

Rayville Rosenwald



EULAD.

Britton

1904 - 1970

REUNION 2018

June 29th, 30th – July 1st, 2018

“Keep the Light Shining”

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Fellow Schoolmates and Supporters:

It is a pleasure to welcome you to our 2018 School Reunion. On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association, we are excited that you are able to join us in this sensational event. Our theme ***“Keep the Light Shining”*** encourages all of us to remain steadfast in continuing to preserve our legacy, highlighting the past as we move toward the future. We are so pleased that you are here to share in the festivities. “The Gym” is the last tangible evidence of our great history and it is our duty to preserve it. The history of our great school must always be remembered, cherished and preserved.



It is always appropriate to honor those who saw the vision and took the leadership to begin this organization. Through the leadership of the past presidents: Mr. Willie Larkin, Jr., Mrs. Susie Lewis, Mrs. Wilma Hill, Mr. John Lancaster and Elder Ira Bradley, Jr., this building has been established as the Alumni Center. We are all grateful to those schoolmates who implemented the vision of this Association and have carried out the tasks necessary for the preservation of “The Gym.” Major renovations have occurred over many years to maintain, upgrade and preserve the building. In addition to preserving our heritage, it has become a focal point in the community.

The Board is also grateful to everyone who pays their dues, give additional donations, assist with fundraising and give of your time and talent to move the Association forward. The funds we receive are used for preservation and enhancements of the building. During the past two years the following maintenance and preservation projects have been completed: installed front entrance steel doors, purchased an additional steel food preparation table, installed a new icemaker, and water-proofed the roof at the rear of the building. We are appreciative to all of you who assisted in making these enhancements a reality.

We are here to have fun, reminisce and ***“Keep the Light Shining”*** on our heritage. Enjoy the Reunion!!!

Elaine Elder Coleman

President

TOWN OF RAYVILLE

109 BENEDETTE ST., P O BOX 878 – RAYVILLE, LA 71269
TELEPHONE: (318) 728-2011 * FAX: (318) 728-7503

Officers

Harry Lewis, Mayor
Willie L. Robinson, Chief of Police
Deborah T. Nealon, Town Clerk
Damon D. Kervin, Town Attorney
David Standifer, Supt. Public Works
Gary Miller, Fire Chief
James Berry, Town Magistrate

Aldermen

Timothy Tennant, Mayor Pro Tem
Valerie Allen
James Brakefield
Paula Cumpton
Debra K. James

June 6, 2018

The Town Council, my staff, our citizens and I have been eagerly awaiting your arrival. We extend our warmest welcome to each of you. We sincerely hope that you will enjoy every minute of your stay.

This reunion is a great opportunity to reconnect with friends, to reflect on our rich school history and to celebrate the strong common bond we share: growing up together in the same community and attending the same school. In addition, I look forward to joining in the celebration with you.

Please find time to enjoy our small town amenities and southern hospitality. Drive or walk around to see our improvements and steady growth.

Again, we welcome you back home! Relax! Enjoy! Laugh! And as always, we pray for a safe return to your destination. God Bless!

With warmest regards,

Harry Lewis, Mayor
Class of 1964



THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER

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

Reunion 2018 Schedule of Activities

Theme – “Keep The Light Shining”

Friday, June 29, 2018

Registration /Meet and Greet (Refreshments) Unveiling - <i>Exhibit of Black Businesses and Legacy School Pictures</i>	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Night in White Affair - <i>Karaoke Style</i> (hor'doeurves & DJ) BYOB <i>Attire: ALL WHITE "Casual Elegant"</i>	8:00pm – Midnight

Saturday, June 30, 2018

Brunch & <i>Down Memory Lane</i> Black Businesses 1 st football team – Class of 1967 <i>Attire: Reunion T-shirts</i>	10:00am - 12:00 pm
Alumni Meeting	12:00pm – 1:00pm
Banquet Speaker – <i>Mrs. Ola Bunnitt, Class of 1951</i> Black and Gold Ball (DJ & BYOB) <i>Attire: Black and Gold “Dressy”</i>	6:00pm - 7:45pm 8:00pm – midnight

Sunday, July 1, 2018

Ecumenical Service Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Center Sermon – <i>Minister Marge Roberts, Class of 1970</i>	8:00am – 9:30 am
---	------------------

“Down Memory Lane”

Saturday, June 30, 2018

10:00 A.M

GreetingsElaine Elder Coleman, Class of 1967

Facilitator.....Annie Ruth Stewart Staten,1966

Sharing the Legacy through Our Memories

Black Business in Rayville prior to 1970.....Quincy Mason, Class of 1960
Samuel Donald, Class of 1960

1st Football Team, Class of 1967.....Charlie Lee, Class of 1967
Larry Williams, Class of 1967

Closing Remarks.....Annie S. Staten



Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association

REUNION ALUMNI MEETING AGENDA

June 30, 2018

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

- I. Call to order and President's Opening Remarks – State of the Alumni
- II. Reading and Approval of Minutes of July 3, 2016 Reunion Meeting
- III. Communications
- IV. Reports of Officers
- V. Reports of Committee Chairs and Committee Members
- VI. Unfinished business
- VII. New business
 - Amendments to By-laws
- VIII. Election of Directors and Officers
- IX. Closing Remarks - President/ Others
- X. Adjournment



ALUMNI BANQUET
Saturday, June 30, 2018
6:00 PM
Theme: *“Keep the Light Shining”*

Mistress of Ceremony - *Dianne Davison May*

Musical Prelude

Welcome.....Mrs. Elaine Elder Coleman

Greetings.....The Honorable Harry Lewis, Mayor

Music/Solo.....Ms. Alexia Elmese Elder

Invocation & Blessing of the Food.....Rev. James Goods

Dinner is Served
(Soft Music)

Introduction of Speaker.....Mrs. Vonda Bunnitt Thomas

Speaker.....Mrs. Ola Bunnitt, Class of 1951

Special Recognition..... Ms. Earline Elder
Bobby “Chick” Ricks, Class of 1959.....Grambling State University Hall of Fame
James “June” Turner, Class of 1962..... Jackson State University Hall of Fame
Edgar Jones, Rayville High Class of 2003.....NFL Career Achievement Award
Damon West, Rayville High, Class of 1993...Coach of the Year AA State Championship
Jonathan Wallace, Rayville High Class of 2013.....Career Achievement Award

Class Anniversaries and Other Recognition.....Mr. Quincy Mason

Scholarship Presentation – Class of 1960Mrs. Delores Walker

President’s Presentations and RecognitionsMrs. Elaine Elder Coleman

Door Prizes

TV Raffle - Class of 1960..... Mr. Samuel Donald

Remarks/Announcements

*Dance the Night Away**** Black and Gold Ball*

BANQUET MENU

Cornish Hen

Wild Rice

Salad

Green Beans

Dinner Rolls

Dessert

Tea/Water



ANNOUNCEMENT:

Please view the following website for historical information about African American High Schools in Louisiana prior to integration.

<http://africanamericanhighschoolsLouisianabefore1970.com>

REUNION 2018

ECUMENICAL SERVICE

Sunday, July 1, 2018

8:00 A.M.

Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Center

Theme: "Keep the Light Shining"

Scriptures: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick: and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:13 – 16

Presiding, Rev. James McFarland

Musical Prelude.....Mr. Archie Turner, Musician

Scripture and Prayer.....Rev. James McFarland, Class of 1969
Philippians 2:12-16

Congregational Singing

“Gone But Not Forgotten”

Remembering Classmates

& Staff (Lighting of Memorial Candles) Mr. & Mrs. Danny Henderson
Soft Music

Special PresentationMr. John David Lancaster
US Military Flag Exhibit of the late James Sills (Class of 1963)

Introduction of MinisterMr. Freddy Rivers, Class of 1970

Sermon Minister Marge Roberts, Class of 1970

Invitation to Discipleship

Congregational Singing

~Offering~

Closing Remarks.....Mrs. Elaine Elder Coleman

Benediction Minister Marge Roberts

~Ushers~

Alexia Elder, Jaylin Johnson, Jalil Vanburen, William Elder

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN
(2016-2018)

2 Laurie Burnette (wife of Jim Burnette), Class of 1966
0 John Cooper - 1961
1 Joyace West Flood - 1960
6 Delores Hoston - 1967
Zelmer James - 1963
Anna Laura Wilkins Preasley

~~~~~

Annie Harris - 1963  
Mary Lee Harris - 1947  
Sarah Hunter - 1961  
William Johnson - 1971  
Francis Elaine Owen Moss - 1973  
Betty Brooks Nelson - 1963  
Shirley Ann Fuller Powell - 1973  
Ruby Robinson Randle - 1968  
Allen Charles Reynolds - 1955

2  
0  
1  
7

~~~~~

Phillip R. Broussard - 1966
Henry Samuel "Bo-Wee" Brown - 1958
Leroy Collins - 1960
Jenell Coon - 1958
Lindsay Felton - 1962
Henry Franklin - 1963
Linda Turner Gordon - 1974
Lannon Green - 1956
Jimmy Hilton - 1964
Doretha Humphery - 1961
Annie Griffin Ivory - 1961
Sammy "Reed" Lancaster - 1967
Leandrew Manning - 1966
Celia Cobb Minor - 1951
Willie Jean Rogers - 1967
Joann Sanders - 1966
Samuel Odell Spears - 1948
Ruthie M. Tribett Stevens - 1966
Ezell West - 1956

2
0
1
8

~~~~~  
**Teachers**

**2018**  
Ezekiel Landis

## *Love, Laugh, Live Today --- for Tomorrow is not Promised*

*As we remember our deceased schoolmates, teachers, and staff; we are reminded just how temporary, yet precious life is. Here are some practical suggestions to make your life and this world a better place for ourselves, our children and the world. Prepare now to leave a legacy of love, honor for our ancestors and a brighter future that will become your legacy.*

### Health:

- Eat more foods that grow on trees and plants and eat less food that is manufactured in plants.
- Drink plenty of water and healthy beverages, eliminating sodas, other sugary, salty, and fatty foods.
- Exercise and stay active. Move your body. Play more games for overall health of mind and body.
- De-stress – Turn off all electronics and sit in silence for at least 10 minutes each day.
- Get regular medical and dental check-ups. Know your numbers for glucose, blood pressure, cholesterol and prostate. Take corrective action when necessary.
- Sleep for 7-8 hours each night. Turn off all electronics at least 30 minutes before bedtime. Avoid naps during the day. Read a book instead.
- Take 10-30 minute walks daily. And while you walk, smile.

### Self-Improvement:

- Read at least one new book every month that will challenge and enrich your perspective on life.
- Think positive thoughts. Quickly dismiss negative thoughts of things you cannot control. Instead invest your energy in positive present moments.
- Dream more while you are awake. Your inspiration can be a gateway to success.
- Don't envy. Go out and get whatever you want in life.
- No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
- Realize that life is a school and you are here to learn. Problems are simply part of the curriculum that appear and fade away like algebra class but the lessons you learn will last a lifetime. Become a life-long learner.
- You don't have to win every argument. Agree to disagree.
- Take time to know yourself. Learn to meditate, go inward to find your creative spirit.

### Family & Society:

- Call your family often. Tell them that you love them. Forgive everyone for everything. Life is too short to hold grudges.
- Each day give something good to others. Give back to your community of your time and resources.
- Spend time with people over the age of 80 & under the age of 6. It is amazing how much wisdom you can learn as well as share.
- Your job won't take care of you when you are sick. Your family and friends will. Stay in touch.

### Life:

- Do the right thing! Life is too short to waste time hating anyone. Love is the key.
- Show an attitude of gratitude. Always say "please" and "thank you."
- However good or bad a situation is, it will change. Embrace positive change and shake off the negative stuff, take it as a life lesson and move forward.
- Live with the 3 E's -- Energy, Enthusiasm and Empathy.
- Life can be awesome, but it is up to you. Love, Laugh, Live...Smile and be Happy! The best is yet to come.

*"Life is like a book with blank pages and you hold the pen to write any story you choose."*

*~Elaine Elder-Coleman*

## SCHOOL HISTORY

### RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON

*1904-1970*

In 1904, forty years after the ratification of the 13<sup>th</sup> Amendment (the abolishment of slavery), a group of sixteen indigent black citizens of Rayville, Louisiana petitioned the District Court of Richland Parish to form the Rayville Industrial and Agricultural School Corporation. It is noteworthy that five years before the origin of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), this group had the where-with-all to test society and seek betterment for the Black youth of the Rayville Community.

As a result of the formation of this corporation, educational opportunities for African Americans in Rayville had its beginning. The first school was opened in 1907 south of Rayville, (the area known as the “Brickyard”). The school was known as the “College” and was headed by Reverend R. Amos, also known as Professor Amos. There were five additional instructors: Professor J. Anthony, Professor P. J. Sims, Miss Elliot, and Professor and Mrs. Toombs. Only Professor J. Anthony resided in Rayville. The others were from surrounding Parishes that had also established schools for Blacks.

The “College” had many financial difficulties as well as a lack of student participation. It had to be dissolved within two years of its beginning. It was not until October of 1916 that another school for the Black youth in Rayville was opened. This school opened in the Macedonia Baptist Church. A Professor Beasley, Sr. of Houma, Louisiana headed the school and served as its principal. Over the next four years the school grew as did the faculty. A Professor Jackson became the principal and his wife, Mrs. Jackson, along with Mrs. Clara Bell Coleman formed the faculty.

In 1922 the Odd Fellow’s Hall, at the corner of Jewel and Pearl Streets, was used to house the school. The school was now serving grades 1-6 and the faculty included Mrs. Eula D. Britton, Mrs. O. S. Hill and Mrs. Evans. Mrs. Ollie Hill served a brief time as its principal.

During the latter part of 1924, our school had its anchor cemented when buildings were opened on land purchased from Mr. William Tolliver Cook. This anchor was the large open area in front of our Gymnasium. The school had now grown to include the 7<sup>th</sup> grade and Mrs. Eula D. Britton was its principal. The first graduates from the 7<sup>th</sup> grade held their graduation ceremony in Macedonia Baptist Church. Members of this class were: Mrs. Mary Jenkins Kennedy (valedictorian), Mrs. Jessie Williams Gundy (salutatorian), Mrs. Geneva Cross, Mrs. Alberta Hawkins, and Mrs. Alberta Osborne. The second 7<sup>th</sup> grade class to graduate held their ceremonies at First Baptist Church in 1925. The school was now known as Rayville Colored School. In 1933, the school was approved as a Junior High School and was offering an 8<sup>th</sup> grade Completion Certificate.

When the 1936 8<sup>th</sup> grade class received their Certificates many of them showed an interest in going further with their education. There was only one (1) high school for Black youths in Richland Parish and that was located in Delhi, Louisiana. And, there were a few black students who had relatives in Union Parish, which had a high school and also in Grambling, Louisiana where the Black College also had a high school. When a group of ministers in Rayville learned of the wishes of this class, they purchased an old bus and hired a driver to transport these students from Rayville to Delhi on a daily basis. This effort proved to be as troublesome as not having a school, with the unreliability of the bus and the driver. This group of ministers, consisting of Reverend Henderson Smith, Reverend H. S. Carradine, and Reverend Eddie Howard along with the owner of a local Funeral Home, Mr. Douglas Allen, decided to petition the Superintendent of the Richland Parish School Board, Mr. E.E. Keebler, on the thought of expanding the Rayville Colored School to a High School. An agreement was reached to add an additional room a year (another grade) and the School Board would add another Teacher a year. Accurate accounts of how this process worked are sketchy, but we know that this was the beginning of the infusion of monies from the Rosenwald Foundation. These monies, which were matched by the local school and community, continued until the school was actually named Rayville Rosenwald High School in 1949.

The 8<sup>th</sup> grade class of 1936 became the first graduating class to receive high school diplomas in 1939 after completing eleven (11) years of school. The school had been given a “B” rating in 1939 and this first class consisted of eleven (11) students. In 1940 the school was accredited and given the “AA” rating which was the highest rating given to Negro high schools in the state at this time.

With the infusion of students from the many single room schools for African Americans that had been started in Richland Parish during the forties the school in Rayville became a focal point. Students came from Pardue, Holly Ridge, Mangham, Jones Chapel, Egypt, Pilgrim Rest and New Zion schools. By 1950 Rayville Rosenwald had become a nine month school, to include a twelfth grade. The school contained twenty- four rooms, employed twenty-six teachers with an enrollment of well over a thousand students. Other improvements consisted of a full-time Librarian (Mrs. Thelma Cormier), a well-equipped Home Economics Department run by Mrs. Annie D. Beck, and a fast developing Agriculture Department headed by Mr. Roy Lee Johnson. A complete lunchroom had been opened with seven of the most dedicated and talented lunchroom workers. They were Mrs. Susie Adams, Mrs. Bertha Brown, Mrs. Eddie V. Haynes, Mrs. Susie Lewis, Mrs. Emma Stenson, Mrs. Minnie Summers, and Mrs. Roberta Jones. Later cafeteria staff included: Mrs. Lula Alexander, Mrs. Elmese Elder, Mr. Bennie Harris, Mrs. Lula Howard and Mrs. Georgia Mae Smith. The school hired its first custodian, Mr. Maceo Little, who was later followed by Mr. Alex Elder. We must also mention four pillars to the foundation of these achievements; Mrs. Josie Draper, Mrs. Lureatha Mansfield, Mrs. Zephyr Stephens and Mr. Donzell Brewster. All were instructors during these real “trying” times.

Even though athletics and organized sports were always a staple of the school curricula all of these activities had to be conducted outside on the playgrounds. The need for a Gymnasium/Auditorium was always there, but it took the graduating class of 1945 to bring it to the forefront. This class raised and donated \$1,300.00 to the Richland Parish School Board as a

down payment toward the building we now call “The Gym”. This gesture must be noted because it took another seven years before our “Gym” was constructed and opened at the beginning of the 1952-53 school year. Mr. Melvin Rogers and Ms. Mildred Moore presided over a rigorous health and PE program, and basketball teams. A noteworthy accomplishment was the 1951 and 1964 state championship wins in basketball, led by coach Melvin Rogers.

The final expansion of the school occurred in 1956 when a brand new addition was opened. This addition consisted of twenty-six classrooms (fully equipped), a Commercial Department, a Music Department, a Sewing Room, a Science Department, a Clinic, and two (2) teacher lounges. This year also marked the end of an era when Mrs. Britton announced her retirement. With her announcement the school board decided to actually rename the school in her honor. Thus, during her final school year as principal (1956-1957), she presided over “her” school, Eula D. Britton High School.

James P. Smith, a former student of this school and an instructor in the Rhymes Colored School System was named principal to begin the 1957 school year. By then the school was beginning to receive a few “new” books, as the habit of the schools for African Americans receiving the discarded books from the white schools was slowly being phased out. Mr. Smith served as principal until the end of the 1968-69 school years. When, 15 years after the decision of Brown vs. the Board of Education (calling for the integration of all public schools), Eula D. Britton High School was integrated with the 1969-70 school year showing only integration among the faculty, the school actually never did experience student integration. At the beginning of the 1970-71 school year the school was changed to a middle school, the name (Eula D. Britton) discarded, and all records and artifacts became unaccounted for. In 1980 all of the buildings were torn down and thanks to a small group of former teachers and students the “Gym” was saved. This group was led by Mr. Willie Larkin and Mrs. Creasy Thompson. They convinced the school board to allow the community and the Alumni of the school to assume responsibility for the building.

From the “College” to Eula D. Britton High School, the history of the educational plight of the Black community in Rayville has been phenomenal and will never be forgotten. From its famous sub-divisions that included Greer Road, New Town, Buck’s Pasture, River Road, Potts Town, Nelson Bend, Brickyard, Across the Canal, Mid Town, and even Bee Bayou a sense of pride will always remain. The Bus Drivers who transported these students were a part of this pride. They included the following: Mr. Arthur Brown, Mr. Dennis Coleman, Mr. Aaron Davison, Mr. Monroe Harris, Mr. Willie Larkin, Sr., Reverend Luther Mansfield, Sr., Mr. John Newsome, Sr., Mr. Joel Washington, and Mr. Shirley White. The original concept in 1904 until dissolution in 1970 was always based on the need to provide opportunities for the African American citizens of Rayville to better themselves through education. During the 63 years of actual school existence and through the 31 graduating classes, unlimited efforts were made to ensure the perpetuation of this idea.

Our indebtedness to the early pioneers of our community will remain eternally.

## *School Names*

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

## *Founders*

Rev. R. Amos  
Rev. F. Turner  
Nelson W. Draper  
A. B. Strother  
Gus Kenton  
Leander Stephenson  
N.W. Woodson  
George H. Washington

Alex Tignor  
Rev. J. L. Elbert  
William C. Cooper  
W. M. Bodger  
John Draper  
Tom Dunnick  
Leroy Coleman  
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



*Lest We Forget"*



**Mrs. Eula Dunnings Britton**  
*Principal 1924 – 1957*

Mrs. Britton was born in or near Mangham, Louisiana between 1891 and 1894. The actual date of her birth is not known. She was the third child of nine, born to Edward and Mary Jane Dunnings. History tells us that her father began a school on the farm where she was raised. He called it the Dunnings' School. She and her siblings were taught basic reading, writing and arithmetic, during their time away from farm work. Mrs. Britton was able to finish the eighth grade while still on the farm. It is believed that she then attended Homer High School of Union Parish where she received her diploma. She migrated to the Rayville area sometime between 1918 and 1922, where she became a member of the small faculty of the school that was initially held in the Macedonia Baptist Church. Grades 1-6 were being taught at this school. Mrs. Britton was named principal in the latter part of 1924. From this point on, the history of the school becomes clearer. Mrs. Britton continued to further her education while still the head administrator of the school that began as a five month school, offering only a sixth grade education. The school, however, continued to grow to a fully accredited high school that eventually carried her name. She earned a Bachelor's Degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana (1937) and a Master's Degree from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia (1945). She retired as principal of Eula D. Britton High School after the 1957 school year.

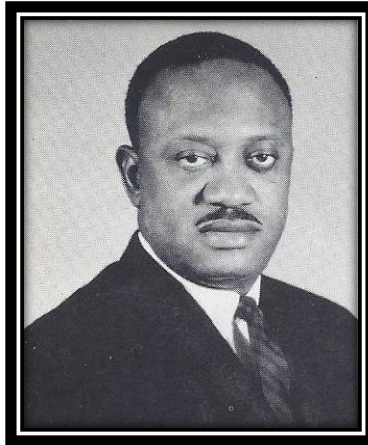
Mrs. Britton is credited with laying the real foundation for the education of African Americans in the Rayville community. She was optimistic beyond belief and held a keen sense of responsibility for her community, her work, and her faith. Her outstanding abilities as a teacher and as a principal are reflected in the many students who came under her tutelage. History cannot record all of the many remarkable achievements and services that were formulated through her devotion to excellence, her pursuit of honesty, integrity, and truthfulness, and of her love for God and for her fellowman.

She became a lifelong member of Rankin Chapel A.M.E. Church. She had a passion for education and commitment to those she taught. Her life was a model of excellence and her memory will live forever among those who knew her work. Mrs. Britton died April 16, 1986.

*--- She Laid the Foundation ---*



*"The Builder"*



**Mr. James Phillip Smith**  
*Principal 1957 – 1969*

Principal Smith was born in Rayville, Louisiana on July 17, 1925 to Reverend and Mrs. Henderson E. Smith. He was the youngest of three. He attended school in Rayville and was part of the 1944 graduating class from the then Rayville Colored High School. Both of his siblings graduated ahead of him; Robert, in 1939 and Pearlle Mae in 1941. All three received their diplomas after completing eleven years of school. Principal Smith spent two years in the United States Army prior to entering Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana where he received his BS Degree in Education in 1949. He later earned the Master of Education Degree from Louisiana State University. He began his career as an educator at Rhymes Colored High School in 1949, teaching American History and remained there until 1957 when he succeeded Mrs. Eula D. Britton as principal of Eula D. Britton High School. This was the same school that he graduated from but it had been re-named in honor of the principal who served during his high school days. He became known as the "BUILDER". He 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 themselves for the world of work. He was also a strict disciplinarian, and he believed that each student should aim high and embrace values that were long lasting. He also taught the students to have pride in themselves, show respect to others, work hard, be dedicated and always possess courage and integrity. He always would say "*It's not what we gain....but what we give that measures the worth of the life we live*". Principal Smith served as principal at Eula D. Britton High School until 1969 when he was assigned to various supervisory roles with the Richland Parish School Board. He retired as an educator in 1985.

Principal Smith was called to the ministry in 1982 and was ordained the same year. He later attended the Theological Seminary of Monroe, Louisiana, where he received the Bachelor of Theology Degree in 1983. He became the pastor of St. Luke Baptist Church in Bonita, Louisiana, and served until his death in 1987.

*---A Master Carpenter of Education---*

## *A Salute to Our Former Teachers*



*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 – young 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.*

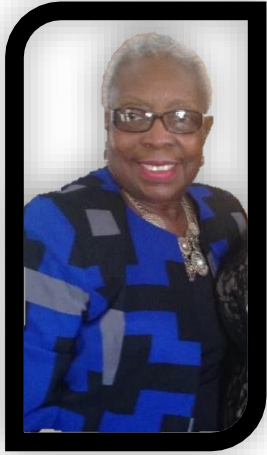
THANK  
YOU

*Forever Grateful,*

*Your Former Students*

## BANQUET SPEAKER

### *Ola Washington Bunnitt*



Ola Washington Bunnitt is the fourth of 8 siblings borne to Joel Elijah and Bernice Paul Washington. Her education began in rural schools in Richland Parish. After attending Webster High School in Minden, La. as a freshman she returned to Rayville and graduated Valedictorian of the Class of '51 at Rayville Rosenwald High School. She matriculated at Grambling College and as an honor student served as Secretary of the Faculty-Student Advisory Committee, and a member of the alto section of the Grambling College A'capella choir for four consecutive years. She was inducted into Delta Iota Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. As of now, she is a Delta Dear, Diamond Life member of Monroe Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Sorority, Inc.

Ola was married to Robert Bunnitt Jr. They are parents of Yvette Rene' (Deceased), Andre' Lanier and Vonda Bunnitt Thomas. She is a great great grandmother. After 31 years of service, Ola retired as a classroom teacher from the Richland Parish School System. She continues her profession as Sunday School teacher of the adult class at Hamlett Temple C.M.E. Church, after having served in the C.M.E. Church at the local, district, regional and connectional levels. She was inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, (Class of 2015), is a former Golden Girl, former Grand Marshal of the Martin Luther King Memorial Parade and former State Chaplin of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., after serving two terms. She is an advocate for her community.

Mrs. Bunnitt served as Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association's Golden Girl 2003 – 2012.



**GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY**

**HALL OF FAME HONOREE**

*Bobby "Chick" Ricks*

Class of 1959



BASKETBALL | 2017 INDUCTEE

Bobby Ricks

Bobby Ricks is a product of Louisiana Public Schools. He has always been a sports advocate. Upon graduating from high school, Bobby, along with the entire Eula D. Britton Varsity Basketball Team (Rayville, LA), including the team manager, was recruited by Coach Fred Hobdy to play at Grambling.

Upon graduating from Grambling, he taught and coached one year in Louisiana before being drafted by the armed forces—serving some of those years in Vietnam. Ricks then went to Chicago where he continued his coaching and teaching career, while obtaining his master's degree in Urban Education from Governor's State University, University Park, Will County, Illinois.

The majority of his coaching career was at William Rainey Harper High School in Chicago, where he coached many outstanding students, many of whom received athletic scholarships used to further their education. Ricks was named Coach of the Year; moreover, he coached the Chicago Public School A.A. Sectional Championship Blue Division Varsity Team. He was also the Boys' Basketball Coach of the Blue Central Champions. Bobby was inducted into the Chicago Public League Basketball Coaches Association (CPLBCA) Hall of Fame.

Bobby Ricks retired from coaching in 1998 after many years of outstanding service.

**JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**HALL OF FAME HONOREE**

*Elder James H. "June" Turner*  
Class of 1962



Elder James Turner has spent 47 years in the field of education as middle, junior and senior high school teacher and coach, as well as a college professor and coach. He is a 1962 graduate of Eula D. Britton High School and continued his education earning a B.S Degree in Biology, with a Minor in Health & Physical Education in 1968 at Paul Quinn College, Waco, Texas, where he was an honor student and a National Science Foundation Scholar. He continued graduate studies at LA Tech in Biology and earning a M. S. Degree in Health and Physical Education at Jackson State University in 1973. He also earned an A. A. Degree/General Education from Natchez Junior College in 1996.

His career experience began teaching and coaching in junior and senior high schools in Louisiana, Texas and Mississippi. Turner was the first African American to win the state basketball championship the 1<sup>st</sup> year of integration at Mendenhall High School, in a predominate white population.

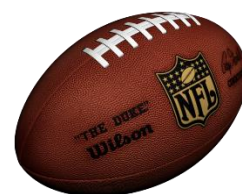
Elder Turner continued his exemplary career as Associate Women's Basketball Coach and Head Women's Volleyball Coach at Jackson State University where he received the honor of Freshman Teacher of the Year. His career continued as Head Women's Basketball Coach at Southern University; and Athletic Director and Head Men's Basketball Coach, Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education at Tugaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. Because of his passion for working with children and the sport of basketball he continues the pursuit today as Head Boys' Basketball Coach at Mendenhall High School in Mendenhall, Mississippi. He has won many awards and accolades, including State Championships in Louisiana and Mississippi as well as received Coach of the Year honors.

Research and Presentations by Elder Turner includes: "The Effects of Jackson State University's Summer Youth Sports Program on the Heart Rate of ten and Eleven Year Old Boys' and he published an article titled "The One-Three-One All Purpose Zone Offense", Prentiss Hall, Inc., Inglewood Cliffs, NJ.

Elder Turner is married to Dr. Carrie Turner and proud parents of six children. He is Superintendent of Sunday School and Elder of Mendenhall Bible Church.

## NFL CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

*Edgar Devon Jones*



**Edgar D. Jones**, a 2003 graduate of Rayville High School, is a former [American football linebacker](#). After playing [college football](#) at [Southeast Missouri State](#), he was signed by the [Baltimore Ravens](#) as an [undrafted free agent](#) in 2007. He played for the Ravens for five seasons from 2007 to 2011. He also played for the [Kansas City Chiefs](#) and the [Dallas Cowboys](#).

He played [college football](#) at [Southeast Missouri State](#), where he was named a first-team All-American following his senior season where he led all of Division I-AA with 12.0 quarterback sacks. He was named the MVP of the Magnolia Gridiron Classic - a postseason All-Star Game - after recording 4.0 sacks in that contest.

Jones was signed by the [Baltimore Ravens](#) as an [undrafted free agent](#) in 2007. He filled a number of different roles as a Raven, including [outside linebacker](#), [defensive end](#), and [tight end](#). His biggest contributions; however, came on special teams, where he established himself as one of their top special teams tacklers and blockers.

Jones signed with the [Kansas City Chiefs](#) on July 29, 2012. He became one of the team's most valuable special teams players, leading the Chiefs with seven tackles and two fumbles recoveries on special teams, including one returned for his first NFL touchdown at the [Tampa Bay Buccaneers](#) on Oct. 14, 2012.

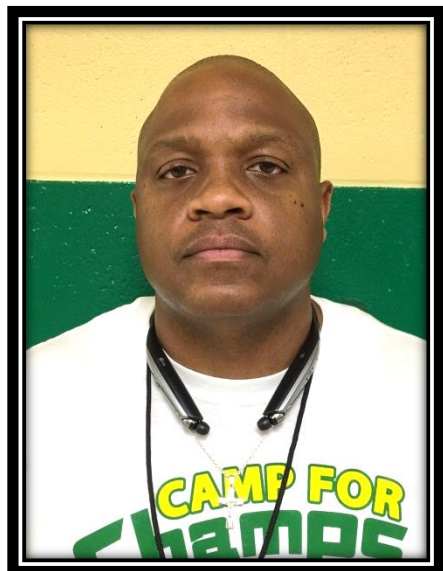
On August 31, 2013, Jones and a seventh round draft choice (#238-[Will Smith](#)) were traded to the [Dallas Cowboys](#) in exchange for a sixth round draft choice (#193-[Zach Fulton](#)).<sup>[1]</sup>

On October 18, 2013, Jones was placed on the injured reserve-designated to return list with a hernia. He was activated from injury reserve on December 14. He wasn't re-signed at the end of the season.

Jones signed with the [Cleveland Browns](#) on July 24, 2014. He was released on August 4. He announced his retirement on February 25, 2015.

Edgar is married to Adalis Jones, father of Amaya M Jones, and expecting a son in November 2018.

## COACH OF THE YEAR – AA STATE CHAMPIONSHIP



*Damon West*

Born and raised in Rayville, Louisiana, Damon West attended Rayville High School where he played basketball. Upon graduation, he attended Grambling State University. Damon received his Bachelor of Arts degree in education in 1999, and went on to teach at Rayville Junior High School. While there, he coached football, track and basketball. He was an assistant coach with the Rayville High School boys' basketball team that won the state championship in 2001. Damon would go on to coach the Rayville High School girls basketball team for a few years before he moved to the high school full time to become the head coach of the boys basketball team for the 2011-12 season.

Since arriving at Rayville High School as the boys' coach, West has compiled a record of 170-55 in seven seasons, and been to the playoffs all seven seasons. His team was state runner up in the 2016-17 season, and won the state championship in 2017-18. He has been district coach of the year four times (2015, 2016, 2017, and 2018), All Northeast Louisiana Big School Coach of the Year (2015), All Northeast Louisiana Small School Coach of the Year (2017 and 2018), and Louisiana 2A Coach of the Year three times (2016, 2017, and 2018).

Damon is the youngest son of Ezell and Bettye West. Damon and his wife Ashana live in Monroe and have three children (Amaya, Raegan, and Damon, Jr.)

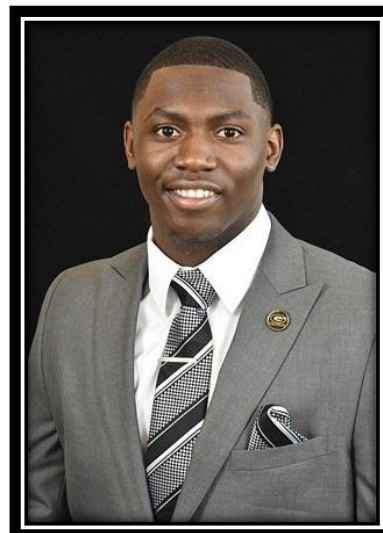


## CAREER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

### *Jonathan Wallace*

Jonathan Wallace, a 2013 Rayville High School graduate, joined the Grambling State athletics department as an academic coordinator on January 22, 2018. In addition to his academic coordinator duties, he will assist in the coordination of life skills training seminars for student-athletes.

Prior to joining the athletics department full-time, Wallace served as a graduate assistant in the compliance, marketing and communications, and operations offices. In 2017. In the compliance office he assisted with the certification of student-athletes for practice, competition, and athletic aid and assisted with NCAA rules education meetings for the GSU coaches, student-athletes, and staff.



In the marketing and communications office, Wallace helped construct the football game day programs, served as the liaison for student-athletes media interviews, and worked as a marketing assistant for home football games. He also helped coordinate in-game promotions and operations for basketball and baseball seasons, as well as halftime performances and activities for both men's and women's basketball games.

Wallace was a well-decorated football scholar-athlete from 2013-2016 at Grambling. He was a part of the Tigers football team that went 11-1 and won the 2016 SWAC Football Championship and was crowned the 2016 HBCU Football National Champions. His 26-yard field goal in the third quarter of the 2016 Air Force Reserve Celebration Bowl against North Carolina Central University ended up being the game winner for the Tigers as they went on to win the game 10-9.

In 2016, Wallace averaged 35.8 yards per punt and was 5-of-9 in field goals, with a long of 41 yards. He booted a conference-best 60 extra points in route to earning All-SWAC Second Team honors as a placekicker. As a senior, Wallace served as the Student Government Association (SGA) President, making him the first ever Grambling State student-athlete to be elected as student body president. In that position, Wallace was the official spokesperson for the undergraduate student body population, and was instrumental in several student-led campus initiatives that involved strategic planning and effective communication skills. He developed and oversaw a student-fee operating budget of over \$200,000 and served as the liaison between all university offices and departments.

After three years of undergraduate studies, Wallace graduated magna cum laude from Grambling with a bachelor's degree in sport management and a minor in sports journalism in May 2016 and graduated magna cum laude with a Master's Degree in Sports Administration in December 2017. Wallace is a native of Rayville, La. And is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.





## *Minister Marge Roberts*



*Minister Marge Roberts is a native of Rayville, LA. She is the daughter of the late Archie and Irene B. White. She is a 1970 graduate of Eula D. Britton High School. In 1973, she received a Bachelor of Science degree from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA. Minister Roberts is the mother of one daughter, Christina. On January 5, 2013, she became a member of the Order of the Eastern Star Love Chapter 49 Fraternal Organization. She is a 33-year employee of the Richland Parish School System, where she is a Business Teacher at Mangham High School. At Mangham High School, she also serves as FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) Adviser for 25 years. She has received a Bachelor and Master degree in Theology from the United Theological Seminary and Bible College in Monroe, LA. She has worked part-time for the last 20 years at Wal-Mart. She is a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church in Rayville, LA, under the leadership of Pastor Mark Sledge. At Macedonia, she serves as a member of the choir, Sunday School Teacher for the Women's Class, Deaconess Board, Mission Society, NBC spiritual leader, and Associate Minister; but above all she's a Born-Again Christian. Her favorite scripture is. . . "Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. " Psalm 100:1*

*Golden Girls*



*2015 - Present*  
*Mrs. Clementine Davison Vaughns*



*2003 - 2012*  
*Golden Girl Mrs. Ola Bunnitt*

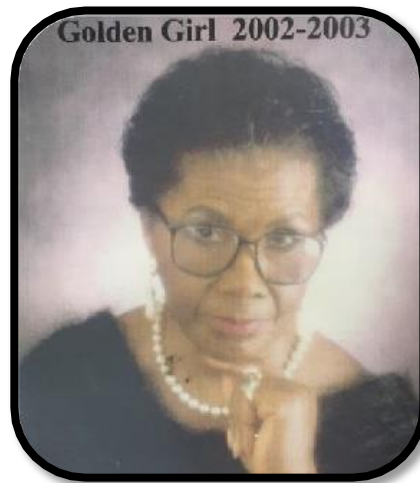


*2012*  
*Golden Girl Irma Hunter*

*In*

*Loving*

*Memory*



*2002 – 2003*

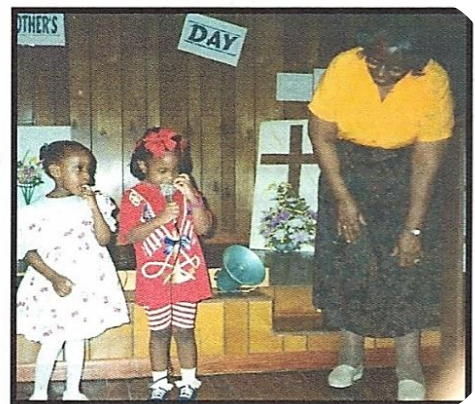
*Mrs. Rebecca Brown*



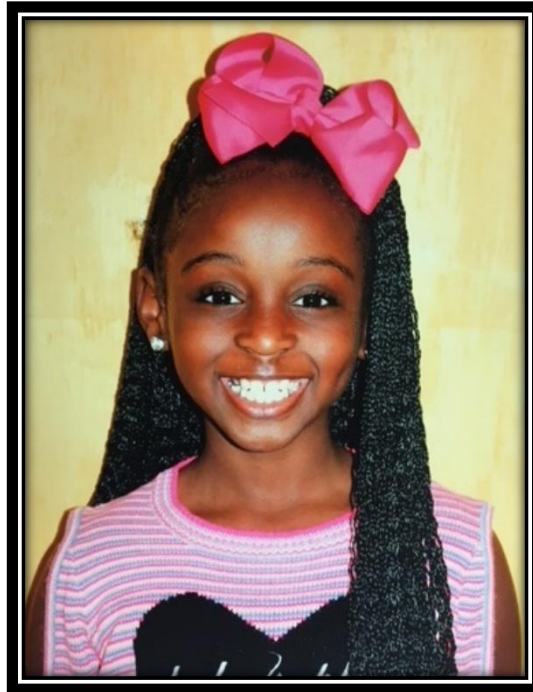
*The First Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton  
Honorary Alumni Members*

*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.*



LITTLE MISS BLACK HERITAGE 2018



*Syriah Ellis*

*Syriah Ellis is the 8-year-old daughter of LaToya Kelley and DeMario Ellis. She is a student of Start Elementary School and is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Syriah is a Star Student and received an Academic Award for All A's. She is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Van H. Brass of Rayville, LA. Her special talents are dancing, singing and making slime. She enjoys riding bikes, riding hoverboard, looking on YouTube, and spending quality time with family and friends. Syriah has two siblings. When Syriah grows up she wants to be a doctor or a dance teacher. She says her favorite person is God.*



MISS BLACK HERITAGE 2018

*Aniyah Peller*

*Aniyah Peller is the 9-year-old daughter of Brown and Angela Peller. She is a student of Start Elementary School. Aniyah received academic awards for A&B Honor Roll, 4-H Club and Accelerated Math Award. She loves attending Macedonia Baptist Church of Rayville, LA, under the leadership of Pastor Mark Sledge. Her special talent is singing, and she enjoys dancing. Aniyah has three siblings. When she grows up she wants to become a teacher. Her favorite person is her dad, Brown Peller.*

## LITTLE MISS BLACK HERITAGE 2013~2018

### *Zaire Cleopatra Rivers*

**ZAIRE CLEOPATRA RIVERS** is the 12-year-old daughter of Freddy and Sylvia Rivers. She is an honor roll student at J. S. Clark Magnet School, maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She was recently inducted into the elementary school National Honor Society. She is a piano student of LaDonald Ensley and a dance student at the Missy Crain Dance Studio, studying ballet, jazz and tap. This former cheerleader also studies acting at the Strauss Theater Playhouse during the summers.



## LITTLE MISTER BLACK HERITAGE 2013~2018

### *Cameron Elijah Smith*



**CAMRON ELIJAH SMITH** is currently 13 years old and will be entering the 6<sup>th</sup> grade this upcoming August at Rayville Elementary. Camron is a scholar and athlete; he has recently been selected for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade basketball team at Rayville Junior High and has also received several Honor Roll, Conduct, Star Student and Student of the Six Weeks Awards during his tenure as Little Mister Black Heritage. Camron's hobbies include basketball, swimming, riding his bicycle and entertaining family and friends. Camron is a member of the First Baptist Church led by Reverend Vernon Foy. Camron enjoys attending Sunday School and participating in youth activities presented by the Youth Division of First Baptist. James Smith and Toi Island are the proud parents of Camron Smith.

*Rayville Rosenwald/Eula D. Britton Alumni Association  
Board Members – 2016-2018*

*Elaine-Elder Coleman.....President  
Clara Wilson.....Vice-President  
Marie Lewis.....Treasurer  
Delores Walker.....Financial Secretary  
Consuela Hunter.....Interim Recording/Corresponding Secretary  
Annie Ruth Stewart-Staten.....Publicity/Historian*

*Joe Lee Armstrong  
Charlestine Massey-Burnette  
Jim Burnette  
Eddie Bynum  
Earline Elder  
Charlene Nealon-Goods  
Danny Henderson  
Nettie Lee  
Quincy Mason  
Morgan Moss  
Freddy Rivers  
Charles Robinson  
Denise Sanders  
Melinda Smith  
Tilmon Taylor  
Clemmie Wheeler*



*Executive Board Members*

*Elaine Elder-Coleman  
Clara Wilson  
Marie Lewis  
Delores Walker  
Consuela Hunter  
Annie Ruth Stewart-Staten  
Charlestine Massey-Burnette  
Nettie Lee  
Joe Lee Armstrong  
Freddy Rivers*

**2016-2018**

**DONATIONS**

**GOLD STAR DONORS**

**(Donating \$1,000 or more)**

Charles and Ruby Robinson  
Bobby & Elaine Elder Coleman  
Nelson Woods  
Class of 1964

**BANK LOAN FOR HVAC EQUIPMENT DONATIONS**

|               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| Class of 1951 | Class of 1967 |
| Class of 1961 | Class of 1968 |
| Class of 1962 | Class of 1969 |
| Class of 1966 | Class of 1972 |

Charles and Ruby Robinson  
Bobby & Elaine Elder Coleman  
The Stewart Family

**GENERAL DONATIONS**

Tiffany Anderson  
Ola Bunnitt  
Jim Burnette  
Bobby & Elaine Elder Coleman  
Rosie Daniel  
Samuel Donald  
Earline Elder  
Arthur Edwards  
W. Kellogg Foundation  
Danny R. Henderson  
Don Harris  
Eugene Harris  
Martha Hunter  
Clarence Jackson  
Erica Jones  
Leonard Jones  
Damon Kervin  
Ernestine Kyles  
Marie Lewis  
Luther Mansfield  
George Mason  
Quincy Mason  
Vernon Moss

Freddye Pettet  
1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church  
Rankin Chapel A.M.E. Methodist Church  
Walter Reddick  
Katherine Reed-Robinson  
Patricia Scott  
Ruby Jewell Smiley  
Malinda Smith  
Edward Wagner  
Delores Walker  
Albert Woods  
Clemmie Wheeler & Others:  
Willie Wheeler  
William Wheeler  
B. B. Thomas  
Emanuel Callaway  
Emma Brown  
Alonzo Richardson  
Bennie Brown, Sr.  
Edoman Mathis  
Johnnie Mathis  
James Callaway, Jr.

**FAMILY & FRIENDS OF LITTLE MISS & MISS BLACK HERITAGE CONTESTANTS**

*Syriah Ellis*  
*Aniyah Pellar*  
*Maddison Grace*  
*Quen' Terria Bias*

## **DONATIONS (CONT.)**

### **ENHANCEMENTS & EQUIPMENT**

Class of 1964 – Ice Maker  
Class of 1970 – Front Entrance Doors  
Katherine Reed-Robinson – Microwave Oven  
Bobby & Elaine Coleman – Office Printer

### **ROOF WATER-PROOFING BANK LOAN**

Nelson Woods  
Bobby & Elaine Elder Coleman  
Mayor Harry & Marie Lewis  
George Henry Harrison  
Sadie Hunter  
Quincy Mason

### **Gym Preservation and Enhancements – 2016-2018**

- Installed Exterior Front Doors
- Waterproofed the back lower portion of the roof
- Purchased a second Stainless Steel Table
- Donation of Microwave Oven
- Donation of Ice-maker
- Installed Safety Light on pole in front of Gym
- HVAC Units –Maintenance & Upgrade
- Replaced ceiling tiles in office and kitchen
- Renovation - closed off door between kitchen and men's bathroom
- Exhibit Space on both sides of the bleachers – Class of 1960

*Thank you all so much for your generous donations.  
We appreciate all of your efforts to continue to  
preserve our cherished "Gym."*



# Scenes from 2016 Reunion





# *RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON*

## **ALMA MATER**

*Let our voices loudly ring  
Echo far and near,  
Songs of praise thy children singing  
To thy memory dear.  
Through the years we've been together  
Fondly we recall,  
Days of fair and stormy weather  
Thou has gladdened 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.*



***RAYVILLE ROSENWALD/EULA D. BRITTON ALUMNI ASSOCIATION***

*Designed & Printed by: Tina's Creative Perfection (Katina "Tina" Spencer 318.789.0805)  
Elaine Elder Coleman, Editor*