



CLASS OF 67

# WEHS Alumni 20th School Reunion held

On June 23-25, 2017, the West End High School Metropolis Chapter hosted WEHS Alumni at their 20th School Reunion at the Holiday Inn in College Park, MD. This year's theme was *Closing the Economic, Social, and Cultural Gap through Education*. The reunion started with a meet and greet on Friday evening.

The Saturday prayer breakfast was quite enjoyable. MC Evelyn Fuller Jordan ('61) was in attendance, along with Robert and Cornelia Wright Reed ('52), who read Scripture and prayed. Nancy Skipwith Smackum ('66) performed the memorial service. Sisters Chris Cole White and Earnestine Cole Gates (Bluestone '70) introduced the dynamic guest speaker, Reverend Justin Williams of Central Baptist Church in Camp Springs, MD. Reverend Williams preached "The Movement" which focused on Scripture taken from Acts 2:41. After the service, Reverend Dr. Vanessa Watson offered a national prayer for peace and unity. After breakfast, the National business meeting was held.

At the Saturday Night Banquet Program, Metropolis Chapter President Percy Williams (Bluestone '70) introduced the Master of Ceremonies Jerry Coleman ('65). Allen Reed Sr. ('48) extended a warm welcome to 130 members and guests. Then Floyd Hayes Jr. gave his musical selection "Amazing Grace", which was followed by invocation and blessing of food by Dr. Erskine Dodson ('67). Sisters Marolyn White Hester and Carolyn White Shovely ('67) shared reflections from the Class of 1967 and Evelyn Fuller Jordan ('61) honored the classmates with trophies as momentums of a 50-year celebration. The 23 returning classmates included

Criscella Johnson Allen (Wilmington NC), Herman Blackwell Jr. (Clarksville VA), Debbie Chandler Boswell (Chase City VA), Frederick Bowers (Richmond, VA), Joyce Smith Burns (Fairburn GA), Lucy Frances Couch (Chase City VA), Queen Jones Dickey (Silver Springs MD), Pastor Erskine Dodson (Indianapolis IN), John Douglas (Chase City VA), Larry Hester (Ft. Washington MD), Marolyn White Hester (Ft. Washington MD), Dennis Hill (East Orange NJ), Betty Pettus Love (Irvington NJ), Ann Garnett Miller (Clarksville VA), Juanita Gayles Pulliam (Chase City VA), Carolyn White Shovely (Roanoke VA), Frances Townes (Irvington NJ), Grace Brown Tucker (Chase City VA), Mary Baskerville Tucker (Boynton VA), William Tucker (Silver Springs MD), Dorothy Douglas Walker (Richmond VA), Percy White (Chase City VA), and Ada Puryear Wilson (Norfolk VA). Glanz Spain Jr. ('62) led the induction into the Sports Hall of Fame for three alumni. They were Larry Hester ('67) for Baseball, Football, and Basketball; Criscella Johnson Allen ('67) for Majorette and Drill Team; and Joe Keeton (Bluestone '71) for Basketball.

Alice Hardy Miller (Bluestone '70) announced scholarship awards for the students\_sponsors. They were Alfrederick Coleman III\_cousin Sharon Hardy '81 (Art Institute of RD); Michala Day\_cousin Ervin Watkins '66 (Longwood); Hikiera Franklin\_aunt Margaret White '66 (Longwood); Terence Hardy\_mother Sharon Hardy '81 (VCU); Damir Hector\_aunt Clara Bacon '68 (Universal Technical Institute); Diamond



Larry Hester, Criscella Allen, Joe Keeton

Jones\_aunt Easter Hector '56 (Morgan State); Deahneece Ridgell\_grand-father Allen Reed Sr. '48 (ODU); Antwaun Tucker\_grandmother Grace Tucker '67 (Longwood); and Ivy Watson\_uncle John Royster '65 (SVC). The students\_sponsors who received the Louis R. Marshall Athletic Scholarship included Khari Chase\_grandmother Annie Pulliam '65 (Ferrum); Tiran Daves\_cousin Odell Boswell Petty '66 (Johnson & Well); Maleek Pulliam\_cousin John Royster '65 (Averett). In attendance were two previous recipients—Miya Hunter Willis and Ariel Alford—who shared reflections on benefits of the scholarship program. Lois Hayes Howerton ('56) made special presentations. A special presentation was made by the 1967 classmates to Ann Garnett Miller who offered much help to her classmates over the years. Jean Skipwith Hargrove ('61) and Nancy Skipwith Smackum ('66) performed the coronation of National King Glenn Reyes (Bluestone) and National Queen Irene Parrish-Reyes ('68). Through fundraising, hard work, and support of many alumni, the Reyes' couple (Clarksville, VA) was able to submit the most donations which will be earmarked as Scholarship funds. The fun-filled evening



Irene Reyes & Glenn Reyes

came to a close with remarks from National President Robert Barnette Jr., (Bluestone '70) followed by socializing and dancing.

The WEHS school reunion wrapped up with Sunday worship service at the Central Baptist Church where Pastor Lincoln M. Burruss Jr. preached "Why We Sing Hymns" from Scripture taken from Colossians 3:16.

There were many expressions of delight and anticipation of the 2018 school reunion which will be hosted by the local chapter in Mecklenburg County, Virginia.