

*12th Annual
Fannie Lou Hamer Reception*



Saturday, October 6, 2007, 4-6 p.m.

*Sponsored by: St. John's College and the
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee*



Good afternoon! Welcome to the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception. This afternoon, we are celebrating the 90th birthday of the late Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer. Each year, we pause to celebrate her birthday with an annual reception honoring women of various ethnic, religious and racial backgrounds, who through their words, deeds, and actions keep the legacy of Mrs. Hamer alive.

This afternoon, we are pleased that St. John's College is cosponsoring this reception. We are deeply grateful to President Christopher Nelson and his staff for their assistance and support. In addition, we are pleased to be joined by Maryland House of Delegates' Speaker Michael E. Busch, Delegate Mary Ann Love, Councilman Daryl Jones, Mayor Ellen O. Moyer, and Anne Arundel County Superintendent Dr. Kevin M. Maxwell in saluting Alderwoman Sheila M. Finlayson, Erica Matthews, Shirley Alexander, Irene Hebron, Amy Sepp, and Gloria Wilson Shelton, Esq.

Each of these women has excelled in their respective fields of law, education, government and community activism. Each represent the attributes that Mrs. Hamer stood for, i.e., feminism, leadership, and activism. This afternoon, these six outstanding women will be honored with the prestigious 2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Award. Previous recipients of this award have included Delegate Love, Mayor Moyer, Alderwoman Classie G. Hoyle, and Judge Danielle M. Mosley to name just a few.

On behalf of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr board of directors and its members, St. John's College, and the Fannie Lou Hamer Reception Committee, I want to extend our congratulations to the honorees and their families.

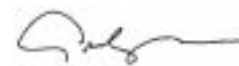
Each of the honorees, in the lyrics that Mrs. Hamer loved, has let her "light" shine. Each American can honor Mrs. Hamer by casting their ballot in 2008.

As we witness women and people of color competing for the presidency of the United States, in no small measure, we all owe Mrs. Hamer a debt of gratitude.

It is in her spirit; on her 90th birthday; that I boldly proclaim, "A Luta Continua," which means that the struggle continues for freedom, justice, racial equality and gender parity, throughout the world.

Happy birthday Mrs. Hamer!

A Luta Continua,



Carl O. Snowden, Chairman, Board of Directors,
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc.



I am pleased and proud that St. John's College is co-sponsor of the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception. This occasion celebrates the life of a great woman in the history of the civil rights movement, while honoring the contributions of women who continue her efforts for racial equality, justice, and equal opportunity today. The women we honor this evening—educators, lawyers, volunteers, public servants—have truly made a

difference in our community. They have accomplished much in their own professional lives, but have also made time to tutor children, mentor students, and take part in community organizations. Their efforts continue to open doors for others, and we are grateful to them.

Fannie Lou Hamer made great sacrifices to fight injustice. The simple act of registering to vote cost Mrs. Hamer her livelihood, and her continued activism nearly cost her her life. She was beaten and jailed, but never discouraged. Her courageous example inspired others, as it continues to inspire us today.

Our students at St. John's read the founding documents of our nation before they turn to important Supreme Court decisions such as Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education. They read speeches by Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass, and essays by W.E.B. Du Bois and Booker T. Washington. They learn that both great leaders and great struggles were required in order for our nation to live up to the ideals of its founders. Individuals such as Fannie Lou Hamer made those struggles their own, and today, we are responsible for upholding their legacy.

On behalf of the St. John's College community, I extend my congratulations to the recipients of the 2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Awards.

Sincerely,

Christopher B. Nelson, President
St. John's College



Fannie Lou Hamer, known as the lady who was sick and tired of being sick and tired, was born October 6, 1917, in Montgomery County, Mississippi. She was the granddaughter of slaves. Her family were sharecroppers—a position not that different from slavery. Hamer had 19 brothers and sisters. She was the youngest of the children.

In 1962, when Hamer was 44 years old, Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) volunteers came to town and held a voter registration meeting. She was surprised to learn that African-Americans actually had a constitutional right to vote. When the SNCC members asked for volunteers to go to the courthouse to register to vote, Hamer was the first to raise her hand. This was a dangerous decision. She later reflected, "The only thing they could do to me was to kill me, and it seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time ever since I could remember."

When Hamer and others went to the courthouse, they were jailed and beaten by the police. Hamer's courageous act got her thrown off the plantation where she was a sharecropper. She also began to receive constant death threats and was even shot at. Still, Hamer would not be discouraged. She became a SNCC Field Secretary and traveled around the country speaking and registering people to vote.

Hamer co-founded the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party (MFDP). In 1964, the MFDP challenged the all-white Mississippi delegation to the Democratic National Convention. Hamer spoke in front of the Credentials Committee in a televised proceeding that reached millions of viewers. She told the committee how African-Americans in many states across the country were prevented from voting through illegal tests, taxes and intimidation. As a result of her speech, two delegates of the MFDP were given speaking rights at the convention and the other members were seated as honorable guests.

Hamer was an inspirational figure to many involved in the struggle for civil rights. She died on March 14, 1977, at the age of 59.

Nobody's free until
everybody's free.

—Fannie Lou Hamer

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner



Dr. Freeman A. Hrabowski III,
keynote speaker

Friday, January 18, 2008, 6 p.m.
the La Fontaine Bleu

For tickets contact
Tywana Tyler:
Tywana_Tyler@yahoo.com
410-760-4115

Master of Ceremonies

The Honorable Carl O. Snowden, *Director,
Office for Civil Rights, Office of the Attorney General*

Invocation

Rev. Mamie Aletha Williams, *RESPECT, Co-Chair*

Welcome

Ms. Tywana Tyler, *Chair
Fannie Lou Hamer Reception Committee*

Greetings

Speaker Michael E. Busch,
Maryland House of Delegates

Delegate Mary Ann Love
Maryland House of Delegates

Councilman Daryl D. Jones
Anne Arundel County Council

Mayor Ellen O. Moyer, *City of Annapolis*

Ms. Bronté Jones, *Treasurer, St. John's College*

Ms. JC Hayward
Vice President Media Outreach, WUSA Channel 9

Recognition of Dignitaries

Mr. Frederick C. Howard, *Treasurer
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc.*

Musical Selection

Ericka A. Platt

YWCA Presentation

Janis M. Harvey, *Chief Executive Officer
YWCA Of Annapolis & Anne Arundel County*

The 2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Awards

Present to Presented by

Shirley A. Jones Alexander	Jacqueline Boone Allsup
Alderwoman Sheila M. Finlayson	Alderwoman Classie Hoyle
Irene Butler Hebron	Sylvia Tilghman
Erica Matthews	Arlene Rankin
Amy Seipp	Chief Joseph S. Johnson
Gloria Wilson Shelton, Esq.	Christine S. Davenport

Acknowledgement of the Committee

Honorable Carl O. Snowden

"This Little Light of Mine" Musical Selection

Ericka A. Platt

Benediction

Rev. Mamie Aletha Williams, *RESPECT, Co-Chair*



MARTIN O'MALLEY
GOVERNOR
1000 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
TEL: 410-326-7000 FAX: 410-326-7001



October 6, 2007

A MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR MARTIN O'MALLEY

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception sponsored in conjunction with St. John's College.

Tonight we celebrate the achievements of six distinguished women who, like Fannie Lou Hamer, have dedicated themselves to bettering the world for everyone, regardless of color or economic status. Miss Hamer's legacy inspires us not only to act with courage and compassion, but to realize our own personal strength and capacity.

On behalf of our One Maryland, I would like to commend Erica Matthews, Shirley Alexander, Irene Hebron, Alderwoman Shelia Finlayson, Amy Jo Seipp, and Gloria Wilson for their staggering achievements and for recognizing that one person can make a difference and each of us must try.

Please accept my gratitude and congratulations on this great honor.

Sincerely,

Martin O'Malley
Governor



BENJAMIN L. CARDIN
SENATOR

October 6, 2007

Dear Friends:

I want to welcome all of you to the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception, and I want to take this opportunity to congratulate tonight's special honorees: Erica Matthews, Shirley Alexander, Irene Hebron, Alderwoman Shelia Finlayson, Gloria Wilson Shelton, Esq. and Amy Jo Seipp. These women have made incredible contributions to our community and their spirit and determination are reminders of the distinguished legacy of Fannie Lou Hamer.

Born into poverty in rural Mississippi, the granddaughter of slaves, Fannie Lou faced discrimination and prejudice in an oppressive society. When SNCC volunteers came to her Ruleville, Mississippi community in 1962, she was the first one to volunteer to go to the county court house and register to vote. She recognized the connection between the lack of access to the political process and severe poverty among African-Americans.

Fannie Lou joined the SNCC and traveled across the country, helping to register other disenfranchised African-Americans. She was arrested, thrown in jail, and beaten for her efforts. Undeterred, she continued her mission, becoming a tireless fighter for civil rights. Her impassioned speech to the Credentials Committee of the 1964 Democratic National Convention is one of the most powerful appeals for justice and equality in our country that I have ever heard.

Tonight, we remember Fannie Lou Hamer, an inspiration to all Americans who care about civil rights. She devoted her life to ending poverty and to ensuring all Americans exercised their inalienable right to vote, without fear of harassment or intimidation.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator





C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

October 6, 2007

Mr. Christopher Nelson, President
St. John's College
60 College Avenue
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Honorable Carl O. Snowden, Chair
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc.
Post Office Box 371
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

Dear President Nelson and Chairman Snowden:

I extend personal and heartfelt greeting to you, St. John's College and the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee on the celebration of the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception.

Anne Arundel County is the only jurisdiction in the State of Maryland that celebrates Mrs. Hamer's birthday. This occasion acknowledges the renowned feminist and civil rights heroine who is largely credited with getting the 1965 Voting Rights Act passed which led to thousands of African Americans being elected to public office. The State of Maryland elected its first African American Congressman, the late Parren J. Mitchell, just 37 years ago.

St. John's College and its staff are to be commended for partnering with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee to educate students and the community about the role that Mrs. Hamer played in securing voting rights for American citizens.

Best wishes on the celebration of this auspicious occasion.



Sincerely,

C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger
C.A. Dutch Ruppensberger
Member of Congress

Not Printed on Government Paper

JOHN P. BARBARIS
2ND DISTRICT, MARYLAND
COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND LABOR
COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT REFORM
AND OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES

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www.barbaris.house.gov

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Annapolis, MD 21401
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October 6, 2007

On the Occasion of the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception

Dear Friends:

I am very pleased to extend warm greetings to all gathered for the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception at the Barncker-Douglass Museum. These prestigious awards, given to six women for outstanding service to the community, celebrate the life and contribution of Fannie Lou Hamer, one of our nation's foremost civil rights leaders.

It is a distinct honor for me to join in congratulating this year's awardees: Erica Matthews, Shirley Alexander, Irene Hebron, Alderwoman Shelia Finlayson, Amy Jo Seipp, and Gloria Wilson Shelton, Esq. Fannie Lou Hamer's work as a pioneering feminist and a civil rights activist wrought enormous change for our nation. The service rendered by this evening's award recipients represents a continuation of the ideals, vision and spirit of Fannie Lou Hamer. I congratulate and wish them continued success in the years to come.



Sincerely,
John P. Barbaris
John P. Barbaris



MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES

MICHAEL E. BUSCH
SPEAKER

October 6, 2007

Dear Friends:

Congratulations on the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception, honoring outstanding women in our community! Each of your honorees epitomizes the legacy she has left behind and we can only hope to build on Ms. Hamer's legacy for the betterment of our neighbors and our State. Greater access to opportunity is the first step in that endeavor and we are committed to ensuring that business stays and grows in Maryland.

Some of Ms. Hamer's most famous words continue to ring true today: one's highest calling is "to support whatever is right, and to bring in justice where we've had so much injustice." We have made significant strides in bringing a good education to every child in Maryland, providing healthcare access to all citizens and building our State's economy so that people can afford to support their families. But we aren't done. We cannot rest until each of the nearly 800,000 uninsured receives healthcare, or until every student graduates from high school and has choices for their future.

Thank you again for your support of our great State. I wish you the best of luck in your tournament and throughout 2007.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Busch
Speaker



Mary Ann Love
Trust Director
State Legislative Director
Anne Arundel County
—
Chairman
Anne Arundel County Delegation
—
President 2005/06
Women Legislators of Maryland
—
Executive Member, Committee



The Maryland House of Delegates
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

Annapolis Office
The Maryland House of Delegates
4 Basin Street, Room 116
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-341-3310 / 341-98-3311
—
District Office
410-341-9981

October 6, 2007

Fannie Lou Hamer Award Committee
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

Dear Friends:

As we gather on the occasion of the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception, let us recognize and honor the recipients. Let us also remember the courage of the lady after whom these awards are named.

Fannie Lou Hamer pursued the dream to eliminate racial discrimination. When she and other members of the Mississippi Democratic Freedom Party were barred from seats at the National Convention in 1964 she stood her ground and asked "Is this America?" Over the years that followed that memorable event she fought to bring about the changes that we enjoy today. Her memory is to be held in high esteem.

The recipients chosen to be honored are a group of women who walk in the footsteps of Mrs. Hamer. They have earned the admiration and respect from those of us gathered here tonight for their accomplishments. It is an honor in which they can take great pride and it is a memory to be cherished.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Love
Delegate





DARYL D. JONES
 Councilman
 First District

June 20, 2007

Greetings,

On behalf of the First District of the Anne Arundel County Council I welcome you to the Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Awards Celebration.

Our County constantly undergoes change, however the commitment of our citizens to assist one another remains constant.

The constant commitment to fostering a stronger and better Anne Arundel County is what each recipient here tonight has demonstrated.

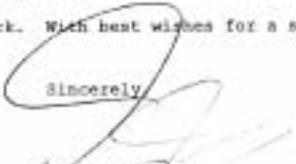
From District One of our County Council, I extend a sincere thank you for your contributions.

The desire and determination attributed to Fannie Lou Hamer certainly resonates with each of tonight's awardees.

Again, thank you for your hard work. With best wishes for a stronger future,



Sincerely,



Daryl D. Jones
 County Council
 District 1

Box 2700 • Annapolis • Maryland 21404
 Phone • 410-222-1401 • 410-222-6890
 Fax • 410-222-1755 • 410-222-6774
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October 6, 2007

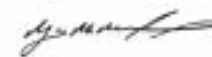
It is with sincere appreciation and a sense of obligation that I congratulate this year's Fannie Lou Hamer award recipients for their invaluable contributions to our community. Through many sacrifices, these women have displayed Fannie Lou Hamer-like courage, eloquence, and diligence. It is my hope that our county's young people will find strength and inspiration in these women, who are role models for us all.

Today's honorees are shining examples of the best our community has to offer. We've been fortunate to have numerous dedicated community members working with our educators to not only provide excellent education resources to our young people, but also to instill the importance of good character and a strong community. As Hamer once said, "There is one thing you have got to learn about our movement. Three people are better than no people."

Understanding the legacies of Fannie Lou Hamer and today's honorees, I recognize that the school system's responsibilities go far beyond academic achievement. We must all set the example for our young people to create legacies of their own and move with conviction. Thank you to today's honorees who preserve such an important heritage while making their own history.



Sincerely,



Kevin M. Maxwell, Ph.D.
 Superintendent of Schools

Tracy Jenkins, President | Elizabeth Williams, Vice President | Vicki E. Bennett, Jr., Secretary | Sidney C. "Red" Davis, Treasurer | Ronald S. Jester, Board Member | Raymond Taylor, Board Member | Stephen P. Williams, Board Member | Steve Stone, Board Member

for every child

DOUGLAS F. GANSLER
Attorney General



KATHERINE MICHELS
CHIEF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

JOHN H. HOWARD, JR.
Deputy Attorney General

STATE OF MARYLAND
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

October 6, 2007

Dear Friends:

It is my pleasure to send all the members and guests of the MLK Awards Committee and St. John's College my heart felt congratulations in celebration of the 12th Annual Fannie Lou Hamer Reception.

This year's honorees, Alderwoman Sheila Finlayson, Erica Mathews, Shirley Alexander, Gloria Wilson Shelton, Irene Hebron, and Amy Jo Seipp all exemplify Ms. Hamer's spirit, determination, and commitment to community. While we have made great strides, 50 years after Ms. Hamer's birth, America continues to struggle with the issues of tolerance and justice for all of its citizens.

As we celebrate the achievements of tonight's honorees, let us be inspired to continue Ms. Hamer's legacy and ask ourselves what contributions we can make to our neighborhoods, to our State, and to our Country.

Congratulations once again to all of tonight's honorees and I wish you continued success.



Sincerely,

Douglas F. Gansler
Attorney General of Maryland

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Telephone Numbers: (410) 376-6289 • (800) 733-8823 • D.C. Metro (301) 470-7333
Telephone for Deaf: (410) 576-6172

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

October 6, 2007

Carl O. Snowden, Chair
Martin Luther King Awards Dinner Committee
Christopher Nelson, President
St. John's College
P.O. Box 371
Annapolis, Maryland 21404-0371

Dear Mr. Snowden, Dr. Nelson & Friends:

Greetings to all the members and guests of the MLK Awards Dinner Committee and St. John's College on the occasion of the 12th Annual Celebration of the birthday of Fannie Lou Hamer, civil rights activist, feminist and local legend! Ms. Hamer knew that the key to economic opportunity and civil liberties is education.

That is why I am so proud that the U. S. Senate recently passed my resolution calling for the designation of the week of September 8, 2007, as National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Week in recognition of their rich heritage and prominent role in U.S. history.

Civil rights got us into the stadium, but higher education brings us into the game and HBCUs have always helped make sure African American students don't get left on the bench. I want to salute the dedicated faculty and staff at those institutions for their tremendous contributions in shaping America's youth.

There are 100 HBCUs nationwide, including four in Maryland: Coppin State University, Morgan State University, University of Maryland Eastern Shore and Bowie State University. HBCUs provide the quality education necessary in today's highly technological society, offer opportunities for many underprivileged students to reach their potential, and deserve national recognition for their many achievements and goals.

I'm so proud of the great things historically black institutions do for my own home state of Maryland and the nation. Together, with leaders like today's exceptional awardees, we will continue to fight to increase opportunities for all.

Thank you for inviting me to share this special and important day with you. It is a privilege to stand shoulder to shoulder with you today and everyday as we work together to keep Fannie Lou Hamer's hard fought victories alive.



Sincerely,

Barbara A. Mikulski
United States Senator

Shirley A. Jones Alexander



Shirley A. Jones Alexander joined the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dinner Committee in 2005. A native Marylander, reared in Mayo, she now lives in Parole. Married in 1962, she is a mother to two daughters, Tammy and Dawna and grandmother to three grandchildren.

Retired from Department of Army Fort George G. Meade, Mrs. Alexander served for more than 25 years as a Personnel Management Specialist and as an Equal Employment Opportunity Specialist.

During her tenure at Fort Meade, she spent nine years on the Installation Commander's special staff and performed collateral duties as Black Employment Program Manager, Handicapped Employment Program Coordinator, Historically Black College Program Manager and Stay-in-School Coordinator.

Mrs. Alexander was a member of Cecil Memorial United Methodist Church for 27 years, where she served as Administrative Council Chairperson, Church Secretary, Laymember to Annual Conference, Christian Education Chairperson and on the Conference Personnel Board. For several years she has attended Mount Olive AME Church, where she serves in the Missionary Society.

An avid believer in community service, Mrs. Alexander has served on many local boards and commissions, including the Housing Commission of Anne Arundel County, Anne Arundel County Minority Business and Women Enterprise Committee, the Stanton Center Commission, South County Residential Projects, Inc., Fourth Congressional District Rainbow Coalition, Anne Arundel County Economic Opportunity Committee, Inc., Opportunities Industrialization Centers of Anne Arundel County, the Black Political Forum, and the Kunta Kinte Heritage Festival Committee.

Mrs. Alexander was one of the 15 guarantors of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, which is located at Anne Arundel Community College. It is with a great debt of gratitude that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee bestows on her the 2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Award.

Sheila M. Finlayson



Sheila M. Finlayson is the newly elected member of the Annapolis City Council serving Ward 4. She grew up in Eastport and graduated from Annapolis High School. After earning a bachelor's degree in English, she went on to earn a master's degree in Cultural Foundations of Education from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee.

Ms. Finlayson returned home to teach, first at Marley Junior High School and then at Bates Junior High. She was a member of the original faculty of South River High. She taught a variety of English courses with a specialty in British Literature and public speaking. She also served as class advisor for numerous graduating classes, coached the cheerleaders, advised the yearbook and served the faculty as social chairperson and events coordinator.

Early in her career, she took an interest in the work of the Teachers Association of Anne Arundel County. She was elected to several terms on the association's Board of Directors, later serving as Vice President and President. She successfully led the association through four difficult years, thwarting attacks on healthcare benefits and working conditions. The culmination was the negotiation of one of the best contracts in the state.

Serving on the Legislative Committee for the Maryland State Teacher's Association, she received campaign management training. She first put those skills to use by managing Aris T. Allen's successful campaign for the House of Delegates. She later co-chaired the committee to name Aris T. Allen Boulevard and chaired the committee to build a monument in his honor.

She was an educational consultant to the Maryland State Department of Education for Functional Writing and was a panelist for the National Policy Forum on "Mind the Gap." Mrs. Finlayson also served on the Boards of Directors for Maryland Hall for the Creative Arts, the Community Action Agency, Banneker-Douglass Museum and the Bates Legacy Center. Governor Parris Glendening appointed Ms. Finlayson to the Governor's Task Force on How Capable Students are Prepared for College, and County Executive Robert Neall appointed her Vice Chair to the Bates Advisory Committee, an appointment that lasted for 12 years, until the grand opening of the Bates Legacy Center in September 2006.

In 2001, Ms. Finlayson was elected as East Regional Director of the National Council of Urban Education Associations, which is dedicated to promoting quality teaching and learning in urban public schools. As a member of the Annapolis Chapter of the Links Incorporated, Ms. Finlayson served the chapter in many capacities, including president. She was recently appointed Eastern Regional Chairperson for Services to Youth.

Ms. Finlayson is a member of Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Eastport.

Irene Butler Hebron



Irene Butler Hebron was educated in Anne Arundel County schools, first attending Harman Elementary School, then Wiley H. Bates High School in Annapolis.

In September 1944, she enrolled in the State Teachers College in Bowie, Maryland, where she earned her bachelor's degree. She obtained a teaching position with the Anne Arundel County Department of Education. In 1956, Mrs. Hebron earned her Master of Arts degree from State Teachers College in New York.

Mrs. Hebron's first assignment was at Marley Neck, a two-room Rosenwald School without inside plumbing. She remained there until 1957, when she moved to the new Freetown Elementary. By this time, she had married a former classmate, Frank Hebron; and they had one son, Wilson. After their second son, Roddy, was born in 1962, Ms. Hebron joined a group of eight teachers who integrated the Anne Arundel County elementary schools. Her first assignment was at Meade Heights Elementary, on the army post at Fort George G. Meade. She spent the remainder of her 35-year teaching career there. Mrs. Hebron retired in 1983, but continued to teach Adult Basic Education for four hours a week for 13 years.

Mrs. Hebron has been involved with Saint Mark United Methodist Church all of her life. For 50 years, she coached the drama club and for 30 years served as secretary of the administrative board. She became the first woman to serve on the church's board of trustees, and since 1979, she has served as church historian. She also served as the chairperson of the building project for the current church. Her civic and community involvement also includes serving as a life member of the NAACP, life member of the BSU Alumni Association, and as a member of the UMW and Anne Arundel Retired Teachers Association.

Mrs. Hebron was instrumental in preparing the "Trails, Tracks and Tarmac" exhibit for display at the Banneker-Douglass Museum in November 2006. She is also one of the founders of the North Arundel Cultural and Preservation Society.

In her very active retirement, Mrs. Hebron enjoys reading, crossword puzzles, collecting black artifacts, and reading poetry, especially dialect. She has taken courses in Spanish, computer, and ceramics at the Pascal Senior Center.

For her contributions to community as a groundbreaking and dedicated teacher, for her admirable work in her church, and for her leadership, we are proud to honor Mrs. Hebron.

Erica Matthews



Erica Matthews is a native Annapolitan and the mother of two children: a daughter, Jordan, and a son, Terrance. With her husband and children, she now resides in Glen Burnie. Mrs. Matthews, who is director of the Anne Arundel County Partnership Energy Programs, is the treasurer of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast Committee. This committee is the oldest organization in Anne Arundel County that hosts an annual breakfast in memory of Dr. King on the federal holiday in January that honors him and other civil rights leaders.

In her capacity as treasurer, she has made sure that all dollars that are collected are accounted for. Under her stewardship and leadership, the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast Committee launched a \$400,000 capital project in conjunction with *The Capital* newspaper on August 28, 2005, to build the first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. memorial in the State of Maryland.

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Memorial, which stands on the campus of Anne Arundel Community College, was designed by sculptor Ed Dwight and was dedicated on August 27, 2006. Mr. Dwight also designed the nationally acclaimed Malcolm X Memorial in San Diego, California, and the internationally acclaimed Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial in Annapolis, Maryland.

In addition to volunteering as the treasurer for the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Mrs. Matthews has served as an advisor for the Annapolis Boys and Girls Club, where she works with the Torch Club and Keystone Club. She has been a Youth Facilitator for the Planning Action Committees of Anne Arundel County and the Kinship Care Program.

Mrs. Matthews is a 2007 graduate of the Leadership Anne Arundel Flagship Class and has received many awards including the Employee of the Year and Community Service Award presented by the Annapolis Boys and Girls Club; Dedicated Service Award presented by the Planning Action Committees of Anne Arundel County; and the Business Workforce and Development Center's Private Industry Council Award.

She is a member of the John Wesley United Methodist Church in Annapolis. Like Mrs. Fannie Lou Hamer, she has an abiding faith in God. This evening, we are pleased to award her with the prestigious 2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Award.

Amy Seipp



Amy J. Seipp is a native of Anne Arundel County who works for racial justice, fairness, and recognition through her professional position in law enforcement. Mrs. Seipp is married to Lieutenant Timothy Seipp, and they are the proud parents of one son, who is an honors student at the Chesapeake Bay Middle School. They attend the St. Bernadette Parish in Severn, Maryland.

Mrs. Seipp was named executive assistant to Annapolis Police Chief Joseph S. Johnson in 1992.

Mrs. Seipp, a trusted confidante of Chief Johnson,

is his administrative assistant. Mrs. Seipp has worked to establish and maintain open communication with the Annapolis community to include the area clergy, community leaders and elected officials. Through this position of trust, the public at all levels feel comfortable to entrust her with the most confidential and sensitive material.

Ms. Seipp prefers to quietly and effectively work behind the scenes to ensure the highest standards of police service through the values of honesty, integrity and respect for the human dignity of all individuals. Although, she prefers to remain behind the scenes, she works hard to ensure that those members deserving of recognition for their efforts are so noted. In that regard, 50 members of the Annapolis Police Department have been recognized at the local, state, and national level since Mrs. Seipp took over the responsibility of composing the department's submission to various award recognition programs. Twenty-five of those honored were minority members of the department. Mrs. Seipp diligently reviews state-mandated racial profiling data to insure that the police department meets and maintains a neutral posture in its traffic enforcement.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee has decided to bestow unto Mrs. Seipp the 2007 Fannie Lou Hamer Award because of her steadfast commitment to racial equality and social justice.

Gloria Wilson-Shelton, Esq.



The distinguished legal career of Gloria Wilson Shelton, Esq., spans nearly 17 years, and her contributions to achieving racial and ethnic diversity have been profound. As a mentor, role model, and advocate, her focus is to work for positive change and to diversify the legal profession.

Ms. Shelton holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology, and a Master of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration. She is currently Chief Counsel for the Maryland Automobile

Insurance Fund. She formerly served as Principal Counsel of the Courts and Judicial Affairs Division, where she served as chief legal advisor and counsel to the Maryland Judiciary; Assistant City Solicitor in the Baltimore Solicitor's Office, representing the Baltimore Housing Authority; and Associate Legal Counsel to the city's police department. Previously, she was an Associate at Semmes, Bowen & Semmes and served as Judicial Law Clerk to Judge Harry A. Cole on Maryland's Court of Appeals.

Ms. Shelton has mentored minority law students from the University of Baltimore and University of Maryland for the past 15 years. She has been invited to speak to civic organizations, church groups, women's clubs and business organizations.

Ms. Shelton is a nationally recognized leader in her profession. She currently serves as the Chair-Elect of the American Bar Association Judicial Division's Lawyers Conference and will become its first person of color to serve as Chair, for the term 2007-08. As Chair of the ABA Judicial Division's Standing Committee on Diversity in the Judiciary, Ms. Shelton is the first lawyer to chair this national committee of judges representing the National Conference of Appellate Judges, State Trial Judges Conference, Administrative Law Judiciary, Conference of Specialized Court Judges and Conference of Federal Trial Judges.

Her other leadership roles have included serving as Past President of the Alliance of Black Women Attorneys of Maryland, Chair of the Women's Bar Association of Maryland Quasi-Judicial Selection Committee, Maryland State Bar Association Board of Governors, and Federal Bar Association. Her many recent honors include: 2007 nominee, Super Lawyer of Maryland; Maryland 100 Top Women; and the 2004 BLSA Distinguished Woman Award. A Fellow of the Maryland Bar Foundation, she was recently invited to become a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. Her civic and community service activities include: Board of Directors, Baltimore-Washington Medical Center; Annapolis Rotary Club, Women Giving Together Circle; Board of Directors, Girl Scouts of Central Maryland; Coalition of 100 Black Women; and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

She is married to Perry Shelton and is a member of the New Psalmist Baptist Church.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast Committee, in celebration of its 25th anniversary, joined forces with The Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner Committee, Incorporated to build the first permanent memorial to Dr. King. These two organizations undertook a very special fundraising campaign to create this memorial to Dr. King.

The campaign, called the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund, was launched on August 28, 2005, with a goal to raise \$400,000 to be used to erect a bronze statue and educational plaza of Dr. King on the campus of Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold, Maryland.

It is fitting that Anne Arundel Community College, as a premier educational institution, becomes the first site in the State of Maryland to have a permanent memorial to Dr. King. Both the Reverend Bernice King and Yolanda King, the daughters of Dr. and Mrs. King, have spoken at this college. In addition, on the 35th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, the college was the location where many of the Anne Arundel County participants were honored for their participation in that historic march.



From the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Program

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

"Somehow we must harness man's genius for the purpose of making peace and prosperity for all."

Why a Memorial? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. has the unique distinction of being the only African American to have a national holiday named in his honor. In Anne Arundel County, Maryland, for more than a quarter of a century, his birthday has been celebrated.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, is located on the Arnold, Maryland campus of Anne Arundel Community College. The Memorial is dedicated to Dr. King and to all of the brave individuals whose names are lost forever to history. These men and women were the foot soldiers of the Civil Rights movement.

In Maryland, they included the late Morris H. Blum, Clarence M. Mitchell, Jr., Bertina A. Nick, Reverend Leroy Bowman, Delegate Kenneth L. Webster, Senator Aris T. Allen, Sr., Congressman Parren J. Mitchell, Gloria Richardson, Senator Charles Mac Mathis, Annapolis Mayor Roger W. Moyer, Sr., Councilwoman Sarah Carter and countless other Marylanders whom we will never know.

Memorials are a reminder. They remind us who came before us. Memorials can inspire us to have a greater appreciation for the struggle that continues. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial will be a permanent guidepost to both our past and our future.



The Design of the Memorial The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, designed by nationally acclaimed sculptor Ed Dwight, it is the only memorial in the State of Maryland to honor Dr. King. Mr. Dwight also designed the internationally acclaimed Kunta Kinte-Alex Haley Memorial, which is located on the City Dock, Annapolis, Maryland and the Malcolm X Memorial in San Diego, California. The Memorial depicts Dr. King standing, gesturing with his left hand, holding a book in his right hand and, according to *The Washington Post*, wearing a gentle expression.

Behind Dr. King, on a semicircular stone wall, five bronze plaques bear quotations from his landmark speeches. The nine-foot, six-inch statute is on a five-foot granite pedestal and looks down on a small natural amphitheater on the college's main campus in Arnold, Maryland.

Ed Dwight, Sculptor

The Memorial sculptor, Ed Dwight, has created some 55 monuments and memorials to noted and historic Americans, including Kunta Kinte, Alex Haley (pictured right), and Malcolm X, as well as a tribute to the Underground Railroad installed on the grounds of the Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan.

Ed Dwight began his career as an engineer. He was a former U.S. Air Force test pilot and America's first African American astronaut trainee. After a successful career as a real estate and construction entrepreneur, he has dedicated the last 23 years solely to his art endeavors. Dwight earned a master's degree in Fine Arts from the University of Denver in 1977.

Today, Dwight has become one of the premier figurative artists in the world with works in private collections, institutions and museums, including the Smithsonian Institution. Ed Dwight resides in Denver, Colorado. He is the owner of Ed Dwight Studios, one of the largest single-artist production and marketing facilities in the western U.S.



WALL of QUOTES

Behind the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on a semicircular stone wall, are five bronze plaques that provide quotations from his landmark speeches. Each quotation was carefully selected and represents some of the principles for which Dr. King gave his life. These five plaques were purchased in the memory of various individuals.



The first plaque was donated by the artist Ed Dwight and underscores the role of education and its purpose in our society. Another plaque is donated in the memory of the late Morris and Margery Blum, founders of WANN-AM radio in Annapolis, who hired African American radio personalities and staff before the 1964 Civil Rights Act was signed by Lyndon Baines Johnson. This plaque was purchased by Jeff and Larry Blum, the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Blum.

A plaque was purchased in the memory of the late Colonel James Watkins, a retired Baltimore Police Officer and the founder of the Watkins Security Agency. This plaque was purchased by the widow of Colonel Watkins and their son Hayden C. Moore.

The fourth plaque was purchased by the YWCA of Annapolis and Anne Arundel County. The mission is the empowerment of women and the elimination of racism by any means necessary. Janis Harvey, the chief executive officer for the YWCA, is a member of the planning committee.

The final plaque was purchased by the family of the Honorable Carl O. Snowden in the memory of Malcolm X, who was a contemporary of Dr. King. The Snowden family wanted to underscore that the mission and goals of Dr. King and Malcolm X were the same—a society based on brotherhood and justice. Both Malcolm and Martin are martyrs in this great cause. This plaque was paid for by Assata Snowden, Kojo Lummuba Malik Snowden, Abayomi Hamisi Malik Snowden and Carl O. Snowden.

"Our hope for creative living lies in our ability to re-establish the moral ends of our lives in personal character and social justice."

Be a part of history...

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund was established to oversee the creation of the first permanent memorial to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This organization has only one purpose, which is to oversee the construction of the memorial. The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund was started in August 2005 and will expire at the completion of the memorial. Its membership consist entirely of volunteers.



Fundraising for this memorial continues!

As a result of the generosity of our community, we have collected more than \$250,000 for the construction of this memorial. We still need to raise another \$150,000. Here's your chance to become part of history. Please send your tax-exempt contributions to:

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc.
Post Office Box 371
Annapolis, Maryland 21404

All contributions will be acknowledged and all contributors will be recorded for our Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund Donor List. For more information, contact Frederick C. Howard, Treasurer, at the address above. Also, you are welcome to telephone 410-267-7723 for more information.

...Help pay for the Memorial!

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Join us!

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Committees



The committees that created the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial consists of volunteers from the community. Its membership includes housewives, lawyers, doctors, elected officials, educators, community activists, public safety officials, whites, Jews, African Americans, Latinos, Muslims, Christians, and many other religious beliefs and nationalities.

It is a committee of individuals who reflected the “Beloved Community,” that Dr. King often spoke of. These individuals all believed in the message that Dr. King advocated.

It is through their hard work and many faiths that the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial came into existence.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc.

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, Inc. is a 501(c)(3), nonprofit, tax-exempt organization whose mission includes the construction of the first permanent memorial to Dr. King. The mission also includes an annual Award’s Dinner celebration of the birthday of Dr. King. The organization also annually host the October Fannie Lou Hamer Reception, a reception that honors women from various racial and ethnic backgrounds. The organization is almost two decades old.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast Committee

The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast Committee was started in 1981 by the Honorable Carl O. Snowden. The mission of the organization includes an annual memorial breakfast in memory of Dr. King. This adhoc committee consists of a consortium of community, educational and governmental organizations in Anne Arundel County. On the 25th anniversary of the its annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Breakfast it launched in conjunction with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Awards Dinner Committee a special fundraising campaign called the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Fund to raise \$400,000 for the first Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in the State of Maryland.



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