



**Alma Mater  
Of  
Paul L. Dunbar High School**

**Dunbar, dear Dunbar, we love you  
More than words can tell,  
Thy name gives us wisdom and honor,  
Courage and strength to excel.**

**Wherever we may wander,  
On land, on sea or in air,  
Dunbar, dear Dunbar, we love you  
Thy name we'll give praise anywhere.**

**CHORUS  
Dun-bar, O Dun-Bar,  
Our Friend, Brave and True:  
In Down-Fall or Vic-try  
We'll Be Loyal To You.**



## *Paul Laurence Dunbar Biography*

*Paul Laurence Dunbar was the first African American to gain national prominence as a poet. Born in 1872 in Dayton, Ohio, he was the son of ex-slaves and classmate to Orville Wright of aviation fame.*

*Although he lived to be only 33 years old, Dunbar was prolific, writing short stories, novels, librettos, plays, songs and essays as well as the poetry for which he became well known. He was popular with black and white readers of his day, and his works are celebrated today by scholars and school children alike.*

*His style encompasses two distinct voices – the standard English of the classical poet and the evocative dialect of the turn-of-the-century black community in America. He was gifted in poetry – the way that Mark Twain was in prose – in using dialect to convey character.*



*Walter M. Brown, Jr.*

1950 - 1970  
Principal



Mr. Walter M. Brown, a native of Avoyelles Parish, received his elementary education in Simmesport, and his secondary education at McDonald 35 in New Orleans, Louisiana. After serving two years in the United States Army, he enrolled at Southern University. He later received his Bachelor of Science and Masters of Education degrees from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The masters plus thirty additional credits were earned at Louisiana State University, Northwestern State University, and University of Oklahoma.

While at Southern University, he met and married the former Mary Louise Paul of Morrow, Louisiana. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Linda and Janice, and two sons, Myron and Robert.

Mr. Brown began his teaching career as a mathematics-science teacher and coach at Simmesport Colored Junior High in 1950. As the school grew and grades were added, Mr. Brown became an assistant principal to Mr. P.A. Frazier. Mr. Brown also served as Adult and Veteran Education Teacher. In 1956, he became principal of Simmesport Colored High School. During this first year as principal, the name of the school was changed to Dunbar High School. He served as principal of Dunbar until 1970 when the school was converted to Simmesport Elementary School with grades K-5. He remained as principal at this school until his retirement on September 4, 1984, after serving over 35 years in the teaching profession.

Mr. Brown has membership in numerous educational, religious, social and civic organizations. He is an Alderman and Mayor Pro Tem for the town of Simmesport and President of the Avoyelles Employee Federal Credit Union.

#### *Personal Message from Your Principal - A Bridge Builder*

My service at Simmesport Colored High/Dunbar High School began in 1950. This tenure included the position as coach, teacher, assistant principal, and principal until my retirement in 1984.

The growth of this educational institution is a chronicle of struggle, dedication and hard work. Our foundation was strong. Beginning with our first graduation class of 17,  
*Cont'd Walter M. Brown, Jr., Principal*

90% of this class attended college and 80% graduated. The determination of this class served as a beacon of motivation to all classes that followed.

Upon my appointment as principal in 1956, I rededicated my efforts to the struggle and challenge of producing a quality product to serve our community and the world. Our students span the arena of different professions and are now principals, doctors, engineers, ministers, teachers, and other productive citizens. We the faculty and staff never ceased our tireless efforts to motivate and raise the levels of aspirations of our students.

In retrospect, my thirty-four years at Simmesport Colored School/Dunbar High School were rewarding and a continuous learning experience. It is heartwarming to hear former students say they were in a climate that was conducive to learning and where they were encouraged to develop their talents to their fullest potentials.

To all my former students, faculty members and staff, let me leave you with a pledge of my continued dedication and concern. My work this far can best be described by the words found in the "Bridge Builder." May God bless you and guide your steps across the bridge to better opportunities and success in the world.



*Harry Abraham Jerry*

1958 - 1970  
Social Studies



I am the fifth of seven children born May 21, 1931 to the late Enos and Morine B. Jerry in Crowley, Louisiana. I attended Crowley Industrial High School and graduated in 1950.

I enlisted in the United States Army in June 1950 and served in combat in Korea during the Korean War.

After my separation from the Army, I enrolled at Southern University in 1953 and graduated in 1956.

In September 1956, I was employed by Avoyelles Parish School Board and assigned to Paul L. Dunbar High School in Simmesport as a social studies teacher. In 1958, I married the late Rosenia White Jerry and we are the parents of one daughter, a son-in-law and two grandsons.

I enrolled in graduate school at Southern University and received my Master degree in 1964.

I taught at Dunbar High School for twelve years before transferring to St. Landry Parish where I was assigned to Opelousas High School and taught social studies for eighteen years until my retirement.

In February 2000, I married Mary Edwards Jerry. Since my retirement, I have remained active in the church, fraternity, veteran and professional organizations.



*Queen (Herrell) Alexander*

1962  
English Teacher



I graduated from Dunbar High School in 1956, the same year the gymnasium was built. I presented a speech titled "Blue Print for a House" to the Class of 1956. While at Dunbar, I played with the girls basketball team, coached by Mr. Walter M. Brown.

After graduating, I went to Grambling State University and pursued a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics, which I received in 1960. The next year, I taught Home Economics and English at Bethune High School in Marksville. I worked as a Home Demonstration Agent and taught adults at night in Marksville and Simmesport (Bethune High and Dunbar High, respectively).

One day, Mr. C. J. Lacour, Supervisor of Schools, came to one of my adult education classes and asked that I obtain certification in English because he had looked at my transcript and noticed my exceptional English grades. He said Fannie Foster was leaving and he wanted me to teach English at Dunbar High. I went to Southern University the summer of 1962 and 1963. I started teaching English at Dunbar in 1962 and was the senior class sponsor. While teaching English, I took classes at the School Board, Louisiana State University and Northwestern State University. In 1976, I received my Masters degree and Plus 30 hours. I retired from teaching in 1994. I have taught 39 years.

My social and professional affiliations include membership with the Eastern Star Mary Chapter 102 wherein I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree Lady of the Knights of St. Peter Claver Court 202. I have also done volunteer work for the F.B.L.A. (Home Economics Club, St. Peter Claver) as well as my church, Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

I have two children. My daughter, who resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, has two children: Laramie W. Griffin who is 19 years old and has three stripes in the Navy and is currently stationed in Silverdale, Washington and a 16-year old daughter who is a junior at Baton Rouge Magnet High School. My son resides in Marksville, Louisiana.



*Stella (Sylvain) Anderson*



Stella (Sylvain) Anderson is the first of two daughters of Mr. And Mrs. John Sylvain. She graduated high school in 1953 from Simmesport Colored High School. She entered Southern University at Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 1953 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1956 and a Masters degree in Chemistry in 1970-71. Stella's Master in chemistry shows that she learned magic also. She was able to earn a Master's Plus 30 in Administration and Supervision from California State University and Southern University. Further study in education, mathematics and computer science is on-going.

#### *Professional Organization*

Stella was affiliated with the National Education Association, Louisiana Education Association, Avoyelles Education Association; and yes, the Retired Teachers Association. She is active also in the Louisiana Association of Computer-using Educators.

Community and religious activities include: Church Parish Council for Our Lady of Sorrows Eucharistic Minister, and Peter Clover Ladies Auxillary 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> degree. She volunteers as a teacher and tutor for Our Lady of Sorrows; grant writer technology; and volunteer at Holy Ghost Catholic School.

She has developed and presented thirty-five math and technology professional workshops for Avoyelles Parish school teachers in grades K-12.

#### *Awards*

Some of the highlighted awards include: 1953 - High School Valedictorian; 1954 - Alpha Kappa Mu Academic Scholarship; 1955 - Kappa Delta Pi Education Honor Society; 1956 - Bachelor of Science Magna Cum Laude; and (1981 - Peter Clover National Silver Metal Award for Community and Religious Service.

In her semi-retirement, Stella enjoys the role as a mother to her daughter: Loretta Hampton, her two sons, William, Jr. and John Tracy Anderson. She and her husband of many years, William Anderson, Sr., keep busy and entertained by 8 grandchildren.



*Felix Benjamin*

1966  
Driver's Ed. & 7<sup>th</sup> Grade



Felix Benjamin was born on August 31, 1937, to Andrew and Lucille Benjamin of Moreauville, Louisiana. The son of a farmer and a homemaker, Felix was one of six children. He attended elementary school at Our Lady of Sorrows Convent in Moreauville and graduated from Simmesport Colored High School in 1956. After high school, he attended Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in 1961.

Immediately after graduating from Southern University, he was drafted into the United States Army, serving two consecutive years. This experience gave him the opportunity to see the world, which included a brief stay in Seoul, Korea. After receiving an honorable discharge, he returned to his native Avoyelles Parish to begin his teaching career. In 1963, he began teaching sixty and seventh grades and driver's education at George Washington Carver High School in Bunkie, Louisiana. In 1966, he commuted between Paul Lawrence Dunbar High School and George Washington Carver High School teaching driver's education and seventh grade mathematics for one year. He later transferred to Plaquemine High School, where he taught junior high school students and remained there until his retirement in 1996. He received his Masters in Education in 1974 and a Masters of Supervision and Administration plus 30 hours from Southern University in 1976.

Felix is a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church where he enjoys membership in the Knight of St. Peter Claver, receiving a national Award of Merit in 1983. He also serves as a lector, Eucharistic Minister, and President of the Finance Council. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and the Louisiana Retired Teachers Association.

Felix is married to Rosemary (Sampson) Benjamin and they have two daughters, Daune and Danika.



*Mary (Paul) Brown*

Teacher / Supervisor



Mrs. Mary L. Brown, a native of St. Landry Parish, received her elementary education in Moorock, Louisiana. She completed grades nine and ten at Peabody High School in Alexandria, Louisiana, then enrolled in St. Landry Parish Training High School in Opelousas, Louisiana, where she graduated from high school. She received her Bachelor of Science and Master of Education degrees from Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Thirty-plus additional hours above the Masters were earned at Louisiana State University and Northwestern State University.

Mrs. Brown met and married Walter M. Brown of Simmesport, Louisiana. They are the proud parents of two daughters, Linda Faye Lacour and Janice Kaye DeJohanne and two sons Myron Keith Brown and Robert Allen Brown.

Mrs. Brown began her teaching career as a principal/teacher in a two room church building. She moved to Avoyelles Parish and taught school with her husband at Dunbar High School until 1970 when she was transferred to the Avoyelles Parish School Board Office. Mrs. Brown served as a supervisor with the ESEA Title I Program, until her retirement in 1985.

Mrs. Brown is a member of the Greater New Bethel B.C., and serves on the Deaconess Board, Sunday School Teacher, and President of the Senior Mission. She is a Life Member of Southern University Alumni Federation and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.





## *Gertrude Simon Keller*



Ms. Gertrude Simon Keller Davis was born on July 29<sup>th</sup> to the late Nelse and Mariah Simon. She has four siblings: Joe Simon, Roy Simon, Louise Bradford and Gayle Daniel.

She was baptized by the late Reverend J.S. Washington at an early age at the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church. Her early education was received at the New Bethel Baptist Church. In addition, she was a member of the first class to graduate from Simmesport Colored High School in 1953. Afterwards, Miss Simon attended Southern University where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and her Master's in Therapeutic Recreation.

Miss Simon was united in holy matrimony to the late Mr. Murphy Keller, Jr. and the late Mr. Solomon Davis, Jr.. God has blessed her with four children: Murphy J. Keller, III, Kimberly K. Smith, Veronica C. Keller and Bartholomew C. Davis. She has three beloved grandsons: Anthony, Ron and Benjamin.

Among her many contributions to church and school was her athletic skills and mentorship. Anyone who played basketball for Simmesport never finished a conversation about basketball without mentioning her name.

### ***Favorite Quote***

"If anyone ask you my life story, please tell them Jesus is the best thing that ever happened to me."





*Dennis James Derouen*



Dennis James Derouen was born the sixth child of the late Abraham Derouen and Clementine Sutton Derouen. Dennis J. Derouen, Sr. is a 1955 graduate of Jonas Henderson High School in New Iberia, Louisiana. He attended Southern University where he graduated Magna Cum Laude receiving a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry. He also received thirty plus hours from Louisiana State University and Northwestern State University. He attended Texas Southern University and El Land University on a fellowship program from the National Science Foundation, which allowed Dennis to expand his knowledge base and his love for the sciences. Dennis was employed with the Avoyelles Parish school system where he retired after 31 years of service. Currently, Dennis holds a part-time position with the Department of Revenue and Taxation.

Dennis has been married to Marilyn Early for 40 years. Dennis and Marilyn have one son, Dennis, Jr. and two grandchildren, Dennis III and Kristi Nicole. Dennis is a member of Saint Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where Father Buckingham is pastor. Dennis' hobbies include landscaping, traveling the Caribbean with his wife, and traveling with the SU Jags.



*Merilyn (Early) Derouen*



Merilyn Early was born the tenth child of the late Fred Early, Sr. and Ethel Coston Early. Merilyn was educated in the Avoyelles school system. She graduated from Paul L. Dunbar High in 1960. She attended Southern University where she received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master's degree in Education. Merilyn also received thirty plus hours from Northwestern State University. Merilyn is married to her husband of 40 years, Dennis J. Derouen, Sr. Merilyn and Dennis have one son Dennis, Jr. who is married to Patricia McKnight. Merilyn is the proud grandmother of two lovely grandchildren, Dennis III and Kristi Nicole.

Merilyn retired after serving 33 years in the Avoyelles and Pointe Coupee school systems. At present, she holds the position of substitute teacher in the East Baton Rouge system. Merilyn is a member of the True Light Baptist Church pastured by Reverend Dennis Hebert, Sr. She is a Mass choir member, a member of the Women of the Light ministry, a weekly Sunday school attendant, and the current co-chair for the Annual Women & Men's Day program. Merilyn's hobbies include walking and doing work for her church. In her spare time, Merilyn also enjoys cruising the Caribbean, traveling to see the grandkids and supporting the Jaguar National during football season.



*Theodore "Ted" Foster*

1953, 1956-1961  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade



I was born July 4, 1932 in Bunkie, Louisiana. I attended elementary and high school at Carver High from 1937 to 1948. After graduating in 1948, I enrolled at Grambling State University. I graduated from Grambling in 1952 with a degree in elementary education. From 1961 to 1963, I earned my Masters degree in Education and Administration from Southern University. Other post-graduate work includes Administration courses from the University of Chicago.

My first job as a teacher was at Dunbar High in Simmesport, Louisiana. I was the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I worked in that position for one semester before being called to the armed services. I served two years in Europe as a speed radio operator in the United States Army Signal Corp. After my tour of duty was completed, I returned to Dunbar High to resume my duties as the 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher. I remained in that position until 1961. In 1961, I moved to Chicago, Illinois. I worked in the Chicago School system as an 8<sup>th</sup> graded social studies teacher from 1961 until 1963. In 1963, I moved from Chicago to Milwaukee, Wisconsin and joined the public school system as a math teacher at Lincoln High School.

After 6 years as a math teacher at Lincoln High, I was promoted to the position of High School Assistant Principal. During the year that followed, I served as Assistant Principal and Principal at all three levels of school administration.

In 1993, I became the Principal of Dodgeand High School in Juneau, Wisconsin which is just outside Milwaukee. I held that position until 1995. In 1995, I was promoted to the position of Acting Superintendent until 1996. When a new Superintendent was hired in 1996, I retired from public education, enjoying every minute of retirement. All of my work as an education was most enjoyable.



*Oscar P. Goody, Jr.*



I was born in Moreauville, Louisiana, on February 9, 1938 to the late Oscar P. Goody, Sr. and Ethel Coco Goody. I am the third child and I have three sisters. I started school at a one-room schoolhouse in Moreauville and attended it for three years. Later, I attended Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic School from fourth through eighth grades.

After completing my senior year at Simmesport Colored High School, I attended Grambling State University and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education. I later earned my Masters degree from Southern University. After graduating from Grambling State University, I returned home and married the late Drusilla S. Goody, who was my high school sweetheart. To this union, three sons were born, Oscar III, Brian, and Johannes.

I spent two years in the military serving my country in Alaska. I returned from service to begin my teaching career in Avoyelles Parish at Bethune High School in Marksville for approximately 6 years. I also worked at Duarbar High School in Simmesport for about 2 years.

*I am a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Moreauville. I serve as a Eucharistic Minister, parish council president, and Grand Knight of Council 202. I have served as Councilman for the Village of Moreauville for 16 years. I am also a volunteer fireman for the Village. I am actively serving now on the Board for the Council on Aging, Headstart Program, the Disadvantaged Program, and the Democratic Party Committee.*

#### **Philosophy of Education and Life**

I firmly believe everyone (boy, girl, man, or woman) should have every opportunity to develop his mental potential to its full capacity. Each person should be given every occasion to become aware of the fact that he is someone, he is important, someone cares for him, and he can succeed if he tries. A person must receive some idea of success in order to want to progress.

Also each person wants to be dealt with equally and fairly without partialities. This is human nature. Finally, I believe a life is only partially fulfilled, and above ideas will only be partly satisfied, if there is no awareness of God in what we do and the decisions we make.



*Beverly Ann (Lee) Harris*



I am a native of Monroeville (Avoyelles Parish), Louisiana. I am the daughter of Walter T. Lee, Sr. and the late Adeline Alexander Lee. I am married to Samuel Harris (retired) and the proud parents of two daughters – Vanella Harris-Adams (Assistant Principal Ward 3) – (Johnny St.), Monique Harris-Gaspard (JSEP Instructor at Avoyelles Correctional Center) (William St.) and three grandchildren – Kasy Adams (Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana), Johnny "Von" Adams, Jr. (12 years old) and William J. Gaspard, Jr. (two years old).

In 1953, I graduated from Simmesport Colored High School in Simmesport, Louisiana. Furthering my education at Southern University in Baton Rouge, I received a B.A. degree in Secondary Education in May of 1957. I received a Master of Education and Plus 30 from Southern University in 1983. My employment experience includes working in both St. Landry Parish and Avoyelles Parish. In May 1990, I retired with 30.73 years of experience.

I am a lifelong member of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church in Monroeville, Louisiana. I am affiliated with several different organizations: Ladies Auxiliary of St. Peter Claver Court 202, Blue Army, Church Lectur, Avoyelles Library Board Member, Counsel of Aging Board Member, LEA and AEA.



*Bettye R. Hayward*

1965 - 1970  
5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade



I was born in Natchitoches, Louisiana and moved to San Francisco, California when I was very young. I graduated from Carver High School. My undergraduate degree and Masters degree are from Southern University with my Thirty-Plus and additional hours earned at Northwestern State University, University of Southwestern, Louisiana, LSUA and Southern University.

I have been blessed to rear my niece, Kandice N. Bush, as my daughter.

I began my teaching career as a fifth and sixth grade teacher at Dunbar High School from 1965-1970. After school consolidation, I was transferred to Cottonport High School and taught grades fourth and sixth. A few years later, I worked with the Title VII Federal Program and worked at several other schools (Bunkie Middle, Bunkie Elementary, Bunkie High, Cottonport High, Plaquemine High and Mansura Elementary). I remained with Bunkie Middle School as a teacher and counselor until my retirement in May of 2001 with thirty-six years of service in Avoyelles Parish.

I am a member of the Second Union Baptist Church, a life member of the Southern University Alumni Club and have been affiliated with several other educational and civic organizations.

#### **A Personal Message**

To the Paul L. Dunbar High School Alumni Committee, I extend my heart-felt and sincere appreciation to you for remembering and inducting me into your Hall of Fame for Educators. Thank you very much and may God continue to bless each of you.

To all of my former students, their parents, Mr. Brown and co-workers, I have many fond memories of working at Dunbar. I very often mention how fortunate I was to be a part of such a loving and caring faculty (those were some of my best years). It is because of the nurturing and guidance that I received there that made my teaching career a success and also encouraged my sister Joan Hayward (deceased) to begin her career there.

*Ms. Betty R. Hayward*



*Mildred Jackson*

1954-1962  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade



I was married to the late Willie Jackson, who past away in '589. Two sons were born to this union: Billy Jackson and Robby Jackson. I have three wonderful grandchildren: Billy, Jr., Detecian Jackson and Bre'ana Jackson.

I received my Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Southern University (1951-1954). I taught 6<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Dunbar High from 1954 to 1962.

In 1979, I retired from teaching while working at Placerville High School but returned to work in 1981 and continued teaching with various schools. As of June 2003, I am reaping the fruits of my labor at home. I love teaching so much that I still accept substitute assignments.

My professional and church affiliations include: Louisiana Teacher Association; Southern University Alumni membership; and St. John B.C. Evergreen membership.

*Motto:*

Children are candles to be lighted and not cups to be filled





*Fannie Marie Foster-Jones*

1954-1963  
English



I have an extensive educational background. I attended Rosenwald elementary school in Cheneyville, Louisiana; and received my high school diploma from Bunkie/Carver High School in Bunkie, Louisiana in 1951 with honors. My higher education comes from Southern University, Louisiana State University, located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and Chicago State University located in Chicago, Illinois. I began my teaching career at Simmesport/Dunbar High School in 1954 and continued until 1963. I relocated to Chicago, Illinois where I taught at the following schools: Marshal High School, Foreman High School, and Chicago Vocational High School. During my career I sponsored extra-curricular activities such as: Future Teachers of America, National Honors Society, Beta Club, Girls Basketball and Senior Sponsor. I received consecutive Perfect Attendance awards for the 1986 through 1993. I retired Educator Emeritus from the Chicago Board of Education, August 1993.

*A Personal Message*

Thank you Dunbar Alumni for your thoughtfulness, remembrance, kindness, and love. You have shown your appreciation for the things that we did to help you reach goals that you set for yourselves. I'm so very pleased that so many of my students have grown beyond comparison. Your courage and fortitude have brought about a first for Dunbar High School. Again, I thank you for remembering and honoring us. God bless each of you!

Your English Teacher,

Mrs. Fannie Marie Foster Jones



*Priscilla G. Jones*



I was born in Marksville, Louisiana. I attended the public schools of Avoyelles Parish, and graduated from Marksville Colored High School as Valedictorian in 1953.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Grambling College in January 1957 and my Masters degree from Southern University in 1979.

I taught school for 28 years before retiring in 1984.

I am married to Mr. Clarence Jones of Marksville, Louisiana, who also taught school and is now retired. Together, we have two children. A son, Kenneth Wayne Jones, who resides here in Marksville, and a daughter, Sheila R. Jones Lilley, who is married and has three children and is living in San Bernardino, California.

After having had a successful teaching career, I am now enjoying the fruits of my labor, while serving my church and community in different capacities, and traveling.

#### *Personal Message from Your Teacher*

Thanks for remembering us, the old bridges that stood the test of time, and crossed you over to the other side.

Love you all,

*Mrs. Priscilla G. Jones*



*Roosevelt Joshua, Jr.*

1957-1970  
Math and Science



I worked at Dunbar High from 1957 until 1970 as a teacher of math and science. I was transferred to Simmesport High School as an Assistant Principle until 1975 and became Principle of Cottonport Elementary until retirement in 1994.

I received my Bachelor of Science degree from Grambling College and my Masters degree from Southern University in 1979. Further studies were conducted at Northwestern University, Louisiana State University and Southwestern University, to name a few.

I am married to Dorothy Mae West and the father of five children, with one deceased. I am also the grandfather of four grandchildren with one deceased.

I am a member of the Simpson BC of Moreauville, Louisiana.

#### Personal Philosophy

"Above all, I am a Christian."



*Willie Mae Kimbrough*



I was born in East Feliciana Parish Wilson, Louisiana. I am the widow of the late Mr. Herbert Kimbrough. To this union was born three children: Jacqueline K. Barriste, Richard A. Kimbrough and Kenneth C. Kimbrough. I have six beautiful grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

I graduated high school from East Feliciana Parish Training School. I received my Bachelor of Arts degree (1966), my Masters degree (1983) and the -30 requirement from Southern University.

I taught school for 28½ years before retiring in 1996.

My church affiliations include Ashburn United Methodist Church, Clinton, Louisiana; Marksville United Methodist church, Marksville, Louisiana; choir member, Certified Lay Minister; conference delegate, Chairman for Mission Work; Member of United Methodist Women and Historian District United Methodist Women; and Member of Louisiana Methodist Cursillo Community.

*Laura Solomon Leufroy*

1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
1967-1970



A native and resident of Pointe Coupee Parish in New Roads, Louisiana, I am the fifth child of the late Ivy Solomon and Lauri Martin Solomon.

I received my elementary education from St. Augustine Catholic School in New Roads, Louisiana, and graduated from Rosenwald High School in New Roads as Class Salutatorian in 1961. I received my B.S. and M.A. degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge. Further studies in Elementary Reading were done at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana and in Kindergarten Education at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge.

I was employed by the Avoyelles Parish School System as a first grade teacher at Dunbar Elementary for three years (1967-1970). For the remainder of my teaching career to the present, the Pointe Coupee Parish School System has employed me. I have taught at Poydras Elementary and at Rosenwald Elementary (my alma mater).

The professional organizations to which I belong are the Louisiana Association of Educators, the Louisiana Association of Children Under Six, and the J. K. Haynes Foundation to name only a few.

I am a member of St. Augustine Catholic Church, a former CCD teacher, a Eucharistic minister, sponsor for the confirmees, and a substitute CCD teacher.

At school, I served as chairperson for the Veteran's Day Program, the science fair, the art program, Friends of the Library, CASA volunteer, and Volunteer Baton Rouge. I am the recipient of the Governor Mike J. Foster Character Award for the years 2001 and 2002.

I was married to the late Martin Leufroy for 33 years. We are the parents of three children: Doderick, Katina, and James Noel Leufroy. I have two grandchildren, Daron and Kiah Ford.



*Oliver Lloyd, Jr.*  
1967 - 1971  
Instrumental Music Teacher



Oliver Lloyd, Jr. was born February 21, 1942 in New Orleans, Louisiana. He attended New Orleans public schools 1<sup>st</sup> through 4<sup>th</sup> grades, John McDonough #37 from 5<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grades, Albert Wicker School in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade, Andre J. Bell Jr. High 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades, and graduated from Joseph S. Clark Senior High in May 1959.

Mr. Lloyd attended Southern University during the fall semester of 1959 and participated in Southern's bands his entire college career. In January 1965, he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Instrumental Music.

From 1965 through 1967, Mr. Lloyd served as the Lafourcade Parish School Board C. M. Washington High School Band Director. From 1967 through 1971, he served with Dunbar Elementary High School Band teacher for instrumental music. From 1971 through 1973, he served with the Ascension Parish School Board, Lowery Middle School as the band teacher. From 1983 until retirement in 1998, he served with various other schools as the instrumental teacher.



*Janie (Spears) Loyd*



Mrs. Janie S. Loyd ended 31 ½ years of active service as a public school educator and retired with distinction August 2. She was the recipient of many certificates of appreciation and proclamations from many government officials including Gov. M. Carnahan, Sen. John Ashcroft, and many others.

Prior to her retirement, Mrs. Loyd taught at Pinderton, Fax and Ladd elementary schools and at Northwest Junior High. Although her career included over 31 years in the Kansas City school district, she has a total of 42 years in the teaching profession.

She also taught elementary classes in Simmesport, LA, where she was born; Welsch, Louisiana, and Houston, Texas. She also formerly served as director of dormitories at Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mrs. Loyd graduated from Simmesport High school. She received a Bachelor of Arts and a Master degree, both in Elementary Education from Southern University. She also furthered her education at Alvin College, Webster College and the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

#### **Personal Reflections and Philosophy**

I've had the tenuous job of nurturing dreams that are more powerful than the facts we distribute. I've worked to plant the seed of hope in hundreds of children in my classroom. I've guided them with laughter and the all-important manners to take them through their journey of a life's education.

I believe that love is my strongest gift and I've shared it freely with all children. My experience with young minds leaves me wiser, gentler and feeling good.



*Louise (Sampson) Pierre*

1965-1970  
Teacher



If you want something done, ask a busy person. Louise Sampson Pierre is such a person. Louise is the first-born child of Elda (Benjamin) Sampson and the late Mayo Sampson, Sr. Other siblings are: Cerice Antoine, Thelma Augustine, Brenda Wilmer, and Donald M. Sampson, Jr. She is married to John Pierre, Jr. and they are the proud parents of one daughter - Siminette (Pierre) James and the grandparents of the greatest granddaughter in the world - Keesa Simone' James.

She received her early education from Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic School in Mansura and she is a 1957 graduate of Mary Bethune High School in Marksville, Louisiana. She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Grambling College; a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education from Southern University; and a Plus-Thirty from Northwestern State University.

Louise gave thirty-three years of educational service to the children of Avoyelles. Although she serves faithfully as a wife to her husband; devoted daughter to her parents; servant for her church; teacher for children in her classroom and her community; and, a nurse for the elderly and infirmed, Louise has been involved and/as accomplished the following.

President - American Business Women  
Member - Delta Sigma Theta Sorority  
Past C.C.D. teacher  
Member - Chamber of Commerce

Louise has also received many certificates and other plaques for outstanding contributions in the community.





*Eleanor Victoria Seibert*



Ms. Seibert is a graduate of Rosenwald High School in New Road, Louisiana. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1968 from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana and a Masters degree in Educational Administration and Supervision from Southern in 1972.

Ms. Seibert's first job after college was as a teacher at the infamous Dunbar High School in Simmesport, Louisiana under the principleship of Mr. Walter Brown. She later moved to her home parish of Pointe Coupee where she taught Business Education and English for 19 years before becoming Assistant Principal of Upper Pointe Coupee High School in Batchelor, Louisiana and later assumed the principleship of Upper Pointe Coupee High School. When the parish consolidated, Ms. Seibert became Associate Principal at the new Pointe Coupee Central High School. From there she was the first Black principal of Morganza Elementary School and later transferred to Rosenwald Elementary where she currently serves as Principal.

Ms. Seibert is a leader in her community of New Roads and very active in Civil Rights, being a member of the NAACP for over 35 years. She is the co-founder of a civic organization called "STOP THE VIOLENCE/SAVE THE CHILDREN" where she organizes street rallies to call attention to senseless killings of many young people (mainly Black-on-Black crimes). Law officials in Pointe Coupee Parish acknowledge that crime decreased at least 35% since the inception of the Stop the Violence organization.

Ms. Seibert is very active in her church (St. Augustine Catholic) and an organizer of weekend and after school tutoring, sports and recreation activities to help children succeed in school and stay off the streets and out of harm's way. She has one son and is the proud grandmother of five and great-grandmother of two.



*Bertha Lee Hunter Smith*  
1961 - 1969  
Teacher, Girls Basketball Coach



Bertha Lee Hunter Smith, born July 4, 1938 in Legonier, Louisiana to Joseph Hunter, Sr. and Ruby Clark Hunter. She married Joseph Daniel Smith (deceased) on May 30, 1969 and raised two children: Joseph Daniel Smith, III and Nora Ardean Hunter. She is the grandmother of several grandchildren: LaTasha, Sharicka, Murvin Stewart, Dantijal Smith and Danyiah Smith (deceased); and great-grandmother to D'Asia Bungees, J'Voia and DeTreon Williams.

In 1957, Ms. Smith graduated Dunbar High School. In 1961, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education from Southern University. In 1979, she received her Masters of Education and Plus-30 Administration and Supervision from Louisiana State University and Northwestern State University, respectively.

Ms. Smith's position in the area of education include: Dunbar High School teacher girls basketball coach (1961-1969); Rapides Parish teacher in Alexandria, Louisiana (1969-1980); and Assistant Principal at Mabel Brasher Elementary School (1980-1994). In 1994, Ms. Smith retired after 32 years in the education profession from Mabel Brasher Elementary School.

Ms. Smith's organizations affiliation during her teaching career include: the Louisiana Association of School Principals, Louisiana Association of School Executives; Association of Professional Educators, and Leadership Academy for Administrators. In 1987, Ms. Smith was nominated for Teacher of the Year at Mabel Brasher by peers and was cited in *Who's Who in American Education* 1989-1990.

Ms. Smith continues to be an active member of the Nazarene Baptist church choir; secretary of Nazarene Senior Mission; director of substance abuse prevention education program at Nazarene Baptist Church for the State of Louisiana; member of Alexandria Homemakers Club; as well as other community programs.



*Mollie (Jones) Weathers*

8<sup>th</sup> Grade  
1957-1958



Greetings Dunbar High School alumni . . . especially to the planning committee of this great affair! I am truly honored to be one of the chosen to be entered into the Educator's Hall of Fame. Thank you so much for considering me. During the winter semester of the 1957-1958 school year, I had the privilege of teaching the eighth grade class of Dunbar. It was such a great and challenging experience for me, since this was my very first teaching experience. Since that time, I moved to Chicago, Illinois and received a teaching position in the Chicago Public School system in 1960. I left the Chicago Public School system in 1965 to begin a teaching position in the Seattle Public School system. After two years in Seattle, Washington, I returned to Chicago and continued my teaching career. I remained with the Chicago Public School system until my retirement in June 1994.

I am now happily retired and enjoying my five children, their spouses and my seven grandchildren. Unfortunately, I am unable to be there physically to celebrate with you, but my thoughts and prayers are with each of you. I wish you peace and happiness today and each day of the New Year. May God bless you all!

With love,

*Mollie (Jones) Weathers*



*Verna (Brown) Will*



I am Verna B. Will, a native of Simmesport (Avoyelles Parish), Louisiana. I was born to the late James Brown, Jr. and Emma Louis Calliham Brown. I am married to Thomas Lopez Will and we are the proud parents of three children: Allegra C. Will, Bruno Lopez Will (deceased) and James Givoandi Will.

I am a product of the Avoyelles Parish educational system. I graduated from Simmesport Colored High school in Simmesport, Louisiana. I graduated from Southern University and A&M College with a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education and did further studies in Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, as well as Southern University in Baton Rouge. My employment experience includes work in both Pointe Coupee and Avoyelles Parishes: Rosenwald High (K-12); Valverde Elementary; Dunbar High (K-12); Bethune High (K-12); and Marsville Elementary School where I taught students in the fourth grade.

As a member of the Greater New Bethel Baptist Church pastored by Rev. Chris I. Augustine where I give willingly of myself as: Chairman - Vacation Bible Class; in the Arts & Crafts Department; Chairman - Annual Black History Program; and Vice-President - Senior Choir. I participate in the interdenominational activities with my children at the St. Augustine Catholic Church - New Road, Louisiana and Christ the King Catholic Church - Simmesport, Louisiana.

In 1994, after 33.7 years of service as a public school teacher of elementary grade students, I retired, although I was not tired. I substituted on an as-needed basis at a number of Avoyelles Parish schools until 2001. I participated in the 1991 Kappa's Golden Girl Pageant as an extension of my daily pleasure, that is ... helping my fellow-man by sharing God's Blessings - especially the youth of our communities. The winner of this pageant is really the "YOUTH" that will be served. Thank GOD for Kappa." I was appointed and gladly serve as a member of the Board for the Simmesport Housing Authority.

## *Acknowledging and Remembering School Support Staff*

### Substitute Teachers

Brown, Ethel\*  
Brown, Grace Harrell  
Dubar, Thelma Thomas  
Gilbert, Etta Lou Brown  
Harris, Lou Maudie A.  
Jenkins, Gracie Simon\*  
Jones, Earlene  
Mack, Erma  
Jenkins, Elo V. Benjamin

### Lunchroom Employees

Balden, Pearl\*  
Brooks, Joyce  
Callahan, Louberttha\*  
Cooper, Anna  
Gilbert, Verna Wright  
Johnson, Viola\*  
Jones, Louvenia\*  
Simon, Gussie\*  
Williams, Lizzie

### Custodians

Gilbert, Albert\*  
Brooks, Charley\*  
Franklin, Sr., George  
Gilbert, Joseph C.\*  
Kirk, Manuel  
Overton, James  
Walker, Isaiah

### Bus Drivers

Dalton, Anthony  
Cooper, Ernest\*  
Cooper, Luster\*  
Harrell, Henry  
Mack, Sr., Albert\*  
Washington, Israel  
Washington, Reese\*

### Secretaries

Gilbert, Etta L. Brown  
Harris, Ida Brown\*