

## West End High School Alumni Gather for the 21<sup>st</sup> National Reunion

On June 22-24, 2018, the West End High School Mecklenburg Chapter hosted WEHS Alumni at their 21<sup>st</sup> School Reunion at the Clarksville Community Center. This year's theme was *Still Pushing Forward*.

After the social event on Friday evening, where more than 120 people reunited in a warm welcome, an inspirational prayer breakfast took place on Saturday. Reverend Kenyatta Evans, Pastor of Jerusalem Temple United Holy Church, was the guest speaker. There were about 75 people in attendance.

At the Saturday Night Banquet & Awards Program, Betty Blackwell ('65) extended a warm welcome to more than 190 members and guests. After the National President Robert Barnette's ('70) introductions, Anthony Gayles ('69) offered Invocation and blessings of a delicious meal prepared by Salt & Pepper Caterers.

The Class of '68 had 41 returning classmates who were honored on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration. Former Class President Garland Carter reflected on past events. John Royster ('65) assisted Robert Barnette in awarding plaques to the returning alumni.



The classmates included Clara Marrow Bacon (Clarksville), Martha Hayes Barbosa (Bronx, NY), Clarence Blackwell (Chase City), Madeline Rainey Broadie (Richmond, VA), Elaine Fields Bullock (Clarksville), Carolyn Smith Burwell (Franklin, VA), Mary Hayes Byrd (Clarksville), Garland Carter (Richmond, VA), Randolph Cole (Clarksville), Eddie Coleman (Walkersville, MD), Annette Farrar Dudley (Dayton, OH), Patricia Pulliam Fuller (Clarksville), Brenda Walker Gillis (Chase City), Linda Mosley Gordon (Occoquan, VA), Joyce Hardy (Clarksville), Johnny Hargrove (Clarksville), Marie O. Small Harris (Henderson, NC), Clara Pettus Harrison (Richmond, VA), Lawrence "Larry" Hayes (Chase City), Edward B. Hayes III (Mechanicsville, VA), Muriel C. Hester (Henderson, NC), Janet Williams Jiggett (Boydton), Rosa Gillispie Mangum (Herndon, VA), Virgie J. Murray (Clarksville), Abner Overby (Skipwith), Wilma Johnson Palmer (Chase City), Viola Davis Reavis (Orange, NJ), Irene Parrish Reyes

(Clarksville), Matilda Sanford Richardson (Virgilina, VA), Nell Hargrove Richardson (Boydton), Bertha L. Bowers Sinclair (Philadelphia, PA), Betty Hargrove Taylor (Henderson, NC), Alvin Thomas (Clarksville), Theresa Robinson Thornton (Augusta, GA), Peggy Boyd Tisdale, Andrew W. Townes (Dale City, VA), Brenda Brown Walker (South Hill), Lucille Russell Watson (Chase City), Nadine Burwell White (Richmond, VA), and Linda Brown Williams (Boydton).

George Lancaster Jr. ('62) was assisted by Glanzy Spain Jr. ('62) in the inductions into the Sports Hall of Fame for 7 alumni. They were James Bowers, Madeline Rainey Broadie ('68), Harry Byrd ('65); Nell Bowers Dobbins; Anthony Gayles ('68); Edward Hayes III ('68); Muriel Hester ('68); Rosa Gillispie Mangum ('68); and William Piercy Sr. ('69).

Alice Hardy Miller (Bluestone '70) announced scholarship awards for 14 students. The students present for the presentations were Tiran Daves (Johnson & Wales University), Terrence Hardy (Virginia Commonwealth University), KerraLena Jackson (Johnson & Wales University), Kelcey Parks, Jr. (Baylor University), Bailey Vick (Kearn University), Diamond Watson (Old Dominion University), and Ivy Watson (Southside Community College). Scholarship recipients who were not present included Khari Chase (Ferrum College), Michala Day (Longwood University), Tajeon Dixon (Regent University), Bryant Jacox, Jr. (Bryant & Stratton College), Essence Pulliam (Averett University)-also received the Lewis R. Marshall Athletic Scholarship, Malaysia Rawlings (Radford University), and Destiny Staten (John Hopkins University).



Former King Glenn ('73) and Queen Irene Reyes ('68) participated in the coronation of National King Clarence Blackwell ('68) and National Queen Brenda Walker Gillis ('68). Through fundraising, hard work, and support of many alumni, the King & Queen (Chase City, VA) was able to submit the most donations which will be earmarked as scholarship funds.

The fun-filled evening came to a close with remarks from National President Robert Barnette Jr. ('70), followed by socializing and dancing.

The WEHS school reunion wrapped up with Sunday worship service at the St. John Baptist Church in Buffalo Junction where Pastor DeMario Covington preached the 5<sup>th</sup> part of his series on *The Challenge in Changing for Christ\_What will it cost me?*. His scripture was taken from Luke 18:14.

We are looking forward to the 2019 school reunion which will be hosted by the Richmond Chapter. Check out the website [www.wehsnaa.org](http://www.wehsnaa.org) for details.