charleston Club members Clarence H. McNeill and Sandra D. McNeill, and 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of Ralph O. McNeill died Tuesday, April 9, 2019 in New York City; she was 74 years old. Jacqueline was affectionately known as “**Jackie**” to family and friends for most of her life, was born on June 12<sup>th</sup>, 1944 at home in Charleston.



She attended Henry P. Archer and East Bay Elementary Schools. In 1957, she entered the halls of beloved Burke High School and graduated in 1962 with honors. Jackie loved Burke and Burke loved Jackie; she had high academic standards and was often called upon to be the “substitute-teacher” for her Latin classes at Burke.

Shortly after graduation from Burke she moved to New York City to work. While preparing to enter the business world, she worked as a clerk/carrier for the U.S. Postal Service and as a census clerk for Columbia University at Harlem Hospital. While independently raising her two children (Gary and Stacey McNeill) in the late 1960s, she accepted an entry level clerical position at Group Health Incorporated’s (GHI) Medicare Division and by 1984 she had become Director of its Medicare Program Evaluation Department. This department was responsible for all mainframe applications of federal laws and safeguards against fraud, abuse and waste. Under her leadership, the department used “forensic auditing” to recoup millions of dollars overpaid by Medicare through fraudulent claims. In June 1999, she was honored by the Department of Health & Human Services of the Health Care Financing Administration in recognition of her innovative skills in protecting the Medicare Program.

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ancing Administration in recognition of her innovative skills in protecting the Medicare Program.

Jackie enjoyed a very productive 30 years at GHI and then it was retirement; where she became an independent forensic auditor/consultant. Retirement enabled her to pursue her other three passions: first, spending quality time with her granddaughters; second, becoming more involved with her McNeill family as the designated family historian; and third, being able to read her favorite genres; suspense, historical and romance novels. Her volunteer contributions to humanity was in keeping with her belief that “*the pen is mightier than the sword.*” She helped those who wanted to enter or re-enter the workforce by assisting them in writing believable resumes. She provided free help in the re-application process of those denied Social Security Disability Insurance. She gladly wrote for those who had something valuable to say, but found it difficult to put it in writing. In 1994, she joined New York’s historic Abyssinian Baptist Church, founded in 1808 by a group of African Americans who refused to accept segregated seating in the First Baptist Church of New York City formed The Abyssinian Baptist Church. The church name was inspired by the ancient name of Ethiopia, Abyssinia.

Around 2007, she became chronically ill and began weekly dialysis treatments. For the past twelve years Jackie has heroically battled “poor health,” but has maintained her “high spirit” in her everyday life. She was predeceased by a son, Gary; two sisters, one uncle and one niece. She leaves to celebrate her life: her daughter, Stacey McNeill-Williams (Dennis), her mother; Lillian McNeill, three granddaughters, and six siblings. Celebration of Life Services were held Wednesday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at Jackie’s beloved Abyssinian Baptist Church in NYC. Interment followed at Forest Green Park Cemetery in Morganville, NJ.

## Happy Birthdays!

### May 2019 Birthdays:

**Michael McKinney** - May 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ **Angela Martin** - May 3<sup>rd</sup>, ~ **John Jackson** - May 5<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Bernice Brooks** - May 7<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Lanard Geddings** - May 18<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Terrance Edwards** - May 26<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Leroy J. Bennett** - May 27<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Gilbert Knowles** - May 30<sup>th</sup>.

### June 2019 Birthdays:

**Leroy Bobby Palmer** - Jun 2<sup>nd</sup>, ~ **Marva White** - Jun 6<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Reginald Russell** - Jun 10<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Hamilton Parker** - Jun 21<sup>st</sup>, ~ **Bennie Louder** - Jun 27<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Herman Perry** - Jun 29<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Leila Potts-Campbell** - Jun 29<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Allen Coley** - Jun 30<sup>th</sup>.

### July 2019 Birthdays:

**Estelle Perry** - Jul 8<sup>th</sup>, ~ **John McNeil** - Jul 20<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Paula Edwards** - Jul 30<sup>th</sup>.

### August 2019 Birthdays:

**Carl Greene** - Aug 10<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Thomasina Smith-Cook** - Aug 14<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Norma McKayhan** - Aug 17<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Mildred McDow** - Aug 23<sup>rd</sup>, ~ **Julia Harris** - Aug 24<sup>th</sup>, ~ **Cynthia Coulter** - Aug 28<sup>th</sup>, ~ **William Heyward** - Aug 29<sup>th</sup>.

*- The Fly on The Wall !*