

Welcome to the  
**ALEXANDRIA AFRICAN AMERICAN HALL OF FAME**

Unveiling of the

*Parker-Gray School*  
Memorial Walkway

*1920*



*2020*

**Saturday, October 24, 2020**

**Charles Houston Recreation Center**  
901 Wythe St. • Alexandria, VA

Dedicated to  
**"THE FUTURE GENERATION"**

*Legacy Matters*



1920  
*Parker-Gray* Faculty



**FRONT ROW** (left to right):

Reverend A.W. Adkins  
Henry T. White  
Laura Dorsey  
Rozier D. Lyles  
James E. Howard

**BACK ROW** (left to right):

Mayme Anderson  
Margaret Young  
Florence Murray  
Harriet E. Thornton  
Susie Madden  
Sarah D. Gray

# Program



## MASTER OF CEREMONIES

**Eugene Thompson**

Former Director, Alexandria Black History Museum

Invocation ..... **Donald C. Hayes**  
Pastor, Oakland Baptist Church

Welcome ..... **Justin Wilson**  
Mayor, City of Alexandria

Reflections ..... **Julian “Butch” Haley Jr.**  
Chairman, Alexandria African American Hall of Fame

Guest Speaker..... **Bonnie Bracey Sutton**  
Teacher and Technology Consultant

Greetings ..... **Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings Jr.**  
Superintendent, Alexandria City Public Schools

Closing Remarks..... **Eugene Thompson**

This program will be available on [alexandriafricanamericanhalloffame.org](http://alexandriafricanamericanhalloffame.org)  
under Unveiling of the Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway.

DONALD S. BEYER JR.  
8TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
(VICE-CHAIR)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4608**

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
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1901 N. MOORE STREET  
SUITE 1108  
ARLINGTON, VA 22209

October 14, 2020

“Paving Our History” – Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame Project and City of Alexandria  
c/o Office of the Mayor  
301 King Street,  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson,

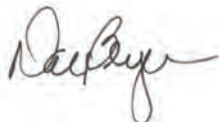
I write to honor the 100th anniversary of Alexandria’s Parker-Gray High School. I join the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame and Parker-Gray Alumni in commemorating this historical legacy at the Charles H. Houston Recreation Center.

Beginning in September of 1920, the Alexandria’s Parker-Gray High School provided African American children with a comprehensive education when segregation and lack of resources threatened this fundamental right of every child. The school helped the City of Alexandria by serving and educating countless students. These experiences will forever be a part of City – in the hearts of alumni, residents, and visitors.

The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, the many Parker-Gray alumni, and communities worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of their forebearers. The African American Hall of Fame was created so that it would be both informational and inspirational – where it would serve as a point of historical reference for future generations. The “Paving Our History” Memorial Walkway Project was launched on March 3, 2020 to recognize the Black men and women who attended Parker-Gray School and made remarkable achievements in the face of tremendous odds. The Paving Our History Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway event offers an opportunity to honor everyone who has worked to preserve the legacy of such a remarkable part of Virginia’s history.

During these times of great change, may we continue to recognize the achievements of the men and women who came before us. May the legacy of Parker-Gray High School live on for another 100 years!

Sincerely,



Don Beyer Jr.  
Member of Congress

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER



October 5, 2020

Justin M. Wilson, Mayor  
City of Alexandria, Virginia  
301 King Street, Suite 2300  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Dear Mayor Wilson:

I am pleased to offer congratulations to the City of Alexandria and its African-American Hall of Fame for recognizing Parker-Gray High School and to mark 100 years of its existence in the Alexandria community.

It is incredibly important that we highlight John Parker and Sarah Gray for their courage and commitment to raise the quality of education for African-Americans. Today, Parker-Gray stands not only as a reminder of how far we have come but also the work that remains for each of us to do.

I celebrate with you and extend my best wishes to the people of Alexandria.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Kaine', written in a cursive style.

Timothy M. Kaine



UNITED STATES SENATOR  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

October 24, 2020

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to all who are gathered to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Alexandria's Parker-Gray High School with the unveiling of the memorial walkway.

This celebration provides a time to reflect on the history of educating African American children in the City of Alexandria. While the buildings no longer exist, the memories remain intact for alumni, parents, and teachers. In the time of segregation when a lack of resources for African American schools was the norm, the teachers and parents of Parker-Gray High School worked together to provide a quality education for these students, who went on to contribute so much to the community and the Commonwealth. May this walkway with personalized bricks serve as a reminder of this history and as a tribute to the Alexandria residents that worked to make education available to all of the community's children.

On this important occasion, I send my best wishes for a successful and fulfilling ceremony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark R. Warner".

MARK R. WARNER  
United States Senator



*City of Alexandria, Virginia*  
*301 King Street, Suite 2300*  
*Alexandria, Virginia 22314*



Justin M. Wilson  
Mayor

Office: 703.746.4500  
Fax: 703.838.6433  
justin.wilson@alexandriava.gov

October 24, 2020

To: Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame Project, for  
The Parker-Gray 100th Anniversary Memorial Walkway

**Re: "Paving Our History & Preserving the Legacy"**

It is a great pleasure and honor today to mark this centenary milestone achievement by Parker-Gray High School.

Congratulations.

At a time when African American citizens – whether they be child, student, or adult – were marginalized by society, state and city, Parker-Gray set a precious example of and for humanity through providing an education to those who sought it.

Established in 1920, thousands of Alexandria students learned on its campus, and they have brought the lessons learned from within its walls to the City of Alexandria, and afar.

For all whom have attended and graduated from Parker-Gray this is a most fitting and worthy occasion. Today, more than ever, Parker-Gray's mission started 100 years ago must be recognized and advocated throughout our City and beyond.

Once again, please accept my sincerest congratulations.

Justin M. Wilson  
Mayor



# "Legacy Matters"



**ROBERT N. DAWKINS, FOUNDER**  
Alexandria African American Hall of Fame

The Father of Black History Month, Dr. Carter G. Woodson said if a race has no recorded history, its achievements and legacy will be forgotten, and be claimed by someone else.

All legacies have a beginning, the year 1920 can be considered the beginning of one of the greatest eras of African American children, who attended Parker-Gray school, which opened that year for children in grades one through eight.

The bittersweet legend of this landmark area begins with the story of a school Parker-Gray, that while lacking in the most basic resources and supplies produced some of our nation's most iconic pioneers.

Unfortunately for many African American who reside in Alexandria, our history is reflected in what we don't see. Today we honor and remember Alexandrians that not only touched lives, but generations of all people.

Alexandria is a community so full of significant African American history, and extraordinary people from humble and modest beginnings, who are not adequately recognized for their accomplishments and contributions to local and national history...our history is far stronger than you expect.

Many Parker-Gray alumni have worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of their forbears. The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame and the City of Alexandria, would like to express our deepest appreciation to the many contributors who help make this historical "Paving Our History" Memorial Brick Walkway Project" commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Parker-Gray school a success.

Nowhere else in Alexandria is there a single thoroughfare which registers such historical significance to the local African American resident, as the newly named Parker-Gray Way.

We hope you are as proud as we are to be involved in this worthwhile and enriching endeavor, that will not only be informational but inspirational as well and be a point of reference for future generations.

We can be assured that the Memorial Walkway coupled with our history and new-found stories, will be remembered by generations and enable them to persevere with dignity.



## *Generations of History*

As the 100<sup>th</sup> year Anniversary of Parker-Gray School was approaching, the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame founder Mr. Robert Dawkins initiated a brick project titled Paving Our History the Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway to honor the legacy of Parker-Gray School.

As the chairman of the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, overseeing and working on the Paving Our History Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway, the past six months has been a very rewarding, educational, and historical experience to say the least.

In my family, I am the 5<sup>th</sup> generation and not only have I learned a great deal of rich history unbeknownst to me about my own family, I also learned so much about the history and lives of so many other fellow Alexandrians.

Through the countless hours of contact and conversations with numerous people, I have experienced many stories and compliments from people such as “This is a great idea”, “I am happy to share in the Parker-Gray legacy” and “This is long overdue” just to name a few. It reminds me of the rich African American history during that period of time in Alexandria. Despite all of the adversity endured, African Americans still managed to overcome and succeed in their respective professions and life.

With what we are experiencing in our country today and Alexandria, we still have many obstacles to overcome. This project is so much more than just the number of bricks laid on the walkway, it is a strong historical legacy that will benefit visitors, community and future generations to come.

As our saying in the Hall of Fame states “When You Know Your History, You Know Your Greatness”.

This project has taught me to know my greatness and I strongly encourage everyone of you to know yours.

Julian “Butch” Haley, Jr.

Chairman Alexandria African American Hall of Fame

P.O. Box 1051  
Alexandria, VA 22313  
571-217-9951

Email: [aaahalloffame13@gmail.com](mailto:aaahalloffame13@gmail.com) Website: [www.alexandriaafricanamericanhalloffame.org](http://www.alexandriaafricanamericanhalloffame.org)



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@ACPSk12  
facebook.com/ACPSk12

**Superintendent**  
Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

**School Board**

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Christopher A. Suarez  
Heather Thornton

September 25, 2020

On behalf of Alexandria City Public Schools, I am honored to write in support of the Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway. The theme for the unveiling ceremony is fitting, *“Paving Our History, How Far Have We Really Come,”* at a time when our Nation is faced with the dual pandemic of racial inequities and COVID-19. To understand our history in Alexandria is the first step in combating the issues we have long-faced in our community to ensure that we have equity for all.

As September 6, 2020 marked the 100th anniversary of the opening of The Snowden School and the Hallowell School for Girls — the first public schools for black children in the City of Alexandria — later consolidated into the Parker-Gray School, we recognize the many contributions of those that came before us.

In commemorating this historical location in our City, we must acknowledge that this is far more than the story of the building. It is the story of the people of that school who overcame adversity, racism, bigotry and neglect when many odds were against them. In spite of these horrific conditions, many went on to become champions for equity and civil rights and bequeathed us a legacy that we are trying to live up to today.

Some, like Ferdinand T. Day — civil rights icon, education pioneer and trailblazer — went on to make history and are now a name emblazoned on the front of one of our elementary schools. Day became the first African American to be elected chair of a public school board in Virginia, just ten years after the Brown versus Board of Education decision. He was one of those Parker-Gray students who had to walk miles through D.C. every day just to attend high school. It was through the Secret Seven — a group that led the fight for civil rights — that Alexandria slowly began to change. We know that it is our duty to carry on their legacy. It is our duty to refuse to give up on any student and continue the legacy to fight for an equitable education for all.

Our goal has to be to make equity a pillar in our community, and to do that we must acknowledge our inequities and also understand the history within our city that has contributed to the barriers that many of our young people are faced with today in Alexandria City Public Schools, especially students of color. In order for equity to be the pillar of our community, we must always remember our history and be willing to acknowledge the good, the bad, and the ugly. *“When we know our history, we know our greatness,”* is a phrase that was shared with me by one of the Parker-Gray alumnae.

We are fortunate to live, play and learn in a City rich in history where we can embrace our past with the 100th anniversary of Parker-Gray. Let this walkway be a symbol of the path that will lead us forward and let us embrace our African American history and vow to do better. Let us promise to unapologetically tear down the barriers that prevent all of our young people from being the best they can possibly be. And let us take a stand, collaborate and, most of all, support each other in this work.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.  
Superintendent of Schools

**Gloria Harris**  
Treasurer

**Terease Dixon**  
Church Clerk

## *Oakland Baptist Church*

3408 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22302  
***Pastor Don Hayes***  
(703) 998-9006 • (703) 671-4122 Fax  
[www.obcalexandriava.org](http://www.obcalexandriava.org)

**Larry Harris**  
Chairman Deacon Ministry

**Gloria Hayes**  
**Joyce Lipscomb**  
Chair Deaconess Ministry

September 24, 2020

As Pastor of Oakland Baptist Church, I have had the pleasure of listening to our members recount the memories of their days at Parker-Gray school. Through their stories, I was able to visualize how far we have really come. In a recent Alexandria Times article, our member, Arminta Wood, who is a long-time resident of Alexandria and very knowledgeable of the history and progress of African Americans in Alexandria, shared

“The recent hiring of a race and social equity officer by the City of Alexandria to ensure that policy decisions advance race and social equity for all Alexandrians is a visible step in our goal to become a more equitable community.”

Having said that, we still have a long way to go. Fortunately, progress does not end here and we all have to strive for a better tomorrow.

*Donald C. Hayes, Pastor*

*“To know God, follow Christ and share by the Spirit’s Power”*

October 5, 2020

The Alexandria African American  
Hall of Fame  
P.O. Box 1051  
Alexandria, VA 22313

To the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame:

It is with sincere gratitude, excitement and humility that I submit this letter of congratulations for the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Parker-Gray School.

The history of the African American experience in Alexandria, Virginia, is rich with accomplishments, and the Parker-Gary School contributed mightily to that history and experience.

On behalf of the Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority, which served as home to many of the students who attended Parker-Gray, I salute this monumental celebration and its historic significance for the African American community.

Sincerely,

Keith Pettigrew  
CEO ARHA



Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley, Pastor

October 14, 2020

Alexandria African American Hall of Fame  
PO Box 1051  
Alexandria VA 22313

Alfred Street Baptist Church congratulates the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame on the completion of the Paving Our History Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway. The completion of this walkway will preserve not only the rich history of the Alexandria community, but will illuminate the legacy of the great giants of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church. We are excited and proud that the Paving Our History Parker-Gray Memorial Walkway will highlight the contributions of the resilient, Rev. Andrew Warren Adkins (1920 -1963), the longest serving pastor of Alfred Street Baptist Church and other historic members. Rev. Adkins extended the church's educational legacy by helping to create and then teach the first high school curriculum for black students in the city's public school system.

Established in 1803, Alfred Street Baptist Church is home to the oldest and largest African American congregation in Alexandria, Virginia. With over 10,000 members, the church serves as a prominent religious, educational and cultural organization in the Northern Virginia community.

It is our hope and prayer that the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame will continue its work in preserving the history and the vision of Mr. Robert Dawkins, its founder.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Howard-John Wesley  
Senior Pastor

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325 South Patrick Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
703.683.2222 ■ [www.alfredstreet.org](http://www.alfredstreet.org)



## ALEXANDRIA BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

Office of Historic Alexandria

902 Wythe Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Phone: 703.746.4356

Fax: 703.706.3999

[alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory](http://alexandriava.gov/BlackHistory)

September 25, 2020

Alexandria African American Hall of Fame  
Parker-Gray 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration  
c/o Charles Houston Recreation Center  
901 Wythe Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

To Members of Alexandria's African American Hall of Fame Initiative:

The legacy and memory of the Parker-Gray School is a vital part of the history of the City of Alexandria. Since its founding in 1920, as a segregated school and high school and ending as an integrated middle school, Parker-Gray's impact should never be underestimated. While the pandemic has prevented a larger Parker-Gray 100th Anniversary celebration, we cannot let this landmark occasion go without acknowledgement and well-deserved accolades!

Named after beloved educators Sarah A. Gray, principal of the Hallowell School for Girls, and John Parker, principal of the Snowden School for Boys, the 1920 Parker-Gray School building was an important site on Wythe Street for the African American community. The School represented the continuing fight by formerly enslaved women and men of Alexandria to ensure future generations had the chance to acquire knowledge and gain their place in American society, a society their ancestors built with many lives being sacrificed in the process.

The Parker-Gray faculty nurtured an amazing student body, whose achievements were made possible due to the hard work and dedication of the school staff. These faculty worked in an environment that was separate and always unequal. Still, they made their students feel valued, despite the obstacles all African Americans faced during segregation. As a result, Parker-Gray students grew up to have impressive careers in medicine, law, education, politics, science, entertainment, and professional sports, and had an impact both locally and nationally.

It is a testament to the power of education and the spirit of the school's alumni that we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of Parker-Gray in 2020. Black Lives have always Mattered and in 2020, we are honoring the lives, past and present that created a one-of-a-kind school. Parker-Gray's lasting impact on Alexandria will now be known and understood by a wider audience. The celebration and new signage at the site add a critical chapter to Alexandria's African American history.

Best regards,

Audrey P. Davis  
Director

*The Watson Reading Room  
Alexandria African American Heritage Park*



October 1, 2020

The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame  
901 Wythe St.  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Colleagues,

Congratulations to the African American Hall of Fame for spearheading the 100th-anniversary celebration of Parker-Gray High School. The new commemorative brick sidewalk is a visible reminder of Parker-Gray High School's prominence in the life of the African American community and in our city's segregation and civil rights history. It will add to and complement the Black history sites in the historic Parker-Gray neighborhood, including the Hall of Fame just inside the Charles Houston Recreation Center. At a time when Black history is more important than ever, you continue to literally pave the way for Black history to be acknowledged and celebrated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Washington".

Patricia Washington  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
Visit Alexandria

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Eugene R. Thompson  
October 24, 2020

Friends of Parker-Gray,

Growing up in the 500 block of South Pitt Street one of the first things that I was aware of was the red brick of the sidewalks. Before I could walk, the bricks became my playground. Later those bricks led our family, friends, and teachers to this site. Many of the names you see here tell one hundred years of the history of African Americans in Alexandria. Not every name is a well-known name, but each one played an important role just by being a part of the history of this city. Many have not only contributed to change in Alexandria but to the nation.

It is my honor to celebrate with you the dedication of this memorial walkway in the One Hundredth Year of the Parker-Gray School.

Eugene R. Thompson, Former Director  
Alexandria Black History Resource Center



# “Principals Matter”



## **Henry T. White / 1920 -1928**

Mr. Henry T. White was the first principal at Snowden School for Boys, who became the first principal of Parker-Gray Elementary School. Prior to the construction of Parker-Gray School, he was also the only man to serve as principal of the Hallowell School for Girls. Mr. White had a two-year course Wayland Seminary (later Union University) after finishing Christiansburg Industrial School, but he did not have what would be called a college education. In 1928, Mr. White was replaced by Mr. Wesley D. Elam. Mr. White lived at 511 North Henry Street, beginning 1903, and he later moved to 1012 Pendleton Street around 1910, where he lived until his death in 1950.

## **Wesley D. Elam / 1927-1938**

Mr. Wesley D. Elam was hired by Superintendent R.C. Bowton in 1927 to be the principal of the Parker-Gray School. He would be the first principal of a Negro School with a full degree. Elam received his bachelor's degree from Hampton University and master's degree from Columbia University, while working at Parker-Gray School. Mr. Elam was a very outspoken principal and disappointed the superintendent by not accepting an equal salary for himself, while not getting it for all teachers. During the summer of 1938, Mr. Elam was dismissed, and Mr. William H. Pitts, Sr. was hired as the principal of Parker-Gray School.



## **William H. Pitts Sr. / 1938-1965**

Mr. Pitts was the staunch captain at the helm from 1938 until 1965, valiantly pressing on at the forefront of the struggles to educate the Negro/Colored/African American students of Alexandria – despite not having many of the necessities and amenities a public school needed. It was through Mr. Pitts' indefatigable efforts as an educator and administrator that Parker-Gray came to be recognized as an outstanding institution of learning and one unequaled in athletic competition, in the city of Alexandria and the Commonwealth of Virginia

The Pitts Administration at Parker-Gray will be remembered for: outstanding advances in curriculum expansion; combating racial segregation and inequities; attaining equal opportunities in education; and constant amelioration of students and teachers.



## PARKER-GRAY FACULTY: 1920–1965

**Wesley D. Elam, Principal**

**Sarah Gray – Teacher & Principal**

**John Parker – Teacher & Principal**

**William H. Pitts, Principal**

**Henry T. White, Principal**

Mary E. Tunstall Adams – English/Social Studies

A.W. Adkins – Tenth Grade

Mayme Anderson

Susie E. Anderson – Science

Arthur W. Bracey, Sr. – Vocational

Janie Brown – Third Grade/Fourth Grade

Edith Burton

Marie T. Butler – First Grade

Alfred D. Carter – Biology

Edith W. Casey – English

Flora W. Chase – Commercial

Dr. Arthur C. Dawkins – Music

Helen L. Day – Seventh Grade

Bernice W. Diggs – Opportunity

Laura M. Dorsey

Dr. Mary Alice Franklin Hatwood Futrell, PhD

Ellen Carter Goods – Third Grade

Loretta Hall – Art Teacher

Alice Lewis Holland – Secretary

Ferris Holland – Ninth Grade

James E. Howard

Mayme Wilkins Holt – English

Earleen Lockett-Hughes

Louis R.W. Johnson – Physical Education

Rubye Johnson – Physical Education

Dorothy P. Key – Librarian

Edith W. Keys – Eighth Grade

Mrs. King – Business

Rozier D. Lyles – Sixth Grade

Susie Madden

Sarah Mickie – Eleventh Grade

Thelma L. Mickens – Second Grade

Alma P. Murray

Florence Murray

Elise Newman – Second Grade

Edward L. Patterson – Music

Cortelyou W. Payne – Music

Bernice J. Perry – Seventh Grade

Evelyn Powell

Charles Price – Social Studies

Julia Prichett – Fourth Grade

Elizabeth Quarles – Business

George Rollins – English

Jube B. Shiver, Sr. – Physics

Lucille Smith – Third Grade

Mabel Lee Smith – Math

Ruby E. Smith – Home Economics

Geraldine Stevenson – Seventh Grade

Harriet Thornton

Arnold Thurman – Industrial Education

Hollis Williams – Science

Margaret Young



## Graduation Class of 1936



## Graduation Class of 1965



# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## THE LEGACY OF PARKER-GRAY HIGH SCHOOL

### “When the Doors Closed, We Were Prepared for the Future”

Remarks by Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell

Members of the class of 1965, Mayor Eulle, friends, and guests, good evening. It is wonderful to see so many of you here tonight and I know that you, too, are overjoyed to be here. Some of you have stayed in contact with each other over the last five decades, and some of you have not seen each other for 50 years!

Thank you also for inviting members of the Parker-Gray high school faculty and staff to be here- Mr. Arthur Dawkins and Mrs. Edith Burton are here as well as Mrs. Alice Lewis Holland, who was a secretary at P-G. It is wonderful to see all of you.

We are reunited this weekend, and as Peaches and Herb sang (and I promise I won't sing to you):

Reunited and it feels so good  
Reunited 'cause we understood  
There's one perfect fit  
And sugar, Parker-Gray was it.  
We all are so excited  
'Cause we're reunited, Hey, Hey, Hey!!

Allow me to thank the reunion organizing committee and everyone else who was involved in organizing this event—I understand that this is your third reunion--- You got together for your 25th, 40th, and now 50th Anniversary!! That's impressive!! Congratulations!

Let me also thank the committee for tonight's theme: “When the doors closed, we were prepared for the future.” That theme speaks volumes about the legacy of Parker-Gray High school.

As I reflected on what to say this evening, I remembered when I first came to Parker-Gray in the spring of 1962 from Virginia State College to do my student teaching internship. My supervising teacher was Mrs. Flora Chase. We became friends and remained so until her passing a few years ago.

Later that spring when I graduated from VSC, I could not find a teaching position because there was such a huge surplus of teachers. So, I got a job working as a secretary in the U.S. Department of Commerce.

One day I received a call from Mrs. Chase asking me if I was still interested in teaching because a vacancy had opened at Parker-Gray, and she wanted to recommend me for it, I said , “YES!” I applied and about a month later, Mr. Pitts, our principal, called and told me that I had the job. I joined the faculty in the fall of 1963.

I remember the strong positive atmosphere in the school --- academically, culturally, and socially, or as one of your classmates said, “the nerds, the jocks, and those who simply did their own thing!” The teachers were dedicated and well prepared to teach the students to ensure that they received a high-quality

education, whether in the academic, general or vocational program. Each student was encouraged, even pushed to meet high expectations.

I remember the culture in the school being one of students working together to help each other. Students also showed great respect for their teachers, such as Mr. Thurmond, Atkins, Hollis, and Carter: Ms. Burton, Chase, Green, and Hall as well as other school staff. Teachers often stayed after school to help students who were struggling academically and/or to counsel them if they needed support. And, yes, we often visited our students' homes to meet their families.

1963-1965 were two years of transition for Parker-Gray High School, for the entire school system as it finally desegregated. As all of you recall, the schools in the state of Virginia were still segregated 10 years after the Brown decision was handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court.

That last year, 1964-65, was one filled with anxiety as the City implemented its strategy to integrate the schools. Among the students and faculty there was uncertainty, sometimes resentment; for others excitement. Some students voluntarily left Parker-Gray during the early phase of the desegregation process. Other students stayed until the entire system was mandatorily desegregated in 1965.

Some went to Hammond and GW; others went to T.C. Williams, the new high school. Parker-Gray, as everyone in this room knows, became a middle school, and continued to exist until 1979, when it was torn down. I must confess and say to you that I strongly believe that P-G should not have been torn down; that it should have been maintained as a school, as a bedrock not only in the African American community it served, but for the City, this whole region.

Despite the fact that Parker-Gray may not have always had the resources other City schools had, it still excelled at providing a quality education for children in this city, especially African American students.

When we look back on the history of Parker-Gray, which was founded in 1920 (and by the way, was named after a man and a woman), its legacy is more than impressive, it is phenomenal. The student population it served was very mixed economically, socially, politically, and culturally, but every student had the opportunity and the right to earn a quality education. Some probably never thought they would go to high school, much less college, but they did and they succeeded.

When we reflect on Parker-Gray history, just look at the class of 1965. In June of 1965, 73 of you walked across the stage as graduates---- The last graduating class of Parker-Gray High School. That night I am sure most of you did not know where you would be in 10, 20, and certainly not 50 years. But, look at where you are today. You have graduates working at all levels of the government, military men and women, as well as other public employee positions. You also have classmates who have gone on to become doctors, lawyers, judges, business leaders, politicians, etc. Many of you were probably told you could not succeed educationally. You may even have questioned yourself as to whether you should stay in school; whether you could succeed. But, you did not give up. And, when someone said you couldn't; you showed them that you could! You are Parker-Gray high school ---- The P-G legacy lives on in each of you.

Today, Alexandria, the state of Virginia, and the United States are more equitable for all of us---- Politically, economically, educationally, and socially---- Because somebody in Alexandria was bold enough to stand up for your rights and the rights of future generations to be educated.

And it all started at Parker-Gray high school. As your generation and previous generations stood on the shoulders of those giants who preceded you. To paraphrase the book of Deuteronomy (6:10-12):

We build on foundations we did not lay.  
We drink from wells we did not dig.  
We profit from persons we did not know.  
And, we stand on the shoulders of those who pioneered,  
paved the way, and labored for all that we enjoy today!

As we look back on the doors closing, we must also look forward; look at what the future will be as new doors open.

It is predicted that future generations will change jobs 10-12 times before they retire. This generation and future generations must be educated to adapt to a changing workforce, an increasingly knowledge-based, technological global society. It's called a society that is not stationary but mobile, constantly evolving,

Fifty years ago when you graduated from Parker-Gray High School, we were competing with people across the Commonwealth of Virginia. Our sons and daughters competed with people across the United States. Today and in the future, our grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be competing with people around the world.

Further, as you have probably heard, it is predicted that by 2050, a majority of all Americans will be racial or ethnic minorities and many will be poor. Alexandria City Public Schools are already overwhelmingly a majority minority and many of the students come from families living in poverty, even though Alexandria is considered economically affluent. Every single child in this great city, the City of Alexandria, needs and deserves to be highly educated; educated not just for today, but for the future.

Some of you are probably thinking to yourself, "I am in my 60's retired (or thinking about retiring), and my kids are grown, what does this have to do with me, with our reunion?"

It has everything to do with us strengthening the foundation those giants—like Mr. John Parker and Mrs. Sarah Gray and all the teachers, counselors, coaches, community leaders, etc.—built generations ago and on which you and I are still standing today. It has to do with our legacy, not just for ourselves, personally, but for our communities, our nation, and yes for the legacy of Parker-Gray High School.

As a part of that legacy, I want to ask each of you to reach back and share your story. Reach back and help our young people value education and understand that they, too, are part of the Parker-Gray legacy; they too can transform themselves through education.

It starts here with each of you encouraging members of your families and communities to respect and support each other, to believe in themselves and to value the role that education has played and will continue to play in defining their lives and future of America. Share with them how you were able to overcome obstacles in your lives. Encourage and mentor them to dream and to earn the education they need to realize their dreams.

I have every faith that the Parker-Gray alumni, especially the class of 1965, will continue to not simply survive, but thrive. Let's make sure the shoulders on which future generations stand will be even stronger, sturdier for them! So, let us ensure Parker-Gray's legacy lives on through future generations by keeping the doors of educational opportunity open for them as they were opened for you---and by reaching back and helping each child, we can open those doors even wider!

May God continue to bless each of you, and I hope that we will see each other again soon! Hail Parker-Gray High School!

# ALEXANDRIA AFRICAN-AMERICAN HALL OF FAME

*"When you know your history, you know your greatness."*

## True or False – Test Your Knowledge

1. George Lewis Seaton was the first African-American elected to the Virginia General Assembly from Alexandria in 1869.  True  False
2. The Cross family from Alexandria, Virginia is one of only two known families that has three generations to win Championship of America Titles at the prestigious Penn Relays.  True  False
3. Dr. James Carpenter was the first African-American quarterback to play in the Rose Bowl. He opened a family practice in Alexandria and coached football at Parker-Gray High School.  True  False
4. Dr. Thea James, a native Alexandrian, was selected to serve on the *National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence* by the Obama Administration.  True  False
5. Earl Cook, Alexandria native, has accumulated an impressive lists of "firsts:" the honor of being one of the first Black basketball players at West Virginia University, the first African-American coach of any sport at Duke University (1971), and the first coach of the Washington Mystics in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA).  True  False
6. Arthur C. Dawkins, the extraordinary music educator who graduated from segregated Alexandria City Public Schools in 1952, became a vice principal at T.C. Williams High School.  True  False
7. Marie Bradby is a native Alexandrian and award-winning journalist and children's author who won the International Reading Association Award for her fictionalized account of Booker T. Washington's childhood struggle to learn to read.  True  False
8. John O. Peterson was teh resilient pastor of the historic Alfred Street Baptist Church for 43 years (1920-1963).  True  False
9. In 1990, community activist Thomas "Pete" Jones met with President George H.W. Bush to rid public housing units of Alexandria of drugs.  True  False
10. Harry Burke was the first director of what is now the Alexandria Black History Museum. During his leadership, he chronicled the history of the African-American community, during a time Black history was largely ignored.  True  False
11. James Raby, the outstanding civil rights attorney, organized a "sit-down strike" protest in 1939 at the Alexandria Pulic Library, which did not issue library cards to Black residents.  True  False
12. Leo Brooks is the Parker-Gray graduate who served in the U.S. Army, reaching the rank of major general, and has two sons who are also U.S. Army generals – the only African-American family which has three generals.  True  False
13. LaChina Robinson was an outstanding basketball player at T.C. Williams High School. She was an academic all-American while attending the University of Virginia and is the first female player to have her jersey retired by the University.  True  False
14. Fedinand Day was the first African-American chairman of a public school board in Virginia when he became the chairman of the Alexandria School Board in 1964. A T.C. Williams High School cafeteria and a street in Alexandria were named in his honor.  True  False
15. Louis R. Johnson began his dynasty as the Parker-Gray's head basketball coach in 1950. Johnson won three consecutive Virginia State basketball championships from 1955-1957.  True  False

16. Judy Belk, a T.C. Williams High School graduate, is the recipient of several state and national awards as a writer and speaker on organizational ethics, race and social change and has over 25 years experience in family philanthropy as the director of the Rockefeller Foundation.  True  False
17. The Reverend George Parker holds the distinction of being the first African-American in 1870 to serve on the Alexandria City Council.  True  False
18. Ferris Holland, the enthusiastic educator worked at Parker-Gray High School for 30 years, exclusively helped form and finance the girls athletic programs in the 1930-1940's when there was no public funding for female sports.  True  False
19. Dr. Rutherford H. Adkins is the distinguished Parker-Gray alumnus who was a pilot with the Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, and was named the 11<sup>th</sup> President of Fisk University.  True  False
20. Charles Price, an Alexandria native and Parker-Gray alumnus, became the first Black head coach in the state of Virginia at Langley High School following desegregation.  True  False
21. Carlton Funn, a native Alexandrian, is the first Alexandria Black History Museum Director, and developed the Alexandria Black Heritage Park and Watson Reading Room.  True  False
22. Keith Burns, an Alexandrian, was the 210<sup>th</sup> player chosen in the 1994 NFL draft who played 12 years in the NFL, and was a key player on the 1997 and 1998 Super Bowl teams.  True  False
23. William D. Eulle, an Alexandria native, holds the honor of being Alexandria's first African-American mayor.  True  False
24. Ira Robinson was selected as the first African-American chairman of a public school board in the Commonwealth of Virginia, when he became Chairman of the Alexandria School Board in 1964.  True  False
25. The Honorable Judge Nolan B. Dawkins served as the chief judge of the Alexandria Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court, and became Alexandria's first African-American Circuit Court Judge.  True  False
26. Andrew Winfree, Parker-Gray graduate and U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major (retired), wrote the book *Fire It*, which chronicled the history of African-American artillery units in WWII.  True  False
27. Lilly Finklea, an Alexandria resident helped protect a Civil War gravesite for African-American "freedmen." In 2007, City mitigated funds were used to preserve the cemetery.  True  False
28. Alfred Carter joined the Parker-Gray faculty as a shop teacher. He and his wife, Miriam, opened Peoples Flower Shop in Alexandria in 1948. That same year, he also established Brace's Electric. He selected Parker-Gray students and mentored them in his electrician's apprenticeship program.  True  False
29. Olander Banks, a native Alexandrian, in the 1950's built an auto parts business, considered the largest in the Washington DC area. In 2001, he donated his 10-acre property in Fairfax County to the Parks Authority.  True  False
30. Edward Hernandez, a 1965 Parker-Gray High School graduate, at the age of 16, was already an accomplished musician, performing as principal oboist in the National Jewish Community Center Headquarters Orchestra, and who traveled the world with the United States Air Force Symphony Band as a musical ambassador.  True  False

---

**Answers:** 1.T 2.T 3.F 4.T 5.F 6.T 7.T 8.F 9.T 10.F 11.F 12.T 13.F 14.T 15.F 16.T 17.T 18.F 19.T  
20.T 21.F 22.T 23.T 24.F 25.T 26.T 27.T 28.F 29.T 30.T



# Brick Contributors

VISIT ALEXANDRIA  
PATRICIA  
WASHINGTON

IN MEMORY OF  
THE TEACHERS OF  
PARKER GRAY

DOUGLAS  
KENNETH  
CROSS

IN MEMORY  
OF THE THOMPSONS  
CLAYTON & IRENE

BOBBY L. BRACEY  
CLASS OF 1957  
WIFE JOYCE AND SON

PART OF HISTORY  
IN ALEXANDRIA

IN MEMORY OF  
DARYL J. HOLLIS  
FACULTY, 1968-70

EAVES  
HARRY JR. 61  
HOWARD 61, MARY 62

PATTY MORAN  
KATE MORAN  
NANCY/JIM DUNNING

GERALD WANZER 1962  
JUANITA, CLIFTON  
JANET, CAMILLA

JOYCE ANN CASEY  
SANCHEZ  
CLASS OF 1950

CECIL J ROSS  
1965 8TH GRADE  
LAST YEAR AS H.S.

EDWARD W HERNANDEZ  
CLASS OF 1965  
BULL DOG FOREVER

IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF  
SYLVESTER ROY, JR.

LEONARD BROWN 1949  
JEAN BROWN - 1954  
DORIS BROWN - 1954

CHARLES WILLIAMS  
(SIAS)  
CLASS OF 1965

WE STILL DO  
ETHEL & CHARLES  
NELSON, SR.

RUTHERFORD ADKINS  
SON OF  
ANDREW W. ADKINS

NELSON E GREENE SR  
NELSON E GREENE JR  
TEACHER/GRADUATE

ISAAC A. KING &  
SAMANTHA KING

CAROLYN  
ARRINGTON-MARTIN  
CLASS OF 1938

WINIFRED  
ROBERTS-GRIMES  
1949

ERICK T. KING  
NATASHA AND KAYHAN  
AMAYA

WILLIE H. CRAWFORD  
PARKER GRAY HS  
CLASS OF 1955

ROBERTS  
LOUIS HERBERT, JR.  
CLASS OF 1954

PAUL, ADA, FANNIE  
TYLER  
1943, 1945, 1947

HERMAN T. NEWMAN  
PARKER GRAY HS  
CLASS OF 1952

LOIS ANN DIGGS  
FRED DIGGS  
WM & RICHARD DIGGS

BEULAH BAPTIST  
CHURCH VA  
EST. 1863

JESURENA SMITH  
LINWOOD SMITH  
PARKER GRAY HS

DELORIS A IRBY  
1960 - 1965/BULLDOG  
WILLIAM H PITTS SR

LIGHTFOOT FAMILY  
ANTOINETTE  
JAMES H. IV

WILLIE J. DANIELS  
BARBARA D. PROCTOR  
CLASS OF '48 & '49

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

PARKER-GRAY ALUMNI  
WILLIAM NELSON, SR  
CLASS OF 1953

PARKER-GRAY  
LELIA GOINS-NELSON  
CLASS OF 1953

LOVING MEMORY OF  
WINONA NEWMAN WHITE  
CLASS OF 1956

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JULIUS & LILIAN SMITH

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
LINWOOD, ELIZABETH  
KOLAN NEWMAN

ALTON WALLACE  
ALFRED STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH

PRINCIPALS  
VIRGINIA HILTON  
JULIA PRITCHET

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
GEORGE ROLLINS

EDUCATOR  
LAURA M. DORSEY  
THIRD GRADE

PARKER-GRAY  
COACH  
LOUIS R.W. JOHNSON

PARKER-GRAY  
SCIENCE/ENGLISH  
SUSIE E. ANDERSON

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
FLORA W. CHASE

PARKER-GRAY  
ALMA P. MURRAY  
SECOND GRADE

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
BERNICE J. PERRY

PARKER-GRAY  
GERALDINE STEVENSON  
SEVENTH GRADE

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
MARY E.TUNSTALL ADAMS

PARKERGRAY  
EDUCATOR  
ROZIER D. LYLES

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
ELIZABETH QUARLES

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
CORTELYOU W. PAYNE

ROSETTE GRAHAM  
ALFRED STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
MABEL LEE SMITH

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
ARDELIA HUNTER

PARKER-GRAY  
MUSIC/EDUCATOR  
JACQUELINE L. HENRY

PARKER - GRAY HS  
CARDELL F. BANKS

CHARLES HOUSTON  
ERNICE EVANS  
BANKS

PARKER-GRAY  
HOME ECONOMICS  
RUBY E. SMITH

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
LORETTA HALL

IN LOVING  
MEMORY OF  
HENRY(DOC)HOLLIDAY

BROWN  
HELEN - GENIE  
GWEN

THE WATERSON'S  
VIVIAN, PEARL  
CATHERINE & PARKER

JK JOHNSON FUNERALS  
6503 OLD BRANCH AV  
TEMPLE HILLS MD

DR. ALDRICH ADKINS  
"JUNKS"  
CLASS OF 1939

BARBARA M. ADKINS  
CLASS OF 1942

ROBERTS MEMORIAL  
HONORING ALUMNI  
LEST WE FORGET

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

FRANCES B. COLBERT  
TERRELL  
CLASS OF 1961

CALVIN D. TERRELL  
CLASS OF 1953

ROYALS  
HELEN 1958  
BETTY 1959

BROWN-1959 CLASS  
PATRICIA B WOOD  
CLARENCE L BROWN

BERNETTE BARKSDALE  
POINDEXTER  
CLASS OF 1959

HARRY ROBERT  
POINDEXTER  
CLASS OF 1964

ALLISON SILBERBERG  
ALEXANDRIA MAYOR  
(2016-2018)

IN MEMORY OF  
KAREN E. THURMAN  
LESLEY THURMAN SR.

SAMUEL JONES  
PAMELA JONES  
JOCELYN JONES

ROXIE & ROBERT  
ROSLYN  
HUTCHINSON

LILLIE MILLER FINKLEA  
FREEDMENS CEMETERY  
RESTORATION PROJ.

ROLAND SCOTT 1957  
WASHINGTON POST  
ALL MET FOOTBALL

LEWIS FAMILY, JAMES  
EUNICE, NAOMI, BARBARA  
JANICE, RUTH, JIM

ANNIE JONES ROY  
STANLEY ROY LOVING  
COUPLE PG SEMINARY

CLARICE BRANSOM  
HIGGINBOTHAM  
PG GRAD ALEX RES

IN MEMORY OF  
HOLLIS WILLIAMS  
JOHN/BONNIE PORTER

IN MEMORY OF  
ARTHUR W BRACEY SR  
(NOLAN/EL-ALAILY )

GIVEN IN HONOR OF  
A GREAT PRINCIPAL  
CHRISTINE HOWARD

ALLEN C. LOMAX  
MARJORIE L. LOMAX

IN HONOR OF  
DOROTHY P. KEY  
LIBRARIAN

MICHELE EVANS

IN HONOR OF PARKER  
GRAY TEACHERS  
AND STUDENTS

PHYLLIS TRIPLETT  
BICKHAM  
CLASS OF 1944

DOROTHEA  
BENTLEY  
CAMPBELL 1940

IN MEMORY OF  
PARKER-GRAY STAFF  
ARTA

DEBRA COLLINS  
AND FAMILY  
SAARA AND SAFIYYA

EARL L. COOK  
CHIEF OF POLICE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

RICHARD DIGGS  
ENTREPRENEUR

THOMAS "PETE" JONES  
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

WILLIAM D. EUILLE  
FORMER MAYOR  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

LOUIS R. HARRIS, JR  
NFL PROFESSIONAL  
FOOTBALL PLAYER

MORRIS R. SIEBERT  
COMMUNITY LEADER

JAMES "CHUCKY" MOORE  
COMMUNITY LEADER

JOSEPH WADDY  
JUDGE CIRCUIT COURT  
WASHINGTON, DC

BERITA WILLIS  
COMMUNITY SERVICE

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

WALTER GRIFFIN 1957  
WASHINGTON POST  
ALL MET BASKETBALL

DOROTHY TURNER  
"PEACHES"  
COMMUNITY ACTIVIST

THE CARDWELL FAMILY  
OSCAR CARDWELL  
GEORGE CARDWELL

THE LUCAS FAMILY  
JOSEPH, SETH, ERNEST

OLIVER TURNER  
1952

THE TILLERY FAMILY  
ROSCOE, LEROY

THE DOWDELL FAMILY  
MAE WILLI, FRED

STUBBLEFIELD FAMILY  
ELWOOD , ETHEL  
SHEILA, ELWOOD "TODD"

THE LEE FAMILY  
ODELL, DELORIS

THE REED FAMILY  
ERMA, CLIFFORD  
JANICE

THE GLADNEY FAMILY  
DAVID, JAMES, JOE  
PAUL, MARTHA

THE ASHTON FAMILY  
JAMES, ROBERT,  
LAWRENCE, MICHAEL,  
DANIEL, DAVID

DORIS WHITFIELD

THE WAIR FAMILY  
ROZIER, CATHERINE  
ROZIER "WINDI"

REGINALD LOCKE

THE MCGEE FAMILY  
ERMA, MARIE  
RUBY, WILLIE

THE JONES FAMILY  
HARVEY, PAUL, BOBBY  
AUDREY, MARY, CAREY

THE HERNANDEZ FAMILY  
LORELL, EARL  
VICTOR, EDWARD

THE REEVES FAMILY  
CHARLES, ANNA, LARRY

THE ALEXANDER FAMILY  
ELANORE, THEODORE

MICHAEL SMITH

THE FULLER FAMILY  
WILLIE SR, HELEN  
WILLIE JR, WILLIAM  
HOLT

THE CASON FAMILY  
JAMES, DAVID  
JOE, LEO, JOHN

THE MARTIN FAMILY  
JAMES, MARY E.  
JACKIE, STEVE, DEBBIE

THE YOUNGER FAMILY  
ANNA, RAMONA, DANITA

THE WEBSTER FAMILY  
MOSES, LAURA  
JOYCE ANN, COOKIE

THE GRAY FAMILY  
HARVEY, TRAVIS  
JULIA, EDDIE

THE HARPER FAMILY  
BOOKER T, MILDRED  
ANTHONY, ROBIN, MARK

THE DAVIS FAMILY  
STANLEY, MILDRED  
JAMES, ROBERT

THE BUTLER FAMILY  
CHARLES, ESTER  
EVELYN, ALBRA GREENE

THE ANDERSON FAMILY  
JACK, ETTA, DOROTHY,  
RAYMOND, ELIZABETH

THE MOORE FAMILY  
JAMES, ELIZABETH,  
MARY PATRICIA,  
VERONICA

THE DRAYTON FAMILY  
EUGENE, JOYCE ANN  
IRVIN, ELAINE

THE HALEY FAMILY  
PATRICIA "ANN" HALEY  
JULIAN "BUTCH" HALEY, SR

THE COOPER FAMILY  
ANN, CAROLYN,  
CHALDINE, ROMAINE

MEMORIAL LAYOUT  
DONATED BY ANH TRAN

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

REVEREND  
DR. LEE A. EARL

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR/PRINCIPAL  
NELLIE B. QUANDER

JULIAN "BUTCH" HALEY, JR  
JOANNE M. HALEY  
CONGRATS BULLDOGS

MAYOR KERRY DONLEY

JIMMY LEWIS 1964  
WASHINGTON POST  
ALL MET BASKETBALL

AN OVERDUE HONOR  
CONGRATULATIONS!

THE  
HUTCHINGS  
FAMILY

SHIRLEY M. MARSHALL  
LOVELL A. LEE  
CLASS OF 1956

AARON (PEEWEE), JUDY  
OMEARA, AARON IIBANKS  
RITA & LOGAN WILLIS

MCKINNEY FAMILY  
AARON, MARJORIE  
BEVERLY, ANTHONY

ELAINE P. AUGUSTUS  
PARKER-GRAY HS  
CLASS OF 1946

WILLIE MAE JOHNSON  
PARKER-GRAY HS  
CLASS OF 1948

HOWARD TURNER  
1958 PENN RELAY  
CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

JAMES COLE  
1958 PENN RELAY  
CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM

LEE'S CAFE  
EMMETT & CORINNE LEE  
MARTHA LEA, JANICE LEE

CATHY (GRIMES) &  
WENDELL MILLER  
TCW 1981 & 1978

HERBERT D SPEARS  
CLASS OF 1948  
LUV BONITA & JUDITH

CLASS OF 1944  
THOMAS HAROLD LEE  
BERNICE R LEE

IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
HELEN L. DAY - TEACHER  
LAWRENCE D. STUDENT

ALBERT G. BURTS  
MARJORIE C. BURTS  
CLASS OF 1946

EDWARD L PATTERSON  
BAND DIRECTOR  
ASST PRINCIPAL

LILLIAN STANTON  
PATTERSON  
CLASS OF 1944

CATHERINE W WARD  
"PIGGY" C/O 1948  
THE LAWSON FAMILY

GODFREY-BAWCOMBES  
RESPECT TO  
PARKER GRAY HS

KATHLEEN BAKER  
CITIZEN  
LIVING LEGEND

IN MEMORY OF  
CUEVAS LATHAM  
ADAMSON

UNDER GOD  
LIBERTY & JUSTICE  
FOR ALL

RIVER BRICKEY  
RAVEN BRICKEY  
LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL

REMEMBER THE  
BULLDOGS!  
--THE MACEK FAMILY

SALLIE BIRMINGHAM  
ALFRED STREET BAPTIST  
DELTA SIGMA THETA

IN HONOR OF  
LAKEYDA ROBINSON  
GUIDING THE FUTURE

IN MEMORY  
OF  
WILLIE MANNING, JR

CHARLES COCHRAN  
CLASS OF 1964

COLLEEN MCENEARNEY  
TEACHER  
EXTRAORDINAIRE

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

CAROLYN B. LEWIS  
TEACHER/ADMIN.  
FORTY YRS.SERVICE

ANNIE B.ROSE PRESENTS  
ALEX.SOC. FOR PRESERV  
OF BLACK HERITAGE

PERRY H. LYLES III  
CLASS OF 1957  
HOF BASKETBALL

EUDORA LEE LYLES  
CLASS OF 1936  
1ST GRADUATE CLASS

YOUTH ALT. COALITION  
AFRICAN AMERICAN  
HERITAGE FESTIVAL

MYKE REID  
HONORING  
THE LEGACY

SHERI S. HERREN  
AADR

JUNETEENTH  
CELEBRATION  
R.T. STEVENS HIST.

JEAN JACKSON-1950  
DONALD TAYLOR-1949  
DONALD/JEAN TAYLOR

KARL MORITZ

STEVE & LESLIE  
406 W  
ALWAYS HOME

THE DERINGERS

MATT & TRACIE HARRIS  
UNITY AND  
SOLIDARITY FOREVER

LISA AND SCOTT  
STEIN

LIVE OUT LOUD  
NFESH

IN HONOR OF  
ROBERT MATTHEWS'46  
1 CORINTHIANS 16:1

ANN A.  
BALTIMORE  
CLASS OF 1956

BEN, LORINDA  
SAM & GRACE  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

JACINTA E. GREENE  
ACPS SCHOOL BOARD  
BOARD MEMBER

IN LOVING MEMORY  
WILBUR M. MOORE  
HARRIET & FAMILY

EUDORA L. FORREST  
CHORAL MUSIC  
1959 CLASS

JOHN TAYLOR CLASS 54  
MISS YOU  
BEA, KAREN, RHONDA

ALEXANDRIA  
CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE  
NOLAN B. DAWKINS

JOSEPH A. JENNINGS  
CLASS OF 1961  
VICKI ROBERSON

RAYMOND E. JONES, JR  
LYDIA CROSS JONES  
1965

DR. ARTHUR C. DAWKINS  
MUSICIAN / EDUCATOR  
PRINCIPAL

JOHN T CHAPMAN  
MONIKA J CHAPMAN  
JOHN T CHAPMAN II

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
MAYME WILKINS HOLT

HARRY BURKE  
PARKER-GRAY  
COMMUNITY/ACTIVIST

ROBERT MATTHEWS  
A LOVING FATHER  
LOVE, YVETTE

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
CHARLES PRICE

FAMILIES  
HARRIS-CHEEKS  
JONES-ARMSTRONG

IN LOVING MEMORY  
J. LAVERN N. DUNBAR  
CLASS OF 1955

PARKER-GRAY  
EDUCATOR  
THELMA MICKENS

ON BEHALF OF  
M. BRAD GEBERT  
AND LECIA PEARCE

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

"SISTA"  
ELLEN THOMAS TODD  
CLASS OF 1949

BARBARA A. JONES  
ENGLISH TEACHER

GWEN L. HARRISON  
LIBRARIAN

BE FEARLESS IN THE  
FACE OF ADVERSITY  
IN MEMORY OF ERIN  
LOVE YOU MORE  
JIM AND CHRISTINE  
TAYLOR AND MORGAN

THOMPSON SIBLINGS  
BRENDA, BUCKY  
JEFFREY, IRIS  
MARSHA, LISA, NORMA  
CHRISTOPHER, VICTOR  
KENDALL & MICHELE

IN HONOR OF  
LILLIAN NORTON  
BUTLER  
FROM MICHAEL AND  
PERRY WINSLOW

THE CARTER FAMILY  
ELLEN, DOUGLAS JR.  
BERNARD, FREDERICK  
PAUL, MAMIE, AND  
ALFRED (BUMP)  
REST IN PEACE

IN MEMORY OF  
OLANDER BANKS SR  
MARGARET LOMAX  
BANKS PARK  
ALEXANDRIA  
VIRGINIA

OUR PARENTS  
ARTHUR NORTON SR.  
FIRST HIGH SCHOOL  
CLASS OF 1936  
MAMIE CARTER  
CLASS OF 1941

MAYDELL CASEY BELK  
CLASS OF 1950  
LONNIE G. BELK, SR  
CLASS OF 1950  
SPORTS HALL OF  
FAME INDUCTEES '89

ARNOLD J. THURMOND  
COACH, TEACHER  
HUSBAND, FATHER  
ALBERTA THURMOND  
WIFE, MOTHER  
IN LOVING MEMORY

LEWIS FAMILY I  
ELLA & WILLIAM  
LINWOOD, THEODORE  
ELLA MAE, ANNIE,  
BERNICE, GEORGE  
BERTHA, EARL, RUBY

LEWIS FAMILY II  
THEODORE & BESSIE  
RUBY, BEVERLY  
THEODORE JR.  
CHERYL, LINDA  
SIX GENERATIONS

PARKER-GRAY ALUMNI  
CHRISTINE HOWARD  
GLADYS DAVIS  
MARY PENN  
MARIAN SMITH  
EVELYN HOPKINS

CAPITAL YOUTH  
EMPOWERMENT  
PROGRAM (CYEP)  
ESTABLISHED 2008  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

MAYOR  
JUSTIN M. WILSON  
PARKER GRAY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
"THE LEGACY LIVES ON"

THE RICE FAMILY  
JAMES WILLIE LEE  
CHARLES GEORGE  
MARGARET MARY F.  
BARBARA  
JEANETTE

THIRD BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
ALEXANDRIA, VA  
REV. J. V. JORDAN  
PASTOR

THE DIGGS FAMILY  
BEVERLY DIGGS  
MICHAEL DIGGS  
RONALD DIGGS  
JULIAN DIGGS  
ANDREW DIGGS

GO PARKER GRAY!  
TITAN PRIDE  
JAQUAN  
CAMERON  
JANAY  
BILL & RUBY

THE DAY FAMILY  
FERDINAND T. DAY  
LUCILLE P. DAY  
GWEN DAY-FULLER  
ALL FAMILY MEMBERS  
TO GOD -THE GLORY

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

REESE FUNERAL  
PROFESSIONALS  
WITH US ETERNAL  
REST IS SACRED  
PARAMOUNT AND  
FOREMOST

EBENEZER BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
ALEXANDRIA  
VIRGINIA  
ESTABLISHED 1881

JANIE SMITH  
CLEOLA SMITH  
NELLIE SMITH  
BOYD SMITH  
SHIRLEY SMITH  
ROBERT BATES

ALFRED STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH-1803  
ANDREW W. ADKINS  
DR. JOHN O. PETERSON, SR  
REV. DR. FAYE S. GUNN  
DR. JOHN-HOWARD  
WESLEY

PRINCIPALS  
JOHN F. PARKER  
SARAH J. GRAY  
HENRY T. WHITE  
WESLEY D. ELAM  
WILLIAM H. PITTS, SR

PARKER - GRAY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
BERNICE ARRINGTON  
EVANS  
GRADUATED 1940

ROBERT H. ADKINS  
1942 GRADUATE  
EDUCATOR & COACH  
DORIS C. JACKSON  
(ADKINS)  
1945 GRADUATE

ALFRED D. CARTER  
"COACH CARTER"  
CLASS OF 1944  
JUSTINE NEWMAN  
CARTER  
CLASS OF 1943

ANDREW W. ADKINS  
TEACHER, 1920-1954  
PARKER-GRAY  
PASTOR, 1920-1963  
ALFRED STREET  
BAPTIST CHURCH

IN MEMORY OF  
REV ANDREW ADKINS

IN LOVING MEMORY  
AND APPRECIATION  
SHILOH BAPTIST  
CHURCH  
1401 DUKE STREET  
ALEXANDRIA, VA

ALEXANDRIA  
SPORTSMAN'S CLUB  
SUPPORTING  
ALEXANDRIA'S YOUTH  
SINCE 1947

FANNON FAMILY  
SERVING ALEXANDRIA  
SINCE 1885

CONGRATULATIONS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY  
COUNCILMAN  
FRANK FANNON IV

GARRETT-MORGAN FAMILY  
BETTY GARRETT  
CAROLYN MORGAN  
LINDA MORGAN  
BARBARA ROY

IN MEMORY OF  
PHILLIP BELL SR.  
BY WIFE & CHILDREN  
PHYLLIS BELL,  
PHILLIP JR,  
ANITA AND WINONA

RUSSELL TEMPLE  
CME CHURCH  
EST. MAY 1941  
"TOGETHER WE CAN"  
MICHELE F. PARKER  
PASTOR

ESTHER CHAPTER #23  
ORDER OF THE  
EASTERN STAR, PHA  
112 E. OXFORD AVE.  
ALEXANDRIA, VA  
EST. SEPT. 6, 1909

PEACE & BLESSINGS  
BLM  
GEORGE W. DUHART  
GLORIA I. DUHART  
LISA R. DUHART  
IMANI I. KING

THE FORD FAMILY  
702 N. PATRICK ST.  
JAMES & JOSPHINE  
PAM & DEBBIE  
LAVONNE & PHILLIP  
ROSIE & APRIL



# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

BERNICE G. JONES  
SHEDRICK C. JONES  
SHARON J. FRAZIER  
LOVING PARENTS AND  
DAUGHTER CLASS OF  
1965

WARNER & BERNICE  
JOHNSON  
720 N PATRICK ST  
ANDRE/ GREG  
MICHAEL/JEFFERY  
STEVE/STEPHANE

THE WINFREE FAMILY  
ROBERT LEE, ELANOR  
ROBERT MILTON  
BARBARA, ANDREW

ALEXANDRIA  
REDEVELOPMENT  
HOUSING AUTHORITY  
CEO  
KEITH PETTIGREW

THE JOHNSON FAMILY  
MORRIS, MAMIE  
MORRIS LEROY,  
RICHARD, MICHAEL  
ELMER, WAYNE  
RONALD, KAREN

THE ROSS FAMILY  
NORMAN, WILLIAM  
RONALD, ALFRAGEE  
RICKY, SHIRLEY  
CARLOTTE, VICKIE,  
CECIL

THE ROY FAMILY  
SYLVESTER SR,  
SYLVESTER JR,  
RAYMOND, DONALD  
LUCY

THE TAYLOR FAMILY  
CHARLES, DOROTHY  
DONALD, CHARLENE  
CHARLES, JOHN

THE ARMSTRONG FAMILY  
LENWOOD, VIRGINIA  
LENWOOD JR, VERGIE,  
LEONARD, ELMORE,  
THERESA, SUSIE,  
WILLIAM, MORRIS,  
ROZIA

JOHN CHAPMAN  
CITY COUNCILMAN  
ALEXANDRIA, VA  
MOTHER  
MICHELLE CHAPMAN

THE COOK FAMILY  
LINDSEY, MARIE  
BARBARA, RALPH  
SHIRLEY, ETHEL  
EARL, PEARL, HAROLD

THE WANZER FAMILY  
CHARLES, BEVERLY  
TONY, CHERYL, CATHY  
CHARLES, JR, RICARDO  
ERIC

THE HALEY FAMILY  
MOSE, SR, SADIE  
MOSE, JR, DOROTHY  
CELEST, CHARLES  
ROBERTA, JANET,  
BRENDA, JACQUELINE

THE JACKSON FAMILY  
WILLIAM, SR,  
RUBY, EARL  
NATHANIEL, BERNICE  
WILLIAM "RED"

THE ELLIOTT FAMILY  
LOUIS SR, JANIE  
LOUISE, LOUIS JR  
LAWRENCE, JANET  
LINDA, DEBORAH  
DELORA, LARRY

THE DRAYTON FAMILY  
BERNICE, CLARA,  
CHARLES  
MARY, EUGENE, ALTON  
EDWARD, BERTRAM

THE DOGAN FAMILY  
WILLIAM II, BLANCHE  
BETTY, JOYCE, JANET  
HERBERT II, JOHN,  
THELMA, MARY,  
HOPE, HAROLD,

THE LLOYD FAMILY  
ERNEST SR, EMMA  
REGINALD, BEATRICE,  
ERNEST JR, KAREN  
CORNELIUS

THE HALEY FAMILY  
THELMA, ELMIRA,  
REBECCA  
LOUISE, BEATRICE  
FRANCIS, VIRGINIA  
CLAUDE, SAMUEL,  
ROBERT JAMES, CHARLES

EARL F. LLOYD  
NBA HALL OF FAME  
CHARLITA, KENNY  
KEVIN, DAVID

ALEXANDRIA AFRICAN  
AMERICAN HALL OF FAME  
FOUNDER  
ROBERT DAWKINS  
CHAIRMAN  
JULIAN HALEY, JR

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

THE THOMPSON FAMILY  
VALERIE JACKSON  
CLAYTON, GLADYS  
CLIFFORD, WILLIAM,  
ALICE, EUGENE,  
LILLIAN

THE DAWKINS FAMILY  
CURTIS, MITTIE  
ARTHUR, BETSY  
ROBERT, NOLAN

THE BANKS FAMILY  
ROSCOE SR, RITA  
MELVA, DENISE  
ROSCOE JR, (BUBBA)  
AARON, (PEEWEE)  
TANYA, BONITA

LOVING MEMORY OF  
ERNICE TAYLOR  
CLASS OF 1941  
GIRLS BASKETBALL  
MARCHING BAND  
TRACK & DRAMA

FAMILY HOME BAKERY  
BOARDING HOUSE  
THE JACKSON FAMILY  
JOHN W, CORINNE CARR  
NATHANIEL, CORINNE  
MALYSSA/BY J LHOWARD

CAROLYN MORGAN REID  
1ST. AFRICAN AMERICAN  
FEMALE DEPUTY  
IN THE HISTORY  
OF FAIRFAX COUNTY  
SHERIFF'S OFFICE

MARGARET SHEPHERD  
GRIMES, PGHS 1948  
\*IN LOVING MEMORY\*  
MY PARENTS, DEACON  
& DEACONESS JOHN &  
LOUISE SHEPHERD

RUBY OSIA  
34 YEARS  
18 MOUNT VERNON  
16 LYLES CROUCH  
MORRIS SIEBERT  
RUTH SIEBERT

SARAH A GRAY  
JOHN F PARKER  
YOUR MEMORY  
LIVES AND INSPIRES  
ALEXANDRIA  
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

WE REMEMBER  
JOSEPH MCCOY &  
BENJAMIN THOMAS  
ACRP  
RESEARCH GROUP

ROBERT  
"TEX"  
MATTHEWS  
CLASS OF 1946

IN HONOR OF  
PARKER-GRAY HS  
100TH ANNIVERSARY  
1920 - 2020  
YOUR FRIENDS AT  
EYA

THE OAKLAND BAPTIST  
CHURCH CELEBRATES  
ITS MEMBER'S AND  
GRADUATES OF THE  
PARKER-GRAY  
HIGH SCHOOL

THE BELK FAMILY  
OTIS, LONNIE, JASPER  
CLARA  
THE BROWN FAMILY  
PATRICIA, LEROY,  
MELLINEE RUST

THE WANZER FAMILY  
WILLIAM, CLAUDE, LLOYD  
CHARLES, JANET, ROLAND  
JUANITA, DIANNE, INEZ  
MARGARET, FRANCES, PAT  
CAMILLA, GERALD, JAMES  
CLIFTON

THE CASEY FAMILY  
GEORGE, MICHAEL  
PAMELA, BEVERLY  
JOYCE, MAYDELL, MARY  
COSTELLA SHACKLEFORD  
TERRY BUTLER

THE JOHNSON FAMILY  
ELMER, MICHAEL, FRED  
LUCIEN, NAOMI, ARTHUR  
THE BRADBY FAMILY  
LAWRENCE, STANLEY  
JOYCE, FLOYD

THE DIGGS FAMILY  
TOM, FRED, RICHARD  
WILLIAM, LOIS  
THE DOUGLAS FAMILY  
MAJOR, MARY, MARTHA  
RALEIGH LOU, HOWARD

THE LEWIS FAMILY  
NAOMI, JANICE  
BARBARA, RUTH  
THE TERRELL FAMILY  
ALFONZA, CALVIN  
LEONARD, LILLIAN

# Brick Contributors, Cont'd.

THE CARTER FAMILY  
GODFREY, ROSCOE  
THE FRANKLIN FAMILY  
FRED, JOHN  
BURNETTE HENRY  
LEROY SYKES

THE COLBERT FAMILY  
DELORIS, FRANCES  
FREDERICK, DELANEY

THE LEWIS FAMILY  
HERMAN, ALFRED  
MICHAEL JOHNSON

THE BURRIS FAMILY  
WILLIAM, BETTY  
THOMASINE  
THE STRANGE FAMILY  
ROBERT, MYRA  
RUFUS ROBERTSON

THE MATHEWS FAMILY  
GOLDIE, ROBERT  
THE MARTIN FAMILY  
FRED, ARTHUR  
RITA MURPHY  
COSTELLA NICKENS  
NOBLE & JOHN PRICE

REMEMBERING THE  
PUBLIC SERVICE OF  
A. MELVIN MILLER  
AND  
EULA M. MILLER

DR. MARY ALICE  
HATWOOD FUTRELL ED.D.  
BUSINESS EDUCATION  
1963 - 1965  
PARKER-GRAY  
HIGH SCHOOL

THE SIMPSON FAMILY  
PROUD TO SUPPORT  
PARKER GRAY  
HIGH SCHOOL  
LEGACY  
1920-1950!

ALEXANDRIA CITY  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
STAFF & STUDENTS

THE  
ALEXANDRIA  
CITY  
SCHOOL  
BOARD

ROBERT N. DAWKINS  
FOUNDER  
ALEXANDRIA AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HALL OF FAME  
2011

JULIAN BUTCH HALEY, JR  
CHAIRMAN  
ALEXANDRIA AFRICAN  
AMERICAN  
HALL OF FAME  
2011

ALEXANDRIA BLACK  
HISTORY MUSEUM  
CELEBRATES  
THE ANNIVERSARY OF  
PARKER-GRAY SCHOOL  
1920-2020

REMEMBERING  
COACH  
DENNIS PORTER  
ALEXANDRIA  
BOXING CLUB  
10/16/60-01/07/20

IN PEACE & UNITY  
AMY B. JACKSON  
COUNCILWOMAN  
ALX CITY COUNCIL

IN HONOR OF  
JOYCE D. RAWLINGS  
AN ALEXANDRIA  
LEGEND  
OCTOBER 2020

THE PORTERFIELD  
FAMILY HONORS THE  
PARKER GRAY LEGACY

IN MEMORY OF  
MRS. MABEL LYLES  
MY 4TH GRD TEACHER

THE MILLER FAMILY  
CHARLES, HELEN  
PATRICIA, VIVIAN  
LUCRETIA, CHARLENE  
REGINALD, TRYPHENE

JANET BARNETT

# PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, before 1920, formal education for Alexandria’s African-American children was provided by the Hallowell School for Girls with Sara Gray, principal, and at the Snowden School for Boys, with John F. Parker, principal; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1920, after continuing pressure and efforts from leaders such as Reverend Samuel B. Ross, Samuel Tucker, Henry Taylor, Blanche Taylor, and alumni and teachers of Hallowell and Snowden, a new school building, located at Alfred and Wythe Streets was opened and named in honor of John Parker and Sarah Gray; and

**WHEREAS**, the new school contained twelve classrooms, a large auditorium that doubled as a gymnasium and a basement, and when the Parker-Gray School opened there were 675 students in grades one through eight, and employed only nine teachers with only the barest necessities: and

**WHEREAS**, in 1936, Parker-Gray became recognized as a four-year high school certified by the Commonwealth of Virginia, serving students in grades eight through eleven; and

**WHEREAS**, the first class to attend Parker-Gray School, for grades eight through eleven graduated in 1936, 16 years after the original school was opened; and

**WHEREAS**, the alumni and faculty of Parker-Gray High School have made positive contributions to the quality of life for their communities and society at large; and

**WHEREAS**, the history and legacy of Parker-Gray High School is forever woven into the fabric of City of Alexandria and embodied in the in the hearts, souls and minds of Parker-Gray Alumni, City residents and visitors, and “The School is gone but the Legacy Lives on” and

**WHEREAS**, it is the goal of the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame to ensure the triumphs of Parker-Gray School not only be recognized, but that this recognition continues in **Perpetuity**.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby proclaim September 10, to be:

## “PARKER-GRAY DAY”

and join the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame and Parker-Gray Alumni in commemorating this historical legacy at the Charles H. Houston Recreation Center, located at 901 Wythe Street, the site of the original Parker-Gray School.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to be affixed this 10<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2020.



**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

## PROCLAMATION

**WHEREAS**, all legacies have a beginning and the year of 1920 can be considered the beginning of one the greatest eras of academic prosperity for hundreds of Alexandria African-American students who attended Parker-Gray School, which opened that year in the City of Alexandria for students in grades one through eight; and

**WHEREAS**, Parker-Gray alumni have excelled in many areas, including the arts, government, education, military services, athletics and many other endeavors; and

**WHEREAS**, notably there are very few visible landmarks, structures or documentation of events that reflect the valuable contributions of Alexandria's African-American legacy and for many African-Americans who reside in Alexandria, our history is reflected in what we don't see, and is less accessible to us; and

**WHEREAS**, nowhere in Alexandria is there a single thoroughfare which registers such significance to the local African-American resident as the newly-named Parker-Gray Way, beginning at Wythe and West Streets running east of Wythe Street to St. Asaph Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame, the many Parker-Gray alumni and communities worked tirelessly to preserve the legacy of their forebearers and the Alexandria African-American Hall of Fame and the City of Alexandria, launched the "PAVING OUR HISTORY" Memorial Walkway Project on March 3, 2020, to recognize the Black men and women who attended Parker-Gray School and made remarkable achievements in the face of tremendous odds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Memorial Brick Walkway is a timely exhibit that comes at a pivotal time when the Parker-Gray neighborhood is experiencing a rapid transformation; and

**WHEREAS**, the history and the legacy of Parker-Gray High School is forever woven into the fabric of the City of Alexandria and embodied in the hearts, souls and minds of the Parker-Gray High School Alumni, City residents and visitors, exhibiting the motto, "The School is Gone but the Legacy Live On."

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, JUSTIN M. WILSON**, Mayor of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, and on behalf of the Alexandria City Council, do hereby, recognize the:

### "PARKER-GRAY MEMORIAL WALKWAY"

And encourage all residents to celebrate the illustrious history of the Parker-Gray School in the City of Alexandria.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Alexandria to affixed this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2020.

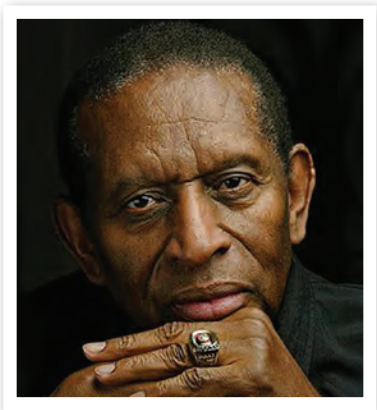


**MAYOR JUSTIN M. WILSON**  
On behalf of the City Council  
of Alexandria, Virginia

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Sitton, CMC City Clerk

# A Street Named *Earl*



On October 17, 2020, the Alexandria City Council approved the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame request to name the 1000 block of Montgomery Street in honor of Alexandria native Earl F. Lloyd.

Before the glitz, the glamour, and the glory, before Michael Jordan, before Earvin [Magic] Johnson, before Julius [Doctor] Erving, before Kareem Abdul Jabbar, before Bill Russell, and Wilt Chamberlain, before basketball as we know it today there was a pioneer, a man who paved the way for all of today's stars, a man who helped knock down the barriers of racism in the NBA, showing the rest of the world that African Americans know how to play the game of basketball on the highest level

Earl grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, near the Potomac River, a product of the lower-middle class segregated community called "The Berg," that consisted of public and sub-standard housing for African American families. It was a very close-knit community.

Earl received his elementary and secondary education in Alexandria's segregated public schools. Earl graduated with honors in 1946, and would become one of Parker-Grays most celebrated athletes. He was a respectable student athlete and role model, not only for his fellow student athletes, but also for an unlimited number of kids in the neighborhood community and future NBA players as well.

In the fall of 1946, Earl accepted a basketball scholarship to West Virginia State.

While Earl was at West Virginia State he earned the nickname "The Moon Fixer," because of his great size at 6'6. He was a CIAA star, and in the 1948-1949 seasons, Earl led his team to two CIAA Championships, and was named to the Black College All American First Team.

In 1950, Earl was one of three African Americans drafted into the NBA: Earl was selected by the Washington Capitals, Nat "Sweetwater" Clifton, went to the New York Knicks, and Chuck Cooper, to The Boston Celtics.

In 1960, Earl finished his playing career with the Detroit Pistons, and would become the first black coach in the NBA and in 2003 he was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

Earl F. Lloyd was inducted into the Alexandria African American Hall of Fame, June 22, 2013, housed in the Charles H. Houston Recreation Center in Alexandria, Virginia. This historical event was recorded in the Congressional Record, on July 10, 2013 by the Honorable James P. Moran of Virginia.

Earl often spoke of the unconditional support and wisdom that was passed on to him by his parents, his elementary school teacher Mrs. Helen Day, his high school coach Mr. Louis R. Johnson, his college coach Mr. Mark Caldwell, and last, but not least, his extended family – the Parker-Gray High School Community.

Earl's legacy has stood the test of time and we can be assured that his undeniable handprints and indelible mark of resilience and perseverance will be remembered for generations hereafter.

**Robert N. Dawkins, Founder  
The Alexandria African American Hall of Fame**

Street name unveiling date to be determined

# *Paving Our History*

## **PARKER-GRAY MEMORIAL WALKWAY CONTRIBUTORS**

### **ALEXANDRIA AFRICAN AMERICAN HALL OF FAME**

Robert Dawkins, Project Director, Founder • Julian Haley, Jr., Chairman

---

### **ALEXANDRIA CITY COUNCIL**

Mayor Justin Wilson • Vice Mayor Elizabeth Bennett-Parker • Councilman Canek Aguirre  
Councilman John Chapman • Councilwoman Amy Jackson  
Councilwoman Redella Pepper • Councilman Mohamed Seifeldin

### **CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE**

Debra Collins

### **DEPARTMENT OF GENERAL SERVICES**

Donna Poillucci, Deputy Director • Stephen King, Capital Projects Manager

### **DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL ACTIVITIES**

Jack Broward, Division Chief • Laura Durham, Division Chief  
Debbie Woodbury, Regional Program Director • Michael Johnson, Outreach Recreation Leader

### **OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA**

Gretchen Bulova, Director • Audrey Davis, Director, Alexandria Black History Museum  
Daniel Lee, Research Historian

### **PROGRAM LAYOUT**

Michelle Davis, Visual Information Developer,  
City of Alexandria, Office of Communications & Public Information  
Robert Dawkins • Julian Haley, Jr

---

### **CONSULTANTS**

Andrew Winfree • Alexandria Redevelopment Housing Authority •  
Oakland Baptist Church • Alfred Street Baptist Church

### **AUDIO / VIDEO / VIRTUAL**

Ant-Art Consulting Services, LLC

### **MEMORIAL BRICK WALKWAY LAYOUT**

Ahn Tran

# Parker-Gray School

1920



2020

How far have we *really* come?