

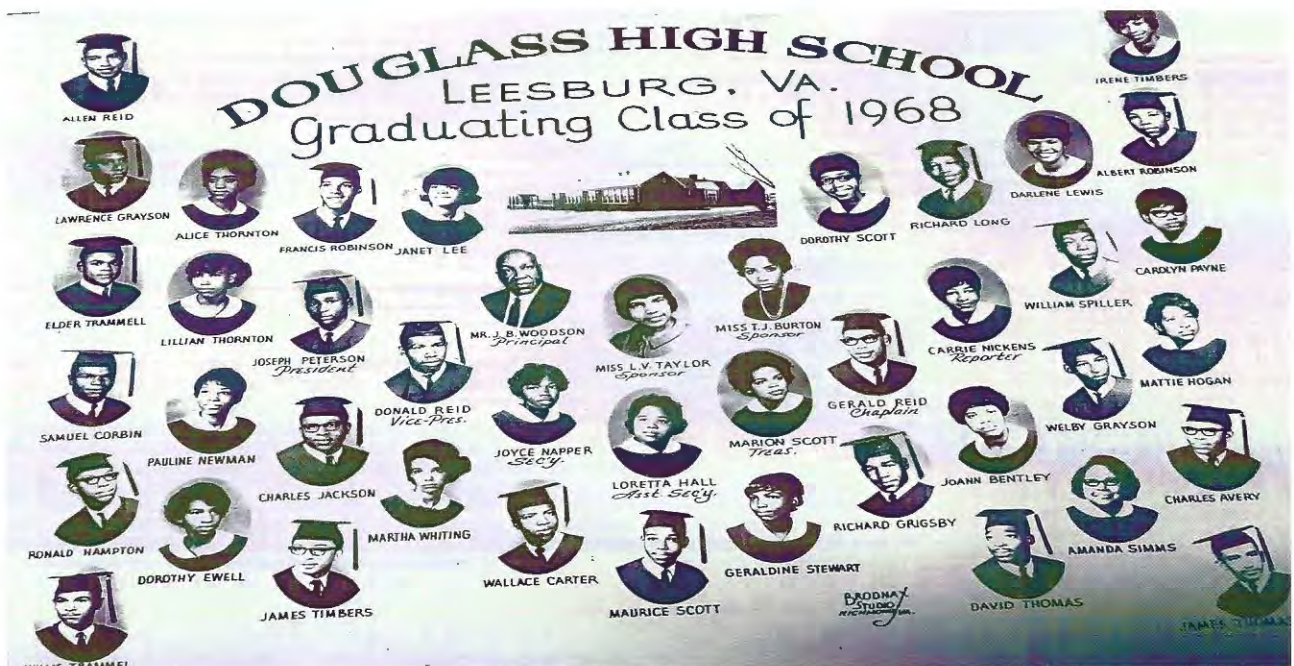
# ALUMNI

LOUDOUN DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, P. O. BOX 1638 LEESBURG, VA.

## Honoring the Class of 1968

AVERY, CHARLES	HOGAN, MATTIE L.	REID, DONALD M.	THOMAS, DAVID W.
BENTLEY, JO ANN	JACKSON, CHARLES D.*	REID, GERALD D.	THOMAS, JAMES R.
CARTER, WALLACE M.	LEE, JANET E.	ROBINSON, ALBERT I.	THORNTON, ALICE M.
CORBIN, SAMUEL*	LONG, RICHARD C.*	ROBINSON, FRANCIS H.	THORNTON, LILLIAN
EWELL, DOROTHY L.	NAPPER, JOYCE A.	SCOTT, DOROTHY A.	TIMBERS, CHARLES
GRAYSON, LAWRENCE E.	NEWMAN, PAULINE	SCOTT, MARION M.	TIMBERS, IRENE G.
GRAYSON, WELBY H.*	NICKENS, CARRIE L.	SCOTT, MAURICE D.	TIMBERS, JAMES L.
GRIGSBY, RICHARD B.*	PAYNE, CAROLYN A.	SIMMS, AMANDA C.*	TRAMMELL, ELDER L.
HALL, LORETTA F.	PETERSON, JOSEPH P.	SPILLER, WILLIAM A.*	TRAMMELL, WILLIS C.*
HAMPTON, RONALD E.	REID, ALLEN M.	STEWART, GERALDINE J.*	WHITING, MARTHA E.

\* DECEASED





# President's Message

Hello Alumni Family,

We pray that you and your families are well and that as we take an inventory of 2017 the good things outweigh the bad. We are embarking on a NEW YEAR with **GREAT EXPECTATIONS**, even after experiencing and enduring situations that we never expected to happen at this point in our American history. So, as we look at 2017 in our rearview mirror, we see pain, suffering, frustration and much unbelief; things that leave us to wonder, "what has happened to the America that we love?" There are many answers; some the same and some different, but nevertheless, now part of our American history.

Okay, enough about the pain of 2017—let's focus on the good of 2017; the GOOD in which **you** played a very important part. Yes, the successful year that your LOUDOUN DOUGLASS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION had (a most successful year) - and for that we salute you. Now our focus is on 2018 and we want to use the success that we had in 2017 as our launching pad to propel us into an **AMAZINGLY SUCCESSFUL YEAR**. Why 2018? Let me remind you of the importance of this year. In 1968, the last class graduated from Douglass High School. This year, 2018, that class will be celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> Graduation Anniversary [each year we recognize that celebrating class]. We will be celebrating every class and everyone who matriculated at Douglass High from 1941 through 1968 (beginning 77 years ago). You know the history; and our beloved alma mater is still standing, portraying the level of EXCELLENCE that will never, ever be forgotten.

So here is your challenge: we want **every** event that we have this year, leading up to the GREAT GALA AFFAIR in July, to be amazingly, super successful. In order for this to happen, we need **you**. This is an opportunity for everyone to get involved and become a part of OUR DOUGLASS HIGH HISTORY. Tell your neighbors, friends, grands and great-grands; especially those who attended and/or graduated from Douglass (who have never attended an alumni fund-raising event or made a contribution to the scholarship fund). We want you and need you; now is the time to get onboard. It's not too late; we want you to be a part of this FANTASTIC VOYAGE. If you feel that you are too far away to participate, or your health will not allow for your physical presence, please feel free to send your contribution by mail. And if your money is funny, you can still help. We are humbly soliciting all prayers and we thank you in advance. We are waiting to hear from you.

Before I close let me answer the question. The answer is NO!!! We are not stopping; we are not folding the tents. Loudoun Douglass Alumni Association will continue to do what we do-and do it better, as we entrust our legacy to be continued by our younger generations that will catch the fire and carry the banner until the Lord comes back. This year we are celebrating a very, very important chapter in our history while simultaneously opening another.

We humbly and most graciously thank you for your continuous support, and look forward to sharing this awesome experience together.

God Bless,

## RAMS

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WINTER 2018

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"We are not makers of history. We are made by history."

Martin Luther King, Jr.



## Ram's Mail

**Maria Dorsey** – Keep up the good work and thanks for all the newsletters. God Bless.

**Thelma Brown Winston (Class of 1953)** – Thank you for the news class happenings and all the update news in the letter. We do enjoy it. Keep up the great work.

**Henrietta Evans** – Donation in memory of Randolph B. Evans, Jr.

**Eleanor Harris** – Love the Newsletter.

**Vivian Ashton Smith** – Thank you for awarding my grandson, Kobey Smith, a scholarship for 2017. He experienced a very exciting and enlightening freshman year. He also made the Dean's List for the 2016-2017 school year. Thank you.

**Bettie J. Bryant** – All the work you do is very much appreciated.

**Peggy L. Lloyd** – Thanks for the newsletter and pictures.

**Albert Smith** – Special thank you for the support and acts of kindness that you showed at our difficult time of the passing of my mother Gertrude Smith. It was such a blessing and will be forever appreciated. May God bless you all richly and abundantly.

**Mildred T. Kelley** – Dues and a donation to be used as needed. Keep up the good work.

**Charlotte E.B. Jackson** – Enjoyed the new format. Keep up the good work. Please accept the following funds for the RAMS Club and dues for me and my brother **Arthur R. Bryant**.

**Edwina Hall Morse (Class of 1961)** – Thank you for your dedication, labor, and efficiency. I am truly enjoying being “connected” to my Alumni.

**Glory Howard** – Had a great time, music was fantastic!!! And I got a chance to repeat one and two o'clock again. I really needed that do-over; hats off RAMS ALL THE WAY!!

**Are you a current or former scholarship recipient? We'd love to hear from you! Please send us your contact information and let us know how you are doing ([ldaa1638@gmail.com](mailto:ldaa1638@gmail.com)).**

### Correction to Summer 2017 Newsletter:

The Fraezeel-Smith-King Award is given to two students for four consecutive years by Lawrence King, in memory of his wife.

## Memoriam

Bernard Thornton - Class of 1953

Vincent Bridgett - Class of 1962

Curtis Smith - Class of 1955

Gladys Y. Johnson—Class of 1954

Reginald Evans, Sr.—Alumnus

Omega Hume



## Photo Journal



### Commemorating The Struggle for Black Education

By Larry Roeder, MS

Principle Investigator

The Edwin Washington Project

Just after the Civil War was over, a young man named Edwin Washington lived and worked in Leesburg, and demanded an education. Public schools would not start until 1870; but Quakers were teaching Blacks and Edwin convinced his employer in a hotel to let him attend classes in between errands, though not on court days. Our project is named after that brave child who fought for schooling; but it might have been named after so many others as well, who despite poverty and physical hardships and the political and social trauma of segregation, persisted. One of those was a young girl who walked eight miles a day to attend classes in Ashburn. One morning on the way to school, as she trod along the rail track near the fire station, she was pulled quickly to the ground, as the train whizzed by, its wind blowing dust as it passed. That girl and others risked their lives to gain the education that so many white students took for granted. To the volunteers who work on the Edwin Washington Project, we see our work as a monument to the bravery and tenacity of all African-Americans and their friends to acquire an education, which is the gateway to a true democracy and prosperity.

The entire Black community is invited to a major event on November 11, 2018 to discuss progress by our project to document segregated education in Loudoun County from 1865 to 1968. Using a treasure trove of school records covering much of the period that were lost and then rediscovered in an abandoned Leesburg school house, Quaker records, interviews of former African-American students and teachers from the segregated era, and discussions with scholars from around the country, the Edwin Washington Project is documenting who attended the "colored" schools, who the instructors were, what was taught and what daily life was like in the schools. We are locating lost structures, such as the remains of Bluemont Colored School, we recently found in a forest. Our cartographer intends to create an on-line map showing where the schools were, white and "colored," as well as the routes. Other volunteers are studying handwritten petitions by parents and teachers asking for repairs, and equality for teacher salaries and transportation to children. We are also working closely with the Black History Committee of the Friends of the Balch Library, the Loudoun School for the Gifted, Loudoun County Public Schools, Oatlands Historic House & Gardens, Virginia State University, the Library of Virginia and others.

We are also celebrating the 85th anniversary of the County-Wide League, the body that provided leadership to create Douglass, the first accredited high school for African-Americans in Loudoun. Prior to that, only unaccredited secondary schooling was provided at the Training Center at 19 Union Street. As we understand it, families brought their own food to League meetings. That's what we propose for 2018, a gathering of families interested in the education of African-Americans and the history of the schools that serviced them, including the one room school houses like Willisville, Willard, Conklin, etc. Helping us coordinate the food aspect will be the Pastor from the Prosperity Baptist Church in Conklin, present day South Riding. We also plan on inviting churches and schools like Banneker to provide musicians to play music from the segregated era. In addition, we have found a play run at the old Ashburn Colored School in which students informed a resurrected Frederick

**Commemorating The Struggle for Black Education (Continued)**

Continued from page 4

Nov 11 is also the centennial for the close of World War I. African-Americans who attended our schools always displayed great bravery and patriotism in war, despite segregation and Jim Crow. In World War I, the force sent across the ocean saved Europe, so we plan to invite diplomats from France and Belgium and the U.K. to join a special commemoration of those troops.

Please invite anyone you know who attended a segregated school, and their families, to come. Please also volunteer to help us organize and manage the event by sending an email to Larry Roeder at [roederaway@gmail.com](mailto:roederaway@gmail.com). Finally, our project won't be over in November. Come join us as research volunteers and keep history alive.

Our website is [www.edwinwashingtonproject.org](http://www.edwinwashingtonproject.org) and we are also on Facebook.

## A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

*The following article was from a clipping Mr. John W. Tolbert, Jr. wrote that was published in the Washington Post in the late 1960's.*

“Since Stephen Sydnor became principal of Douglass High School twelve years ago much progress has been made. Mr. Sydnor does not claim credit for the progress himself, but he had rather credit the community and the march of time.

The curriculum has expanded to include the following subjects with certified teachers: Public school music, school band, adequate science laboratory, health and physical education, adequate library facilities, organized guidance, bookkeeping, shorthand, mechanical drawing, chemistry, physics, plane and solid geometry. Trigonometry, driver education, business math, football, golf, track, and a full-time secretary.

Eight classrooms, gymnasium, cafeteria, industrial art shop and homemaking suite have been added.

Studies have been made of the schools' graduates, dropouts, education and economic status of the parents and job analysis. The teaching staff has more than doubled itself.

The achievements do not mean that we are satisfied. When citizens become satisfied they fail to grow. There are mountains to climb, oceans to cross and new frontiers to explore. The major concern of Douglass is that it has never been recommended for evaluation by the Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. This organization gives National status to accredited schools.”

### A Treasure to Remember

Looking back and remembering when I first graduated from Douglass Elementary School on Union Street, and coming to Douglass High School, I was overjoyed.

Alberta Johnson was my neighbor, and I would go to Douglass High School with her when there were social activities. Being a people-person, I learned who was who and what communities they came from here in the county.

When I entered high school in the 1948-1949 school year, I remember Mr. John Wanzer, President of the County-wide League, who was from Middleburg; Mr. Rob Ambers from Lucketts; Mrs. Eva Sanford from Hamilton, who was the Secretary of the County-wide League; Mrs. Kate Mallory from Waterford; Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hampton from Willisville; and Mr. Willie Hall of Middleburg. Mrs. Marie Medley was President of the N.A.A.C.P. I knew all the members from Leesburg, but just to name a few: Mrs. Elizabeth Quisenberry, Mrs. Junnie Coe, and my mom, Irene Roberts. These were some of the ones that made Douglass possible.

We had great teachers. One of the teachers grew up here in Leesburg. She and I went to the same church and I called her by her first name on weekends, but she was "Miss Sewell" during the school week. Douglass High School had some of the greatest teachers. When I was in school from 1948-1953, the teachers we had would not socially promote you. If a student was slow, they would work with them until they got it. Some of the teachers during that era were: Miss Linnett, Miss Bacote, Mrs. Oliver, Mr. Daniel, Miss Bell, Miss Sewell, Mrs. Craven, and Mr. Barrett.

During the 1948-1949 and 1949-1950 school years, the girls were tri-state champions in basketball under Mrs. Geraldine Dishield and Mr. Daniel. We had a trophy with our names and they were: Christine Ambers, Rosetta Jackson, Gertrude Winston, Thelma Brown, Kate Morris, Bertha Coates, Robbie Berry, Vivian Ashton, and myself. Of all the trophies that were won by all the members of the school (well over a hundred!), there were only about five that the School Board could find. They are at Douglass High School now.



The Class of 1953 was noted for several firsts. Being the first class to have all boys who finished at the top three slots of the class. The first yearbook was typed and put together by our class. Our class had a "sit-in" until we got Miss Sewell for our homeroom teacher. I understand the first football team was from our class. Remember the fashion show the Home Economics class had? We all made our clothes and modeled them under Mrs. Craven.

It was a joy going to Douglass and I dreaded when I graduated, because the fun times were over. I went on to become a beautician and raised a family of five.

I made the honor roll the five years I was there, so it was not all fun; it was hard work. I enjoyed all my classmates. I miss those who have gone on. I still keep in contact with my classmates.

Douglass, you are "saluted" for being the school that you are.

Mary Lee Perry

2018 RAM Events		
Date	Event	Location
March 17, 2018	Basketball Game	Douglass High School
April 14, 2018	Quarterly Board Meeting	Douglass High School
April 14, 2018	Spring Dance - featuring The Hardway Connection Band	Harmony Hall Hamilton, VA
June 1, 2018	 <p><b>*** Scholarship Applications Should be POSTMARKED ON OR BEFORE JUNE 1, 2018 ***</b></p> <p>Beginning in 2019, scholarship applications will be due by May 1st</p>	
July 14, 2018	Quarterly Board Meeting	Douglass High School
July 14, 2018	"A Past to Be Proud Of" Gala Honoring the Class of 1968*	Hilton Washington Dulles Airport 13869 Park Center Road Herndon, VA 20171
July 15, 2018	Scholarship Awards & Picnic	Douglass High School
To Be Determined—Late Summer or Early Fall	Golf Tournament	 <p>1757 Golf Club 45120 Waxpool Road Dulles, Virginia 20166</p>
October 13, 2018	Quarterly Board Meeting	Douglass High School

\*For additional information on the Gala, visit the website at <https://www.aisleplanner.com/events/Douglass-Celebrating50/>

STAY IN THE KNOW:  
*Sign-Up for Updates!*

Want to ensure you stay up-to-date with all LDAA news and events? Sign-up for our notification system and be amongst the first to receive all updates!

There are 3 easy ways to sign-up:

1. Follow the link: <https://www.remind.com/join/ldaa>
2. Send an email to [ldaa@mail.remind.com](mailto:ldaa@mail.remind.com)
3. Send a text to "81010" and include the following message in the text body: "@ldaa"

Loudoun Douglass High School Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 1638  
Leesburg, VA 20177

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MEMBERSHIP & NEW MEMBER APPLICATION FORM

You can make a difference! Your donation is tax deductible!

MEMBERSHIP AND DUES				
Name			Amount	<input type="checkbox"/> Box
Street Address		Countywide League	\$50 - \$99	
City		RAM	\$100 - \$149	
State, Zip Code		Honors	\$150 - \$199	
Phone		Frederick Douglass	\$200+	
Email		Dues	\$15 annually	
		Memoriam/Other		
		Total		

Note: If you or your class is interested in sponsoring a scholarship (\$1000) for 2018, the funds are due June 1, 2018. Any funds received after this date will be used towards scholarships in 2019.