

West End High School National Alumni Association 2019 Reunion

On June 21-23, 2019, the Richmond Chapter of the West End High Alumni Association hosted WEHS Alumni at their 22nd School Reunion at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Richmond, VA. This year's theme was *"Using the Past to Build the Future"*

On Friday evening, Richmond Chapter's President, Mr. Fred Valentine ('60) welcomed more than 70 people to a social, where the focus was "All Things '69" in recognition of the class of 1969 and the celebration of their 50th graduation anniversary. Friday night's social was followed by an inspirational prayer breakfast on Saturday. Mrs. Alice Hardy Miller (Bluestone '70) greeted over 40 alumni and guests and then Pastor-elect Reverend Dr. Marlene Fuller, Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, preached "Keep Hope Alive," which focused on Scripture taken from 1 Peter 1:3-9. Mrs. Ernestine "Faye" Spain Watkins read a poem *The Empty Chair* in memory of deceased 1969 classmates.

After a warm welcome to more than 155 guests at the Banquet & Awards Program, National President, Mr. Robert Barnette Jr. (Bluestone '70) recognized the attending class of 1969 and plaques were awarded to 25 returning 1969 classmates. Mr. Perry Tucker ('69) gave class reflections.



Members of the Class of '69 who were honored on their 50th Anniversary Celebration included: Rossie Brown (Highland Springs, VA); Larry Doggette (Hampton, VA); Ruby Garner (Skipwith, VA); Anthony Gayles (Chase City, VA); Carrie Hayes Bivens (Chase City, VA); Charlie Harris Jr. (Skipwith, VA); Carl Hester (South Hill, VA); Erselle Harris Jackson (Richmond, VA); Forestine Johnson Pellegrino (Glen Allen, VA); Frances Burwell Pettaway (Nelson, VA); William Piercy (Richmond, VA); Janet Pines Robinson (Durham, NC); David Puryear (Clarksville, VA); Hazel

Royster Robertson (Skipwith, VA); Robert Robertson (Cincinnati, OH); Patricia House Robinson (Mineral, VA); Robert Scott Sr. (N. Chesterfield, VA); Joyce Stroble Reed Fort Washington, MD); Harry Thompson Jr. (Chase City, VA); Jean Jeffreys Tucker (Stratford, CT); Perry Tucker (Richmond, VA); Ernestine Spain Watkins (Durham, NC); Joyce Hayes Williams (Baltimore, MD); Donald Wood (Lansdale, PA); Ezra Wood (Chase City, VA); and Pauline Pettus (East Orange, NJ).

Mr. Glanzy Spain Jr. ('62) presented Sports Hall of Fame awards to Rossie Brown (football); Larry Doggette (track-shot put-football); Carl Hester (basketball & football); Forestine Pellegrino



(cheerleader); David Puryear (track); Robert Robertson (basketball); Robert Scott (football); and Ezra Wood (track-football).



Mrs. Alice Miller announced scholarship awards for 14 students. The students present for the presentations were Kenneth Burwell-Tibbs (Mount Saint Mary's University), Brian Hobbs (Longwood University), KerraLena Jackson (Johnson & Wales University), Shawn

Jones (Shenandoah University), and Kelcey Parks, Jr. (Baylor University). Scholarship recipients who were not present included Chasitee Baskerville (Southside VA Community College), Mia Bell (Montclair State University), Khari Chase (Ferrum College), Tiran Daves (Johnson & Wales University), Kenneth Doggette (James Madison University), Mikayla Hines (Norfolk State University), Caiya Pearson (Vance-Granville Community College), Maleek Pulliam (Averett University), and Destiny Staten (John Hopkins University). Over \$12,000 was awarded to these students and an additional \$9,000 plus was raised this year.

Mrs Wanda Hardy Royster ('65) presented the the king and queen representing each chapter. Former King Clarence Blackwell ('68) and Queen Brenda Walker Gillis ('68) participated in the coronation of National King Larry Doggette ('69) and National Queen Elizabeth Butler Doggette (Bluestone '73). Through fundraising, hard work, and support of many alumni, the King & Queen of Hampton, VA and representing the Mecklenburg Chapter, were able to submit the most donations, which will be earmarked as scholarship funds.



The WEHS reunion wrapped up with Sunday worship service at the First Baptist Church South Richmond, Pastors Dr. Dwight Jones and Dr. Derik Elton Jones.

We are looking forward to the 2020 school reunion which will be hosted by the Metropolis Chapter. Check out the website www.wehsnaa.org for details.

See more pictures from the 2019 Reunion [here](#).