



**Rayville Rosenwald  
Eula D. Britton**

**W  
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**SCHOOL  
REUNION  
July 6 - July 8**

Eula D. Britton Alumni Center  
103 Cotton Street  
Rayville, Louisiana 71269



# **Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association**

*Members of the Board of Directors  
2009 - 2012*

**Mr. Ira Bradley, Jr., President**

**Mrs. Gay Bertha Curtis, Vice President**

**Mr. Freddy Rivers, Secretary**

**Mrs. Clara Wilson, Financial Secretary**

**Mr. Joe Jones, Treasurer**

**Mr. Leroy Collins**

**Mr. James Gee**

**Miss Nettie Lee**

**Mr. Morgan Moss**



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*From The President's Desk:  
Elder Ira Bradley, Jr., Th.D.*



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*Greetings, and welcome to our 2012 school reunion, in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Some of you have come from afar, and some of you have come from nearby in order to participate in this school reunion.*

*In traveling back to Rayville, I am sure that your minds wondered back on your classmates, teachers, and the many events that took place in the old school and in this very building, which is the only physical structure left as a reminder of where God has brought us from. From playing basketball on a dirt court when the weather permitted, God not only moved the basketball team indoors, but He also made it possible for us to have plays, socials, junior/senior proms, and our baccalaureate and commencement exercises in this old reminder of a very important part of our history.*

*Speaking of past history, my mind goes back to the Fall of 1942 when a friend and next door neighbor brought me from Bucks Quarters (what was sometimes referred to as "the mud hole") to be enrolled in Rayville Rosenwald Elementary and High School as a first grader. Needless to say, I was one scared child that day.*

*It was during that time that I became acquainted with a young principal, Mrs. Eula D. Britton, who became a part of my life (and I am sure many of yours) with her strong influence. As my mind continues to reflect back, I am reminded of a passage of scripture from the Holy Bible (Joshua 4:6&7) which reads:*

*"That this may be a sign among you that when your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, what mean ye by these stones. Then ye shall answer that the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord; when it passed over Jordan the waters were cut off and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel forever."*

*In closing, my fellow alumni, let the bricks of this old building be a reminder to us and a memorial to our children of how God has brought us over the "Dirt Court Jordan"; over the ever present invisible walls of segregation and prejudice to a time when we must carry on what the pioneers of our black heritage— Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton founders— kept alive many years ago.*







*Greetings From  
Our Mayor:  
Honorable  
Harry "Kayo" Lewis*

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*It is my great honor to welcome Rayville Rosenwald/ Eula D. Britton Alumni, former faculty members and students, as well as their families and friends to the town of Rayville. We are elated to have you as our special guests. Indeed, we look forward to making your stay comfortable and memorable.*

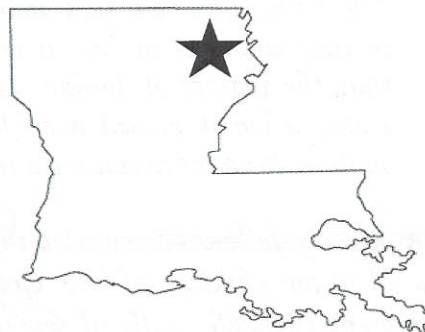
*As you visit us, we hope you observe the improvements and steady growth in our town since your school days. However, our southern hospitality, friendly atmosphere, and community spirit remain the same. We pray that this reunion will stir up all the pleasant memories associated with growing up in the "hood."*

*The Town Council, citizens of Rayville, and I are excited about your visit and hope you will have a wonderful time. In addition, all of us pray for your safe return. Visit us again and again!*

*God bless each of you.*

*With best regard,*

*Harry "Kayo" Lewis  
Mayor & Class of '64*





## *A Daily Prayer*

*Dear Heavenly Father,*

*I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to awake once again, to see, and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me, and You continue to bless me. Please forgive me every day for anything I have done, said, or thought that was not pleasing to You, and I ask now for Your forgiveness. Please keep me safe from all danger and harm.*

*Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all things.*

*Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing and receive Your forgiveness. And when this world closes in on me, let me remember the example of Jesus --*

*to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It is the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits.*

*Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak, Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe, and I thank you that You are in my heart and that I do believe and have true faith in You. I believe that You change people, and You can*

*change all things. I pray for all my sisters and brothers and for each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace; love; joy in their homes; that they are out of debt; and that all their needs are met. I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than You. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of*

*every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly.*

*This is my prayer... and I pray in the name of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, Amen*



## The History Of **Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton High School**

On August 16, 1904, a group of black citizens formed "The Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School" corporation. The men responsible for the formation of this corporation had availed themselves of the provisions of the general statutes of the State of Louisiana and acts amendatory and especially Act No. 50 of the General Assembly of 1890, relative to organization of corporations for literary, scientific, and charitable purposes and acts amendatory. As a result, the Charter of "The Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School," was published.

The title and corporate name of this institution was designed for a period of ninety-nine years from and after the date assigned to the document.

The object of the institute was:

The education and moral training of colored children male and female, and the dissemination of knowledge in practical agriculture mechanics, other industrial arts and sciences, together with a thorough academic, literary and business education: including domestic science, fancy, practical, and general needle and laundry work and such other useful industries as may from time to time be suggested by experience, or promote the general object and welfare of this institution and prepare its pupils for the indispensable industries of the age and guide, under proper restrictions the head, the hand, and the heart of the colored race.

The corporation was governed by a president and general manager and a Board of Trustees consisting of fifteen members. The first officers and members of this corporation were: President and General Manager, Reverend R. Amos; President of the Trustee Board, Reverend F. Turner; Vice President, N. W. Draper; Secretary, A. L. B. Strother; and Treasurer, N.W. Woodson. Members were: W. C. Cooper, J.B. Winchester, Reverend J.L. Elbert, Leroy Coleman, G.H. Washington, Tom Dunnick, W. M. Bodger, John Draper, Gus Kenton, Lee Stephenson, and Alex Tignor.

As a direct result of the 1904 Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School Corporation, the Rayville Rosenwald, Rayville Colored High and finally Eula D. Britton High School had its beginning. The first school was known as "The College." Professor Amos was the president, and the instructors were Professor and Mrs. Tombs, Miss Elliot (Delhi, LA), Professor J. Anthony (Rayville), and Professor P. J. Sims (Lincoln Parish). The students attending the college were enrolled in cooking, sewing, music, math, and English courses.

The College was dissolved because of financial difficulties, and the next school for the children of the black community was held in Macedonia Baptist Church.

In October of 1916, the first school session was held with Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr., of Houma, Louisiana as the new principal. Some years later, Professor Jackson became the principal with Mrs. Clara Bell Coleman serving as the assistant and Mrs. Jackson as the third member of the faculty. The third principal serving during this time was Mrs. Ollie Hill of New Orleans, with Mrs. Eula D. Britton, Mrs. O.S. Hill, and Mrs. Evan as members of the faculty.



During the latter part of 1924, land was purchased from Mr. William Tolliver Cook, and grades 1-6 were transferred from the Macedonia Baptist Church to the new school building, present site of the recreational area. Mrs. Britton was named the principal, and the first graduates from the 7th grade held their graduation exercises at the Macedonia Baptist Church. Members of the class were: Mrs. Mary Jenkins Kennedy (valedictorian), Mrs. Jessie Williams Gundy (salutatorian), Mrs. Geneva Cross, Mrs. Alberta Hawkins, and Mrs. Alberta Osborne. The second 7th grade class of graduates (1925) held their exercises at the First Baptist Church.

In 1933, the second school was approved as a junior high school, and in 1939 the first senior high school was approved and given a "B" rating, with eleven young men and women receiving high school diplomas. In 1940 the school was accredited and given the "AA" rating which was the highest rating given to Negro high schools in the state of Louisiana. During this time, the teaching staff increased, and more room was added.

Rayville Rosenwald grew from a one-room, one teacher, and a five month school term to twenty-four rooms, twenty-six teachers, and a nine month school term with an enrollment of one thousand thirty. Other specific improvements were a full-time librarian, equipped lunchroom with seven lunchroom workers, a well-equipped home economics building, a modern gymnasium, and a fast developing agriculture department. Future plans include a new plant with the following: twenty-six classrooms (fully-equipped), commercial department, music department, teachers lounge (2), clinics, sewing department with fitting rooms, a cooking department and science department.

Since Rayville Rosenwald High School has been accredited, it has turned out three hundred and eleven graduates. A considerable number of them entered such schools of higher education as Grambling State University, Leland College, Florida A&M University, University of Illinois, and others. It boasts of business men and women, college professors, military soldiers, ministers, and other professionals.

Through the years the growth of the school from the "College" to Eula D. Britton High School (1954) was phenomenal. The original concept in 1904 until dissolution in 1970 was based on the need to provide educational opportunities for black citizens of Rayville. During the 63 years of actual school existence, unlimited efforts were made to ensure the perpetuation of this idea, implanted in the minds of the early pioneers of the Rayville black community.





# *"Lest We Forget"*

*A Tribute To Mrs. Eula Dunning's Britton*



*Your outstanding abilities as a teacher and principal were shown in the product of your hands in honesty, integrity, and truthfulness of many graduates. Your optimism, sense of humor, sound judgment, and good temper, founded upon Christian faith and hope, exerted a profound influence for good in our homes, our churches, and our community.*

*Your keen sense of responsibility to your school and community, quietly carried, was a contribution unparalleled in our area. Your abiding faith, your steadfast devotion and unwavering loyalty to your church, your community, your professional calling, your friends, your many graduates, and to your God were an inspiration and a source of strength for us all.*

*History may record but a few of your remarkable achievements and services, yet many girls, boys, men, and women, here and in distant lands, will carry your message of noble brotherhood, devotion to service, intellectual pursuits, honesty, integrity, truthfulness, and your love for God and for mankind.*

*You blessed our community with your birth. You enlightened our community with your teaching. You glorified our community with your devotion to God and to country.*

*You will live forever in our hearts, deeds, and thinking. Your memory will live on as we continue to share your story over and over again.*

*You laid the foundation... To God be the glory!*



# *"The Builder"*

## *A Tribute To Mr. James P. Smith*

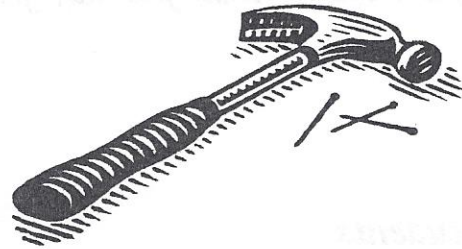


*"It's not what we gain...but what we give  
that measures the worth of the life that we live."*

*Mr. James P. Smith loved his work as principal and prided himself on being able to communicate with students in such a way as to be helpful in their choices of preparing for a world of work. He believed that each student should aim high and embrace values that were eternal: pride, respect, dedication, hard work, courage, and integrity.*

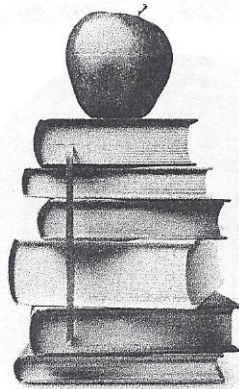
*We live in a world of bewildering potentialities for good and evil, but there are means and resources available by which all may build a more satisfying life.*

*Democratic school activities at Eula D. Britton High School trained young people to take part in what they desire and further developed within them qualities of initiative, resourcefulness, and independence.*



*Mr. James P. Smith... A Master Carpenter of Education!*

# *"A Salute To Our Former Teachers"*



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*We, the former students of the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton High School, would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the hard work and dedication that you displayed in helping to shape and mold the lives of so many people— younger then, but much older now.*

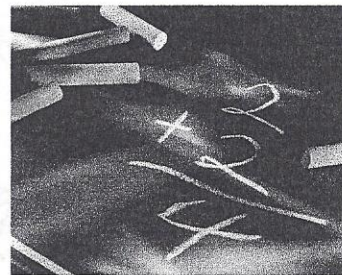
*We know that for many of you, it was not an easy task. But because of the love, motivation, and inspiration for teaching, you persevered. We also know that it could not have been for the PAY!*

*If it were not for teachers like you, there would be no doctors, nurses, preachers, or even a black president.*

*Teachers, this is your night, and we take great pride in saluting you. We want you to know that we truly love and appreciate you. May God continue to bless and keep you in His tender loving care.*

*Forever Grateful,*

*Your Former Students*





# Agenda

## Reunion MMXII

### I. Opening

### II. State of the Alumni

### III. Minutes of the 2009 Reunion

### IV. Old Business

- A. Landscaping
- B. Sidewalk and Parking
- C. Stage Curtains
- D. Class Banners
- E. Men's Restroom
- F. Kitchen Needs
  - 1. Work Tables
  - 2. Cabinets and Storage
  - 3. Larger Ice Machine
- G. Building Repairs

### V. New Business

- A. Board Members Pay
- B. Change Reunion From Every 3 Years to Every 2 Years
- C. Alumni Registration Fees for 2015
- D. Personalized Bricks
- E. Outside Lighting
- F. Create a Foyer
- G. Alumni Center Equipment
  - 1. Lawn
  - 2. Buffer
- H. Picnic Tables
- I. Election of Board Members

### VI. Alumni Comments



# *Itinerary*

## *Reunion MMXII*

### **Thursday, July 5, 2012**

The Class of 1960 presents:  
"The History of the African-American Educational Experience  
in Rayville, LA (1904-1970)"  
3:00 P.M.

### **Friday, July 6, 2012**

Registration.....8:00 A.M. – 12:00 Noon  
Meet and Greet  
Alumni Dance.....8:00 P.M. – 1:00 A.M.

### **Saturday, July 7, 2012**

Parade (Please Wear Your Alumni T-shirt) .....9:00 A.M.  
Breakfast ..... 10:00 A.M.  
Alumni Meeting (Immediately After Breakfast)  
Fashion Show.....5:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.  
Alumni Banquet.....7:00 P.M.  
Speaker: Mr. Freddy L. Rivers

### **Sunday, July 8, 2012**

Ecumenical Service .....8:00 A.M.

### *Alumni Presidents*

**Mr. Willie Larkin, Jr.**

**Mrs. Susie Lewis**

**Mr. John Lancaster**

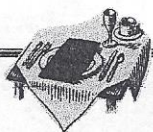
**Mrs. Wilma Hill**

**Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.**



# Alumni Banquet

Saturday, July 7, 2012  
7:00 O' Clock P.M.



Theme: "Our Legacy"

Scripture: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"  
-Psalm 133:1

Prelude.....Mrs. Joy Brown

Seating of 2012 Golden Girl

Invocation.....Rev. James Smith

Music/Solo.....Mrs. Dorothy Warner

Greetings.....Mayor Pro Tem, Rev. Timothy Tennant

Music.....Dr. Willie Allen Naylor

Introduction of Speaker.....Mr. John Smith

Speaker.....Mr. Freddy L. Rivers  
Class Of '70

Special Recognitions.....Mrs. Ruby M. Robinson

Mrs. Golden Girl and Golden Girl Participants  
Honorary Alumni Members  
Activity Committee Members

Remarks & Announcements.....Elder Ira Bradley, Jr.  
Alumni President

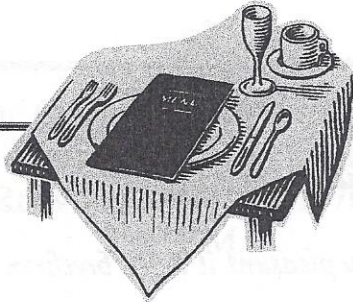
Blessing Of Food.....Rev. James Smith

Dinner Is Served

Mistress Of Ceremony...Mrs. Ruby M. Robinson



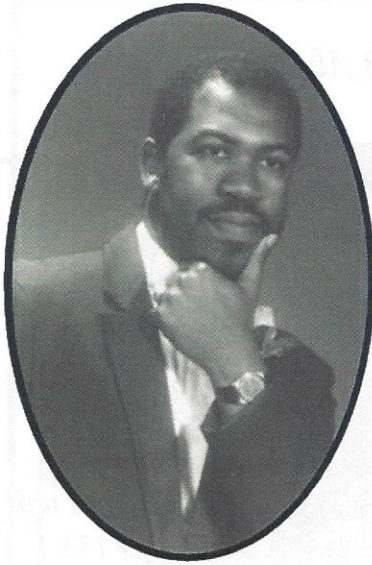
# Alumni Banquet Menu



*Chicken  
Brisket  
Seasoned Rice  
Green Salad  
Green Beans  
Dessert  
Rolls  
Punch  
Tea (Sweet/Unsweet)*







## **Banquet Speaker: Mr. Freddy L. Rivers**

*Born in Farmerville (Union Parish), Freddy was the third child and only son of Fred and Telitha Brown Rivers. After a year, his mother relocated back to Rayville where he now resides.*

*Freddy is married to the former Sylvia Rabun of Bastrop, and they have a daughter – Zaire Cleopatra. He also has another daughter from a previous relationship.*

*Freddy is an alumnus of Britton, graduating in 1970 as class salutatorian. He was the Freshman Class president and a member of the band, student council, and honor society.*

*After graduating from high school, he entered Louisiana Tech University to major in pre-medicine. After changing his major several times, he graduated in 1974 with a Bachelors of Arts degree in Political Science with the purpose of going to law school. After canceling his law school plans, he re-entered Tech to pursue an education degree. He graduated in 1976 with a Bachelors Degree in Social Studies Education. In 1984, Freddy received his Masters Degree in English Education. In 1988, the Masters+30 ranking was added to his teaching certificate, and in 1994, he received his certification credentials in Library Science.*

*Freddy taught English, Business English, and Spanish I at Rayville High School; Junior High English at Morehouse Junior High School; and GED English and science at Horace G. White Learning Center in Winnsboro, LA. After teaching for 33+ years, he retired spending his time doing custom woodworking.*

*In the spring of 1990, Freddy crossed the burning sands to become a member of **Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.** in the Monroe Alumni Chapter. In the spring of 1996 during the Southwestern Province Council meeting, Freddy became a charter life member of the Southwestern Province. In December of the same year, he became a charter member of the Rayville Alumni Chapter.*

*Since joining the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association, he has served faithfully, being selected as a board member and assuming the secretarial duties after the untimely death of the previous secretary.*

*Freddy is a member of the Rankin Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church where he has served in numerous positions, including Steward, Trustee, choir director, and Sunday School teacher.*



*Ecumenical Service*  
Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni



Sunday, July 8, 2012  
8:00 A. M.

**Theme: "Our Legacy"**

Scripture: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!"  
-Psalm 133:1

Musical Prelude.....Mr. Thurman Brown

Director.....Mrs. Mary L. Ricks

Call To Praise.....Rev. Albert Woods

Scripture & Praise.....Minister Marge Roberts

Congregational Singing....."Hold To God's Unchanging Hand"

Sermon.....Rev. Albert Woods

Invitation To Salvation.....Rev. Albert Woods

Music....."I Have Decided To Follow Jesus"

*Remembering Our Staff Members And Classmates By Lighting A Memorial Candle*

*Mr. Danny R. Henderson*

*Soft Music by Dr. Willie Naylor*

*Offering Led By: Mr. Lumas Broussard, Mr. Thomas Turner,  
Mr. Jack Williams, & Mr. Nelson Woods*

*Final Words of Gratitude and Benediction.....Elder Ira Bradley Jr., Alumni President*

*Ushers: Mrs. Marilyn Harris, Mrs. Charlene Phillips, & Mrs. Beatrice Wilson*

*Program Guided By: Mrs. Clementine D. Smith*

## 2012 Golden Girl



*Mrs. Irma Hunter*



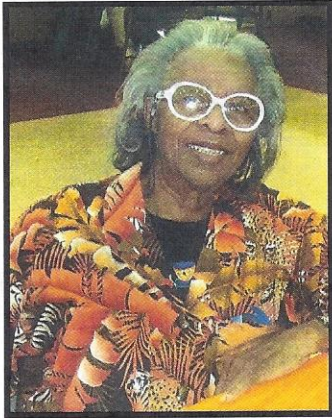
## 2012 Golden Girl Court



*Left to Right, Madames: Louise Wilson, Ella Wagner, Jessie Turner, Queen Irma Hunter, Charlene Phillips, Alice Martin, and Mary Collins*



## *The First Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Honorary Alumni Members*



*Mrs. Marie Hill*

*Mrs. Marie Hill is an active church member and an active civic and community participant. She serves as treasurer of the Martin Luther King Memorial Society. Whenever children are involved, she wants to be a part. She is a retired educator, having taught in the Richland Parish School System from 1938-1972.*



*Mrs. Mary B. Plain*

*Mrs. Plain is a church and community worker. She worked in the Richland Parish School System for 25 years. She taught at Ester Toombs High School and Delhi Elementary School for 12 years and later became Curriculum Supervisor of the Chapter I Program for 13 years. She has two sons: Wendell and David, Jr.*



*Mrs. Ethel P. Berry*

*Mrs. Berry is the former First Lady of the Town of Rayville, the widow of the late Mayor Isam Berry, Sr. She is an active church member and community worker. She is a retired educator, having taught in the Richland Parish School System for 34 years. She is the mother of four children: Isam, Jr., Daryl, Abbie, and Roderick.*



## *School Names*

Eula D. Britton High School  
Rayville Rosenwald High School  
Rayville Colored High School  
Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School



## *Founders*

Rev. R. Amos	Alex Tignor
Rev. F. Turner	Rev. J. L. Elbert
Nelson W. Draper	William C. Cooper
A. B. Strother	W. M. Bodger
Gus Kenton	John Draper
Leander Stephenson	Tom Dunnick
N. W. Woodson	Leroy Coleman
George H. Washington	J. B. Winchester

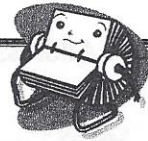


## *Principals*

Professor Edward W. Beasley, Sr.  
Professor Jackson  
Mrs. Ollie Hill  
Mrs. Eula D. Britton  
Mr. James P. Smith  
Mr. John B. Jennings







*"Keep In Touch"*

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# Rayville Rosenwald | Eula D. Britton

## *Alma Mater*

Let our voices loudly ringing  
Echo far and near,  
Songs of praise thy children singing  
To thy memory dear.

All the days we've been together  
Fondly we recall,  
Days of fair and stormy weather  
Thou has gladden'd all.

Years may dim our recollection,  
Time its change may bring,  
Still thy name in fond affection  
Evermore we sing.

### **Chorus**

Alma Mater, Alma Mater!  
Tender, fair, and true,  
Britton High with love unfailing  
We owe our love to you.

