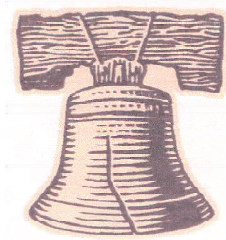


From  
Whence  
We Came



**Meet Our Honorees**

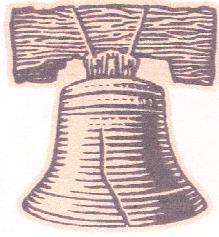
West Virginia Civil Rights Day

Thursday, February 23, 2006

11:30AM

Charleston Job Corps Center

Charleston, West Virginia



# *"From Whence We Came"*

West Virginia Civil Rights Day  
February 23, 2006



**Joe & Gayle Manchin  
Governor and First Lady  
of West Virginia**

**PROCLAMATION**  
**by**  
**Governor Joe Manchin III**

---

**Whereas,** the equality of all members of our society was recognized by our founding fathers and enshrined in our Declaration of Independence as a cornerstone upon which to build our American Democracy;

**Whereas,** equal rights and opportunities for all citizens is fundamental in the State of West Virginia and denial of such rights strikes at the very foundation of our democracy;

**Whereas,** the struggle to attain the American ideal of equality has been maintained throughout our history and continues today;

**Whereas,** hate and intolerance must be battled in every sector of our society by citizens, institutions and government with every person having an important role to play;

**Whereas,** key components to the removal of road blocks to equality are dialogue, collaboration and attentive listening to different perspectives; and

**Whereas,** the West Virginia Human Rights Commission works cooperatively with government agencies, community and civic organizations and representatives of minority groups to promote programs and campaigns devoted to the achievement of tolerance, understanding and equal protection of the law.

**Now, Therefore,** be it resolved that I, Joe Manchin III, Governor of the State of West Virginia, do hereby proclaim *February 23, 2006*, as:

***West Virginia Civil Rights Day***

**In Witness Whereof,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

**Done** at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this 23rd day of February, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Six and in the One Hundred Forty-third year of the State.



*Joe Manchin III*  
Governor

By the Governor:

*Betty Ireland*  
Secretary of State



**Carole Glasser**

Mrs. Carole Glasser is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin. She earned a Master's degree in Social Work from West Virginia University. Upon graduation, she began her career in the former West Virginia Department of Welfare, recruiting long-term foster homes for children with special needs, establishing group sessions with adoptive and foster families by county, and implementing policies to allow interracial couples and single parents the opportunity to adopt children.

Glasser was called upon to work at a "special" school, which became known as Job Corps, a federal pilot project to help train at-risk children for employment. For five years, she worked as a counselor and a staff training coordinator before becoming the Director of the Charleston Center. She later became the Eastern Region Vice President of the Management & Training Corporation, the company that operates Job Corps.

Mrs. Glasser participated in several Annual Summits of the West Virginia Human Rights Commission. Also, she served as a panelist at the West Virginia University symposium on "Ethnic Diversity and Cultural Pluralism in Appalachia." The National Institute on Pluralism and Cultural Identity sponsored the symposium.

She served on the Steering Committee for the West Virginia High Risk/High Need Youth Study, the Vice Presidential Task Force on National Youth Unemployment, and the Task Force on Equal Opportunity in Recruitment.

She participated in West Virginia's Kanawha County Dialogue, a program which began in 1976 that brought together individuals with diverse opinions for monthly public group discussions.

Now retired, Mrs. Glasser is a board member of the Kanawha County Public Library Foundation, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Schoenbaum Family Enrichment Center, the West Virginia Children's Home Society, and the Charleston Job Corps Center Community Relations Council. She is a member of the Temple Israel.

Her husband is Martin Glasser, a partner with the law firm Lewis, Glasser, Casey and Rollins. The Glassers are the parents of three children, Brian, Michael and Kristy.

## **Kent S. Hall**



Mr. Kent S. Hall, former Mayor of the City of Charleston, West Virginia, was born in Clay County. He is the son of Oscar Lee Hall and Fannie Lorentz.

Mr. Hall is a graduate of the Greenbrier Military School, in Lewisburg, West Virginia. He received an appointment to West Point Military Academy and finished his Master's degree in English at West Virginia University. Hall was a member of the National Guard for 20 years and retired at the rank of Major. He was deployed during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1963.

Hall's career includes a wide variety of high ranking positions, including President of Central Distribution; President of Locke Manufacturing; Vice President of Rose City Press; partner, Direct Mail Service; and, Stock Broker.

Mr. Hall began his career in politics when he helped John Copenhaver to get elected Mayor of the City of Charleston. He was a Charleston city councilman at large for many years. Also, Hall served as Charleston City Manager for former Mayor Doddson. He later became the City Treasurer, and from 1991 to 1994, he was the Mayor of the City of Charleston.

During his administration, he strengthened diversity in the City of Charleston by hiring more minorities than any other mayor. He loved all people regardless of color and gender. Mr. Hall was also Chair of the State Republican Party.

He and his wife, Marie Copley Hall, are the parents of three children, Mary Adams, Kent Hall, Jr., and Mollie Hall Olsen. He has two sisters, Anne Lorentz Barnett and Jean Hall Jarvis.



**Della Louise Brown Taylor  
Hardman, Ph.D.  
(Posthumously)**

Dr. Della Louise Brown Taylor Hardman was born on May 20, 1922, in Charleston, West Virginia. Her mother, Captolia Casey Brown, was a teacher and a graduate in the class of 1920 at Ohio University. Her father, Anderson Hunt Brown, owned a meat market in Charleston and later became a successful businessman and real estate owner for 50 years. Upon her mother's death, she was raised by her Aunt Della Brown. After graduating from Garnet High School in 1940, she enrolled in West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1943. She continued her education at the Massachusetts College of Art, and earned her Master's of Art from Boston University in 1945. A strong believer in lifelong learning and, at 72 years of age, she earned her Ph.D. from Kent State University.

In 1946 she married Francis C. Taylor, Sr. She took a position with the Fogg Art Museum at Harvard University in 1952 where she remained for two years. In 1956, she became an associate professor of art at West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University. She held the position for 30 years. The University's art gallery is named in her honor. Dr. Hardman hosted "The Black Experience" on WKAZ in Charleston between 1978 and 1988. This program is slated to be re-broadcast nationally by National Public Radio in 2006.

Hardman served as chairperson of the board of trustees of the Charleston Art Gallery, as a member of the National Art Education Association (NAEA), and the National Association of Art Administrators. The West Virginia State University National Alumni Association recognized her as Outstanding Alumna of the Year in 1968. The NAEA recognized her as an Outstanding Art Educator. Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV appointed her to the West Virginia Arts and Humanities Council. The Town of Oak Bluffs proclaimed July 29, 2005, as Della Brown Hardman Day.

In 1986, she retired from West Virginia State College and moved to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. In 1987, she married her high school sweetheart, Leon Hardman. Her community service included the Nathan Mayhew Seminar, the Oak Bluffs Library, Featherstone Art Gallery, Vineyard Nursing Association, and the Martha's Vineyard Chamber Music Society. The Martha's Vineyard Gazette called her a "grand lady of the island and the world, curious about everything and energetic enough to translate the lives of others into a common understanding for everyone.

## **Ken Hechler, Ph.D.**



Dr. Ken Hechler was the only member of the United States Congress to march with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, Alabama in 1965. Hechler and other fellow representatives in Congress were on their way to Cape Canaveral for a space launch when Hechler thought, “What is more important, a space ship or standing up for the rights of every individual regardless of race or color?”

Once Hechler reached Birmingham, a reporter for the *The Baltimore Sun* informed Dr. King that Hechler was among the participants. When the two were introduced, Dr. King told then Congressman Hechler, “You will always remember this day. You are a part of history.” Hechler joined hands with the marchers and sang “We Shall Overcome,” as onlookers threw rocks and yelled threats. Marching with Dr. King in Selma is but one example of Hechler’s courage, his ethics, work and vision. He is a leader, not a follower.

Dr. Hechler served as Congressman from 1959 to 1977 and as Secretary of State in West Virginia from 1985 to 2001. In these roles, he led the fight for civil rights, including voter registration drives for minority voters and easier access to the ballot box. He was a legislative leader on the federal level for passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the federal Civil Rights Acts of 1983, 1984 and 1985.

Hechler served his country during World War II, and later wrote a best-selling book entitled, “The Bridge at Remagen.” This book was made into a major motion picture. Hechler served during the Nuremberg trials and interrogated Hermann Goering and other top Nazis. Subsequently, he was the editor of President Franklin Roosevelt’s papers, a U.S. army historian, an aide to Adlai Stevenson and official assistant and speech writer to President Harry Truman.

Dr. Hechler earned his Ph.D. at Columbia University, and taught at Princeton, Columbia and Marshall Universities, and later taught at the University of Charleston and West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University. Dr. Ken Hechler is a renaissance man and intrepid leader. He has spent his life upholding the principles of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



## **Mildred Ruth T. Holt**

Mrs. Mildred Ruth T. Holt grew up in Logan, West Virginia and graduated from Aracoma High School as class valedictorian. Her family moved to Charleston, and she became the first and only post-graduate student of Garnet High School. She went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in English and Business Studies from West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University and a Master's of Art degree as a reading specialist from West Virginia University.

Mrs. Holt's myriad and extensive career includes teacher at Hayes Jr. High School where she developed an individualized reading program and served as staff reading consultant, Coordinator of Optional Experiences for Student Teacher by the Multi-Institutional Teacher Education Center, and Director of Personnel and Professional Certification for Kanawha County Schools. She was the first African-American to hold these positions. Mrs. Holt served as a member of the Textbook Committee during the infamous Kanawha County Schools textbook conflict in the early 1970's.

Her continuing efforts involve social justice and equality, improved educational opportunities for youth and adults, and environmental justice. She has worked tirelessly for health and safety issues, especially risk reduction as related to hazardous materials produced, stored and transported in the community areas of Institute, Pinewood and Dunbar. She was a charter member of People Concerned about MIC (Methyl Isocyanate), the chemical which killed thousands in Bhopal and was found to be made and stored in Institute. This advocacy group drew international attention to the risks that African-Americans and poor people suffer from chemicals. Ultimately, Title III, Emergency Planning and Right-to-Know legislation was passed by Congress. She chaired a three-community health survey and co-produced the community newsletter "Downwind New"; she was a participant in the award-winning movie "Chemical City" produced by Appelshop, Inc.; she served as a Director of the National Institute for Chemical Studies for twelve years. Currently, she is a Director of the Clay Center for Arts and Science, and current Co-Chair of the Board of Advisors for the West Virginia State Community and Technical College having served as its first Chair. Mrs. Holt is a life member of the NAACP. Mrs. Holt received the Russell S. Wehrle award and the Advocate of Peace Living the Dream award. Her philosophy is "Giving of self through volunteer service can help create positive change for the common good."



## **Mentola Joyce Jackson**



Mrs. Mentola Joyce Jackson was born on February 9, 1933 in Winston Salem, North Carolina. Her parents were Hobert and Mary Welch Joyce. Mrs. Jackson moved to Williamson, West Virginia when she was six years old and attended Liberty Grade School and later Liberty High School. Her family moved back to North Carolina when Mrs. Jackson was a teenager. She graduated from Carver High School in 1950. It was during those last few years of high school that Mrs. Jackson was confronted with the reality of segregation and racism. On several occasions, she was forced to quickly step-off of the side of the road when White motorists intentionally drove dangerously close to where she was walking. Her maternal grandmother, Rena Welch, showed her two trees in the rural community of Walnut Cove where Black men had been lynched. After graduating from high school, Mrs. Jackson returned to Williamson where she married her childhood sweetheart, James “Sonny” Jackson. They settled in Williamson where they raised their three children.

Later in life, Jackson returned to school attending classes in social work at Southern West Virginia Community College. During her career, she worked with several agencies: the West Virginia Dept. of Health and Human Resources, Logan/Mingo Mental Health, Mountain Comprehensive Care Center, Mingo County EOC Nutritional Food Program, Riverside Elementary School and the Mingo County Job Service. From 1984 to 1991, she and her husband owned and operated a small business.

In 1991, Jackson, along with nine other citizens from the African-American community in Williamson, formed the Concerned Citizens League where she served as Vice President of the Board of Directors. In 1998, she started laying the groundwork for another service oriented organization. In 2001, her hard work and determination came to fruition with the opening of the Action Center for Youth. The Center mentors area youth in computer skills, homework assignments and ethics.

Mrs. Jackson has continued her career with the Southwestern Community Action Council, Inc. where she works as a job developer and recruitment specialist. She also played an active role in the Logan Street First Baptist Church for 25 years, and represents her ward as a Williamson City Council member.

Jackson exemplifies what can be accomplished through hard work and discipline. She is an inspiration to all know her.



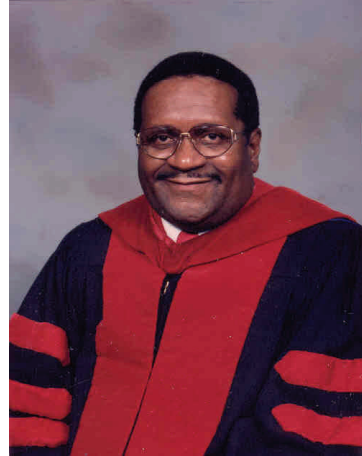
## **The Reverend Doctor Patricia Ann Jarvis, D.Min.**

Rev. Dr. Patricia Ann Jarvis was born in 1942. As a teenager she became sensitized to issues of race. She enrolled at Ohio Wesleyan University in 1960 and became part of the Student Committee on Human Rights. This Committee promoted sensitizing education and celebrating diversity. In 1963, during the summer of the celebrated “March on Washington,” she taught at the Jefferson Park Parrish Methodist Church in East Harlem, New York. After college, she attended Methodist Theological Seminary. She returned to New York as a night time recreation center director for teenagers in the Brooklyn Protestant Council during which time riots in Harlem, Bedford-Stuyvesant, and many other urban low-income areas occurred. Joining picket lines and marching, she protested for fair housing, equal employment and every other opportunity to ensure civil rights for all citizens, especially for African-Americans. At the age of 22, she attended Union Methodist Church, an 85% African-American congregation in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Reverend Jarvis traveled extensively speaking about her experiences at Union for the General Board of Evangelism of the United Methodist Church. She completed a Master’s degree at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis, while continuing to march on picket lines with African-Americans in the civil rights movement and in the anti-war peace movement.

Reverend Jarvis and her husband, Reverend Julian Sulgit, lived and worked in Sierra Leone, West Africa as teachers to Africans for three years, during which time their daughter was born. Returning to Charleston, she worked in the former Department of Welfare as a communications specialist. She then became director of the Charleston District Outreach Ministries. After completing a Master’s in Divinity at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, she was appointed the first female pastor at St. Stephens United Methodist Church at Coal Branch Heights and the first female pastor at Trinity United Methodist Church in Glennville. Five years later, she became the second female district superintendent for the United Methodist Church. She completed her Doctorate in Ministry in 1991. She and her husband were appointed the first husband-wife co-pastors at Trinity United Methodist Church, Bluefield, and in 1997 the first husband-wife co-pastors at Lewisburg United Methodist Church. Reverend Sulgit was recognized for his contributions to the civil rights movement at the second annual civil rights day, February 26, 2004. She retired from Lewisburg in 2005.

**The Reverend Doctor  
David A. Kates  
(Posthumously)**



Rev. Dr. David A. Kates was born August 24, 1949 in Columbus, Ohio, a son of the late Arnold Lee Foster and Mary Francis Kates. He has an extensive record of Christian and community stewardship spanning a period of nearly forty years. While he served faithfully as a Pastor of the Mt. Zion Missionary Baptist Church of Clarksburg, West Virginia for 23 years, he also maintained a high community profile because of his involvement in promoting equality and eliminating racism.

In 1999, when he was elected the first African-American Mayor of Clarksburg, West Virginia, he received an unexpected call. The Ku Klux Klan asked to hold a rally at the city hall of this mostly white community. Mayor Kates responded with an equally unexpected move. He welcomed the Klan members to exercise their free speech rights, but he and James Hunt, then a city councilor, called upon the rest of the community to simultaneously hold a rally to celebrate diversity. Community leaders, the media, and hundreds of volunteers sprang into action. In less than three weeks, a diversity rally was planned to coincide with the Klan event and a statewide effort ensued to show that diversity is more than a word in Clarksburg.

The “Let’s Get Real” rally drew a thousand residents committed to the cause of diversity. The slogan was, “Bring blankets, not sheets.” The rally received statewide media coverage and led to dozens of responses from churches, government officials, and community groups. Because of the outstanding response, Mayor Kates began an ongoing project to address diversity issues in the Clarksburg area.

In 1999, he founded, along with James Hunt, “The Unity Project,” a civil rights organization that is involved in community education on issues of racial unity and diversity awareness. The National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials honored the organization for its efforts.

Reverend Kates served on the United Hospital Board of Directors. He served on the West Virginia Municipal League Board of Directors holding the offices of Secretary, Treasurer, and First Vice President. The West Virginia State Supreme Court of Appeals appointed him to serve on their Committee on Equality in the West Virginia Judiciary. The Black Mayors Association recognized and honored Reverend Kates for outstanding leadership. In 2002, he was the keynote speaker at the Connecting Communities Conference in Caux, Switzerland.



## **Attorney J. Franklin Long**

Attorney J. Franklin Long was born in Bluefield, Virginia. He graduated from Graham High School, Bluefield State College and West Virginia University School of Law where he received his Juris Doctor degree in 1977. Since obtaining his Juris Doctor degree, Attorney Long has practiced law in Bluefield, West Virginia. He is admitted to practice law in the states of West Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Attorney Long has served in several capacities with the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. He presently serves on the Association's National Board of Governors. He is Chairman of the National Litigation Group, who are advocates for the rights of injured people throughout the United States.

Attorney Long has personally provided four-year college scholarships to more than 60 high school seniors. Specifically, he has established three scholarship endowments at Bluefield State College, a scholarship endowment at the West Virginia University College of Law, and a scholarship endowment at Concord University. He provides annual scholarships to incoming freshman at Southwest Virginia Community College.

Governor Bob Wise awarded Long the 2005 Living the Dream Award because of his long standing commitment to higher education. This is the Governor's highest award given annually to an outstanding West Virginian whose actions exemplify the ideals of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Also, Governor Bob Wise appointed him to serve on the Board of Governors of Concord University, Athens, West Virginia.

Governor Cecil Underwood appointed Long to serve on the Minority Business Task Force. He was later elected Chairman.

Attorney Long was voted as the Most Outstanding Black Attorney in West Virginia. He has served as President of the West Virginia Trial Lawyers Association and the Mountain State Bar. He is the first Vice President of the West Virginia Conference of Branches of the NAACP. Long has lectured in continuing legal education seminars from New York to San Francisco and in the Bahamas, Puerto Rico and Canada.

He is a member of the West Virginia University Foundation, the United Methodist Church Foundation, and the Bluefield State College Foundation.

Attorney Long is married to Vernon Darnell Long. They are the parents of a daughter, Traci.

## **Anna L. McCright**



Ms. Anna McCright is a graduate of Dunbar High School in Fairmont, West Virginia and earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in early childhood education from West Virginia State College, now West Virginia State University. She received a Master's degree from Columbia University in New York City. She also earned 47 credits toward her Ph.D. from West Virginia University.

She retired from the Marion County Board of Education after 47 years as a classroom teacher and principal.

After retiring, Ms. McCright founded the "612 Mac Community Center" in Fairmont for the purpose of educating children. The Center has a mini library, homework aide program and piano keyboard class. She believes that children must be able to compete in an ever-changing world of technology. Ms. McCright touched many lives through her work with the "612 Mac Community Center" and her 47 years as teacher and principal.

Ms. McCright is a member of Mount Zion Baptist Church. She is active in a number of organizations including: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, the American Association of University Women, the State and local chapters of the Retired Teachers Association and the Dunbar Association.

She is the recipient of numerous plaques and certificates for outstanding achievements such as the Women of Color Achievement Award; 612 Mac Commitment to Children Award; Dunbar Homecoming Committee's President's Award; NAACP Educational Award; GO CAT Award; NAACP Youth Award; Marion County School Administration Award; Women of Color Service and Achievement Award (2<sup>nd</sup> Award); Ever(y) Ready Service Award; Appreciation Award for Outstanding Accomplishments; Community Appreciation Award for Residents of Fairmont County; Honors and Humanities Teacher's Award; and, Certificate of Appreciation from the African-American Women's Association.

She helped countless youths discover that reading is the key that unlocks the door to success.



## **Edward L. Peeks**

Mr. Edward L. Peeks is a native of Unadilla, Georgia, which is located approximately 50 miles northeast of the Georgia White House in Plains, Georgia and 50 miles south of Macon, Georgia. After finishing elementary school in Unadilla, he chose to attend Gillespie High School in Cordele, Georgia, a boarding school 22 miles away. The school was supported by the Presbyterian Church USA. He could have walked to the Black high school in Vienna, 12 miles away, but there was no busing for Black children.

It was at Gillespie that he started on the road to journalism, encouraged by his American History teacher, S. Q. Mitchell, who was the father of Dr. Mildred Mitchell-Bateman, the first African-American Director of the West Virginia Department of Mental Health.

He attended Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana on scholarship. World War II interrupted his education and he served five years in the Army. He was honorably discharged in 1946 with the rank of first lieutenant.

He continued his education and earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from Roosevelt University in Chicago and a Master's degree in Journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois.

At Northwestern University, he became friends with Harry Ernst who later joined the Charleston Gazette staff. In 1963, Ernst recommended Peeks to L.T. Anderson, Associate Editor of the Gazette. He was hired and worked at the Gazette until his retirement in 1985 as Business Labor Editor. Peeks continues to write a weekly column.

Prior to his Gazette employment, he was a staff writer for the Atlanta Daily World and the Afro-American Newspapers in Washington, D.C.

He is a life member of the NAACP and the Bachelor-Benedict Club. He is a former member of the Board of Directors of Charleston's Opportunities Industrialization Center and a 31-year member of the Board of the Salvation Army in Charleston. He is the recipient of several awards from the Capitol Press Club, Washington, D.C.

He is married to Eulalia (Yankee) Rogers Peeks and has three step-children, Quetta Muzzle, Walter and John Rogers. Peeks attends the Riverview Baptist Church.

In a discussion with a former classmate at Northwestern, the man stated to Peeks, "Some people don't know how they want to be treated." Peeks retorted, "I'll bet you know darn well how you want to be treated, so just treat others likewise."

**The Honorable  
Larry V. Starcher**



Justice Larry V. Starcher was born in Roane County, West Virginia, September 25, 1942. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1964 and his Juris Doctor in 1967 from West Virginia University (WVU). He has been a justice on the West Virginia Supreme Court since 1997. Former Governor Bob Wise appointed Justice Starcher to the Martin Luther King, Jr. West Virginia Holiday Commission where he is a current member.

Starcher began his active involvement in civil rights as a legal aid lawyer in Morgantown in the late 1960's and early 1970's. As a public interest attorney, he represented indigent clients of all races in the North Central region of West Virginia, and became close friends with many activists and leaders in the civil rights community. These close personal friendships deepened his appreciation for the continued need to remove the legacy of discrimination. He has made this effort a cornerstone of his public and private work, supporting affirmative action and diversity programs in hiring and training.

Justice Starcher was the Director of the North Central West Virginia Legal Aid Society from 1969 to 1976. He was elected and re-elected to the Seventh Judicial Circuit in MORGANTOWN County, and served in that capacity from January 1977 to April 1995.

From 1967 to 1969, Starcher was the Assistant to the Vice President for Off Campus Education at WVU. He was elected to the Morgantown City Council and served from 1970 to 1971. Starcher has been an adjunct lecturer at WVU College of Law since 1993.

A most recent project for Justice Starcher has been bringing to the public's attention, the career of J. R. Clifford, West Virginia's first African-American lawyer and civil rights pioneer.

Justice Starcher is married to the former Rebecca Wiles. He and his wife are the parents of three children, Mollianne, Victor and Amy. Mollianne is a graduate of the WVU College of Law; Victor graduated from the WVU School of Medicine; and, Amy is a graduate of the WVU Master's of Public Administration program.



**Clarence Wanzer**

Mr. Clarence Wanzer, a long-time resident of Coal Branch Height in Charleston, West Virginia, devotes his life to leadership and service in his community through a variety of leadership offices and by inspiring community members to become activists of the Christian faith and civil rights. Mr. Wanzer was born on September 4, 1910 in Columbus, Ohio. In 1920, he came to Charleston, West Virginia where he was raised by his grandmother, a former slave. Before the age of 16, Mr. Wanzer began working for various industries in the Kanawha Valley. Mr. Wanzer built his home in 1939 in Coal Branch Heights, an integrated community.

During the civil rights era, Mr. Wanzer, then President of the Hilltop Improvement League, joined in the struggle by directly picketing Charleston businesses; attending City of Charleston council meetings, day-after-day, month-after-month for eight months, lobbying for electricity, water and paved roads for his community until it was accomplished. At the time, Mayor John Shanklin told him, "Wanzer, if you hadn't kept coming like that, you probably wouldn't have gotten your streets paved." Also, he joined in the boycott of the Diamond Department Store. He had just made a \$500.00 furniture purchase at the store and yet his wife could not buy a cup of coffee there. When the furniture was delivered he sent it back.

Mr. Wanzer and other African-Americans helped to build St. Stephens Methodist Church. After the church was constructed, District Superintendent Culpepper refused to let him and his family worship with the church's white congregation. In response to this injustice, Mr. Wanzer purchased a small parcel of land, and courageously constructed a second church, the House of Prayer, where all people of color could worship. In 1965, the new Methodist District Superintendent invited the same families that were once turned away, to join St. Stephens. Mr. Wanzer's family joined St. Stephens in 1965, and they have enjoyed fellowship with the integrated congregation to this day.

Mr. Wanzer, through his political and personal friendship with Governor John D. Rockefeller, IV, traveled to Washington D.C., to explain and advise "self-help housing" to President Johnson. He retired from the U.S. Postal Service as a EEO counselor for West Virginia and Maryland. In this position, he heard complaints from 1,100 post offices and settled approximately 46 cases in five years. Additionally, he was successful in getting women into advanced positions in the U.S. Postal Service. On July 29, 2005, Senator Rockefeller, IV gave Mr. Wanzer a Senatorial Tribute. Today, he continues to serve his community.



**The 2005 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees**



**Attorney Willard L. Brown (Posthumously)**



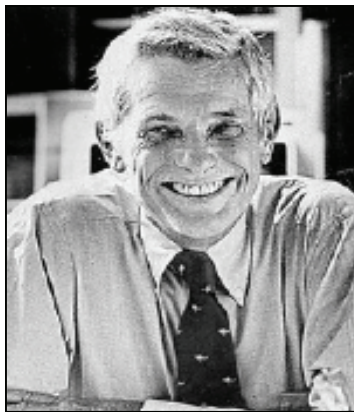
**The Honorable Herman G. Canady, Jr.**



**Attorney Harry Jheopart Capehart (Posthumously)**



**Elizabeth E. Chilton**



**William E. "Ned" Chilton (Posthumously)**



**Gustavus Werber Cleckley (Posthumously)**



**Savannah R. Evans**



**Faith Holsaert**



**Reverend Dr. Idus Jones, Jr.**

**The 2005 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)**



**Cora Francis  
Coleman Jones  
(Posthumously)**



**The Honorable A.  
James Manchin  
(Posthumously)**



**Dr. Virgil E.  
Matthews**



**Blanche Wade**



**Attorney Thomas  
G. Nutter  
(Posthumously)**



**The Reverend Dr.  
David Louis Smith  
(Posthumously)**



**Dr. John  
Warner, Jr.**



**Richard G. Walker**



**William L.  
Williams, Jr.**



**The Reverend Dr.  
F. Emerson Wood**

**The 2004 West Virginia Civil Rights Day Honorees**



**Dr. Elayne Croxier  
Abnathy**



**Dr. Mildred Mitchell  
Bateman**



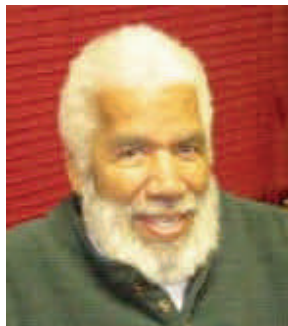
**Hollie James  
Brown**



**Madrith Chambers**



**Rev. David  
C. Chappell  
(Posthumously)**



**Sgt. Edward Clark,  
Jr. (Ret.)**



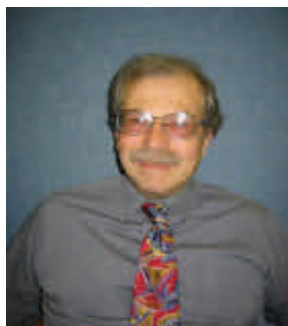
**Rabbi Samuel  
Cooper**



**Howard Samuel  
Crump**



**The Honorable  
Gail Ferguson**



**Attorney Roger  
Forman**



**Robert Jackson  
Guerrant**



**Betty Agsten  
Hamilton**

## 2004 Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



**Jean F.  
Loewenstien  
Lazarus,  
(Posthumously)**



**Allen Edward Lee**



**Rev. Moses New-  
some  
(Posthumously)**



**Josephine Morris  
Rayford  
(Posthumously)**



**Lucile Meadows,  
(Posthumously)**



**George Rutherford**



**Steve Rutledge**



**Rev. Charles H.  
Smith**



**Mary Snow**



**The Honorable  
Nancy Starks  
(Posthumously)**



**Reverend Julian  
Sulgit, Jr.**



**The Honorable  
Booker T. Stephens**



**Dr. Leon Howard Sullivan,  
(Posthumously)**

## 2003 Civil Rights Day Honorees



**Louise P.  
Anderson**



**Joan C.  
Browning**



**Philip W.  
Carter, Jr.**



**George E.  
Chamberlain, Jr.**



**Carrie Chance**



**Dr. Betty Jane  
Cleckley**



**The Rev.  
Homer H. Davis**



**Elizabeth Hard-  
en Gilmore  
(Posthumously)**



**Rev. Paul J.  
Gilmer, Sr.**



**Henry Hale**



**Bernard Francis  
Hawkins  
(Posthumously)**



**Attorney  
Herbert H.  
Henderson**

## 2003 Civil Rights Day Honorees (Cont.)



**Paul J.  
Kaufman,  
(Posthumously)**



**Rose Jean  
Kaufman,  
(Posthumously)**



**Shirley N. Paige**

**No Picture  
Available**

**Emerson Reed**



**Helaine Rotgin**



**Rev. Dr. Dean K.  
Thompson**



**Clayborn Till-  
man**



**James A.  
Tolbert, Jr.**



**Nellie Walker**



**Ellis Ray  
Williams**

**We wish to acknowledge all the sponsors who have joined together  
to make this day possible:**

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**Marshall University Multicultural Affairs**



