

Charleston Club Tattler

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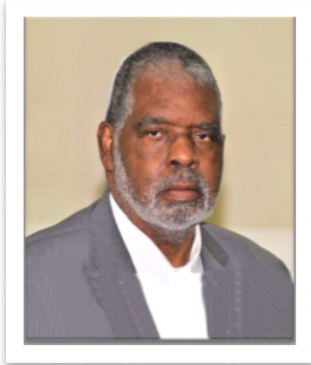
May 1, 2020



Coronavirus ~ Stay Safe!

Marion N. Rhodes Dies April 4th

Charleston Club member, Marion Nathaniel Rhodes died Saturday, April 4, 2020 in Clinton; he recently celebrated his 75th birthday this past January 10th. Marion was the son of the late Jackson Timothy and Elnora Jakes Rhodes. The family lived on Smith Street before moving to 48 Carolina Street.



Marion was educated in the Charleston public school system, at Burke High School, Marion found his groove, he made the men's varsity basketball team. Like "all kids" growing up in Charleston, someone is going to give you a "nickname," Marion's nickname became "Cicero," "Black Cicero," "Black Cic" finally "Black Cis!" Marion graduated from Burke High School in the Class of 1963.

In the fall on 1963, Marion N. Rhodes (Black Cis) entered N.C. A&T College (University) and majored in Physical Education. Three months later, President John F. Kennedy would be assassinated on Nov. 22, 1963. The '60s were one of the most tumultuous and divisive decades in history, it was marked by the civil rights movement, the Vietnam War and antiwar protests, political assassinations and the emerging "generation gap." A young Marion Rhodes adapted to his new environment and its changes. He and his "home-boy" room-mate, Robert Lucas made the necessary adjustments and started enjoying their college careers as proud A&T Aggies! He was instrumental in the establishment of an on-campus Charleston Club at A&T, he helped organized the club's first bus trip home for the Christmas holidays in 1963. Marion was enamored with both the Army and the Air Force's ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) Drill Team, they performed (in uniform) at special events, sporting events, and Cherry Blossom parades in Washington, DC; they were considered "the best of the best!" Marion's goal was, to be on the drill team... he did it! He made the drill team and a trip to Washington's the Cherry Blossom Parade! College-life at A&T in the mid-60s was a utopia, it was like being at Burke High School on steroids!

In 1967, he was drafted into the U.S. Army; the Vietnam War was heating up and college deferments were not always honored. Shortly thereafter Marion was off to a year-long tour in the Vietnam Conflict in Southeast Asia; 58,220 U.S. soldiers died in Vietnam. In late 1968, Marion returned state-side and relocated to the DC area, he started working at U.S. Postal Service. He resumed "old-

friendships" with his Russell family; Reggie and Emmett. Reggie's wife, Elaine was from Bowman, SC and she had a cousin Jessie Lee Jenkins she wanted Marion to meet. It was the perfect match...the two started dating and then came marriage!

Marion and Jessie were married in June 1969, they had two adorable (smart) children; Natalee (N.C. A&T '1995) and Nathaniel (Barber Scotia College '2002). When Natalee told Marion she wanted to go to N.C. A&T for college, he was delighted ... "you gonna be an Aggie," ... "that's great...that's a GREAT SCHOOL!" "I'll be right there when you finish!" Natalee graduated from North Carolina A&T State University in June 1995.

The family became extremely active members of their "Home Church"- Edgewood Baptist Church, in SE Washington. Edgewood Baptist Church was their bed-rock, it offered the entire family with uplifting messages of hope and comfort. It was/is a vibrant community, building relationships with active adults, serving their community. Marion and Jessie continued their fellowship with Edgewood Baptist Church...their faith and devotion with Edgewood flourished. Marion became extremely active over the years - he sang in multiple choirs, served as a Youth Advisor, President of the Usher Board, and became a Deacon at Edgewood. Together Marion and Jessie were members for over 45 years before her untimely death on October 4, 2014. *"And Adam said... This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man. Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."*

In the early 2000s Marion joined the Charleston Club and re-established old friendships with his homies...he enjoyed being with "ole-friends!" He continued to love "His Dallas Cowboys" and was always looking for fellow Dallas fans in Washington area.



The loss of Jessie was truly devastating for Marion, he spent months visiting his daughter, Natalee and her husband Eric in Gotha, FL; and months with his son, Nathaniel and his wife Ayana in nearby Bear, DE...searching for "peace," a peace he could not find... Marion Nathaniel Rhodes left us on Saturday, April 4, 2020 (the 52nd anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King, Jr.) to be with "the love of his life!" Someone recently said of

you...*“Marion Rhodes was a humble man, in his own kind of way!” Proverbs 31:10~“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.”*

Lois G. Pearson - Teacher Dies at 91 Years Old

Lois Maxine Garrison was born in Charleston on January 6, 1929 to Larkin, Sr. and Willie Lee Nixon Garrison. Lois entered into eternal rest on Sunday, March 15, 2020 in Landover, MD after a brief illness; she was 91 years old. Lois and her five siblings lived at 142 Smith St., 8 Park St. and then 498 Rutledge Ave, which became the family home-
stead. Her father was an industrial painter at the Charleston Navy Yard and her mother worked at the Cannon Street Hospital. Lois started elementary school at Avery Institute through the 5th grade. In the 6th grade she transferred to the Immaculate Conception School (I.C.S.) on Coming Street. She vividly remembers “the walk” to school with her siblings, middle school and high school at ICS were very enjoyable for Lois. In high school, she played “shooting forward” on the “girls’ 3 on 3” basketball team. She sang in the school’s choir and an I.C.S. 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 I.C.S. in the Class of 1948, along with Charleston Club member Dolores Moultrie Abrams.



In the fall of 1948 she entered South Carolina State College (University), majoring in elementary education. Teaching elementary school education was always her aspirations, she loved working with small children and experiencing their “learning” growth. 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.

Lois’ first teaching assignment was at Bethune Elementary School in the North Charleston area. 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, in the North area, one of her first grade students was Charleston Club member, Brian Smalls. Her last school in Charleston was at Courtney Elementary on Meeting Street before moving to the Washington area in 1965. In 1958 she married, the late Alfonso N. Pearson, Sr. Esq. in Charleston, he operated a small private law practice. Soon the couple moved to the Washington area and lived here for over 30 years.

Lois became an active and devoted member of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Capitol Heights, MD. Both of her sons attended St. Margaret Catholic School, and grew up in Catholicism, as did their mother. Lois never loss admiration for her I.C.S. teachers, the Baltimore-based, Oblate Sisters of Providence, she made infrequent

visits to the motherhouse in Baltimore. When St. Margaret Catholic School was closing its school (c. 2004/5), Lois made a personal effort to retrieve all the unclaimed text books and donated them to Sister Marilyn Hopewell to help her establish her new school Hopewell Academy in Upper Marlboro, MD. She spent 29 years at Stanton Elementary (Naylor Rd. SE), where she became a Critic Teacher for the University of D.C. (UDC) and began working on her Masters and completed her course studies at Trinity College in DC. Teaching school-aged children was always paramount in the life of Lois Garrison Pearson, ask her charming grandchildren... Alfonso III, Leah, and Stephen, Jr. ...they can attest that she was always TEACHING!

In the 90s, Lois joined the Charleston Club, she hosted several meetings at her home, as was the case during the 1990s. In recent years, when her health began to fail, Lois anxiously waited for her plate of food to be delivered by Charleston Club member, Mary Wade (S.C. State Alumni). One of her last Big Moments came when her family took her to the MGM Casino (National Harbor) to celebrate her 91st birthday on January 6th! Going to the casinos and playing the slots was one of her favorite past times. Lois often said that her favorite song was Patti LaBelle’s “Walk Around Heaven.” She was known for always keeping a full freezer, and caught every sale, thinking that she had to buy the store’s inventory because *“it was on sale!”* Lois Garrison Pearson... *“Loved everyone, and gave to everyone, killing everyone with kindness!”*

Private funeral services was held on March 24th at St. Margaret’s Catholic Church on Addison Road in Capitol Heights, MD. Lois has two surviving sons, Alfonso (Pam) and Stephen (Tonya); and a brother, John and his wife, Sarah,. Interment services were at Resurrection Cemetery on Woodyard Road, in Clinton. A Celebration of Life Service will occur when public assemblies are allowed. *“May the works I’ve done speak for me. May the works (I’ve done) speak for me. When I’m resting in my grave, there’s nothing more to be said; may the works (the works I’ve done) let it speak for me, (for me).”*

Earl G. Graves Dead at Age 85

Black Enterprise Founder and Publisher Earl G. Graves, Sr., the quintessential entrepreneur who created a vehicle of information and advocacy that has inspired four generations of African Americans to build wealth through entrepreneurship, career advancement and money management, has died on April 6th, after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. His son, Black Enterprise CEO Earl “Butch” Graves, Jr., said he was widely considered to be the ultimate champion of black business, launching Black Enterprise in 1970 to not only chronicle the rise of African American entrepreneurs, but also provide the tools for African Americans to succeed in the busi-



ness mainstream and “achieve their measure of the American dream.”

In his award-winning, now classic, business bestseller, *How To Succeed In Business Without Being White*, Graves stated his life-defining purpose for founding Black Enterprise in simple, direct terms: “The time was ripe for a magazine devoted to economic development in the African American community. The publication was committed to the task of educating, inspiring and uplifting its readers. My goal was to show them how to thrive professionally, economically and as proactive, empowered citizens.”

Driven by that mission, Graves became a trailblazing entrepreneur in his own right, building Black Enterprise from a single-magazine publishing company 50 years ago, to a diversified multimedia business spreading the message of financial empowerment to millions of African Americans through print, digital, broadcast and live-event platforms. As such, Black Enterprise (BE) was one of two companies that would appear on the BE 100s—the publication’s annual rankings of the nation’s largest black-owned businesses each of its 47 years. (Three Charlestonians appeared on the BE 100s list; **Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr.** (Avery ‘1940) – H.A. DeCosta Co., Charleston, SC, **W. Melvin Brown, Jr.** (I.C.S. ‘1952) - ADCOR, North Charleston, and **Nathaniel D. Greene** (I.C.S. ‘1961) – Empire Ford, Inc. Spokane, WA.) Graves’ influence and reach also extended into the mainstream of corporate America.

Beyond business, Graves was a force in politics, civil rights, and philanthropy. In fact, he played a pivotal role in galvanizing support for the election of the first African American president of the United States, Barack H. Obama, through his endorsement in Black Enterprise and service as a surrogate campaigning on his behalf. Before that, Graves also championed the historic presidential bids of Rev. Jesse Jackson. Moreover, his fight for racial justice and economic parity earned him the NAACP Spingarn Medal, the organization’s highest honor, in 1999. Graves was also known for his dedication to family, and especially to his wife Barbara Kydd Graves, who passed away in 2012. Together, they raised three sons, Earl Jr., Johnny and Michael, and were blessed with eight grandchildren.

Born in 1935, Graves reaches the pinnacle of power from humble beginnings in the Bedford Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn, NY. After graduating from a Morgan State University with a B.A. in economics, he served two years as an officer in the Army, and held jobs in law enforcement and real estate. In 1965, he joined the staff of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy as his administrative assistant. When Kennedy was assassinated in 1968, he decided to start a publication that would provide blacks with the pathway to go into entrepreneurship.

The young publisher managed to gain a \$250,000 loan from Chase Manhattan Bank and proved so masterful at selling and running the magazine that it became profitable in 10 months ~ enabling Graves to repay the loan to the major financial institution. The world first discovered such business luminaries as Oprah Winfrey, billionaire

dealmaker Bob Johnson, and the late financier Reginald F. Lewis on the pages of Black Enterprise.

Gus Holt, longtime advocate for Charleston’s Cannon Street All-Stars, has died

Augustus J. Holt, a local historian who shed a national spotlight on an African American Little League baseball team from Charleston, died Thursday, April 16th following an extended illness; he was 73. Holt was well-known for his love of baseball and spent the last 25 years bringing attention to the Cannon Street All-Stars, an all-black youth baseball team from the 1950s.



In 1955, the team was banned from Little League post-season play despite their exemplary record. Other teams refused to play them, resulting in the Cannon Street squad winning a state championship. They were invited to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, PA, but were not allowed to compete. Holt first learned of this story in 1994 and went on a mission to uncover more information. That’s when he met John Rivers, a former player for the team who provided a wealth of information for Holt’s research. Over the past 25 years, Rivers has watched Holt turn the All-Stars into a celebratory fixture in American Black History. In 2005, for example, he and his teammates were featured on “Nightline” with Ted Koppel, a former news program on ABC that ran for more than 20 years.

In addition, members of the Cannon Street team have done countless radio broadcasts, and a commemorative plaque at Harmon Field in downtown Charleston honors the team. In 2014, Holt made a YouTube video, hoping to get the team an “overdue” visit to the White House. “Gus was a staunch drum major for our story the past 25 years and he’s been invaluable in bringing it to light,” Rivers said. Former Charleston Mayor Joe Riley signed off on the plaque and ceremony for the Cannon Street All-Stars and credits Holt for turning the story into a nationwide phenomenon. “He was the keeper of the flame for that team and spent his life making sure everyone knew about them,” Riley said.

James C. Edwards - Charleston Educator and Singer Dies

James Christopher Edwards II, a renowned Charleston educator and celebrated baritone, died March 30, 2020 of natural causes; at the age of 85. He was known for helping to break the color barrier during the 1970s. Known for a marked dignity and quiet magnetism that uplifted Charleston’s classrooms, places of worship, ballparks and concert halls, Edwards made an impact on the lives of countless Charlestonians through his roles as an educator, a musical director, an accomplished baritone and a com-



munity leader.

The Korean War veteran, Edwards was for 35 years an educator with the Charleston County School District, was a teacher and principal who friends say was as dedicated to his staff as he was to his students. He concluded his career as principal of Sanders-Clyde Elementary School. He was committed to his prolific musical contributions in the Low-country, he was founder of the Choraliers Music Club of Charleston and was former minister of music of the historic Morris Brown AME Church.

But it was his captivating baritone voice that resonated throughout the region for decades. Edwards elevated many a milestone occasion, among them the city's tri-centennial celebration in 1970 and the nation's bicentennial in 1976, as well as the opening of Joseph P. Riley Jr. Park. He also once sang on NBC's "Today" show for then-host Barbara Walters. In a 2007 story in The Post and Courier, he said he did so because he loved to sing and to share his talent. "He was a person that commanded his voice in such a way that people would stop and listen to him," said Judge Daniel Martin Jr., a family friend.

But it was perhaps his role as choral director and cast member of a 1970 Charleston production of "Porgy and Bess" at the Gaillard Municipal Auditorium that marked Edwards' place in the city's history. Part of Charleston's tri-centennial celebration, the Gershwin's folk opera had until then never been performed in its recently desegregated home turf.

Edwards, was responsible for casting and overseeing the chorus of the cast members of the 1970 production of "Porgy and Bess." "You had people who were willing to listen to the director (Ella Gerber) and power through what she wanted you to do," said Dr. Annette McKenzie Anderson. Hoping to sing the high notes Gershwin had composed for the chorus, the young singer had only known "Summertime" and prepared for her audition by repeatedly listening to a Leontyne Price recording. After a few auditions, she was picked by Gerber to play Bess. The production was cast from 120 mostly local, nonprofessional African American Charlestonians for 16 sold-out shows.



Former Councilman Louis L. Waring Dies at 94

"Through his belief in putting God first, integrity, family values and teamwork, Waring's service to his country and dedication to improving the lives of others through education, peaceful protest and participation in city government has yielded huge



dividends." The Navy World War II veteran who volunteered at the age of 14, Louis L. Waring, Jr. became the first African American general foreman of the Rigger Shop in the Charleston Naval Shipyard's history. As a life member of the NAACP, Waring participated in numerous protests during the heat of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960's and 1970's. Waring was elected to serve as the President of the First Congressional District of the SC Colored Parent Teacher's Association (PTA). He served a brief term as President of the SC Congress of the Colored PTA just prior to the integration of schools in South Carolina. After retirement from the Shipyard in 1982 he pursued a business career as a real estate developer before establishing a political career in the early 1990s. Motivated by his concern for all the citizens of Charleston, and particularly those in St. Andrews District 7, west of the Ashley River where he was born and raised, Waring ran for City Council in 1993. He served twice as Mayor Pro Tempore for the City of Charleston in 1995 and 2006. He served as chairman of the Ways and Means Committee and the City's representative on the Public Works Commission. He helped to win approval in 2003 of the largest affordable housing development for senior citizens west of the Ashley-a \$7 million investment.

Waring and his wife, the late Seloris Evelyn Collins, had five children, 13 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. Job WELL DONE!

Charleston Club Tattler ~ One liners . . .

- Due to Coronavirus crisis, the May 9th Charleston Club meeting will be via tele-conference, look for an e-mail for the time, details, and agenda .
- **HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!**

Happy Birthdays!

May 2020 Birthdays: Angela Martin - May 3rd, ~ John Jackson - May 5th, ~ Bernice Brooks - May 7th, ~ Lanard Geddings - May 18th, ~ Terrance Edwards - May 26th, ~ Leroy J. Bennett - May 27th, ~ Gilbert Knowles - May 30th.

June 2020 Birthdays: Leroy Bobby Palmer - Jun 2nd, ~ Marva White - Jun 6th, ~ Reginald Russell - Jun 10th, ~ Hamilton Parker - Jun 21st, ~ Bennie Louder - Jun 27th, ~ Herman Perry - Jun 29th, ~ Leila Potts-Campbell - Jun 29th, ~ Allen Coley - Jun 30th.

July 2020 Birthdays: Estelle Perry - Jul 8th, ~ John McNeil - Jul 20th, ~ Paula Edwards - Jul 30th.

August 2020 Birthdays: Carl Greene - Aug 10th, ~ Thomasina Smith-Cook - Aug 14th, ~ Norma McKayhan - Aug 17th, ~ Mildred McDow - Aug 23rd, ~ Julia M. Harris - Aug 24th, ~ Cynthia Coulter - Aug 28th, ~ William Heyward - Aug 29th.
- The Fly on The Wall!