

Webster High School Historical Society News

"Bringing Forth the Past to Archive and Present to the World"

November 2020

WebsterHistorical1922@gmail.com

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Inaugural Quarterly Issue – Honoring Our Veterans

The *Webster High School Historical Society* was recently organized to discover, collect, and preserve historical documents, books, pictures, and artifacts to develop a comprehensive history of Webster High School in Minden, Louisiana. Unique in its role in Black education, Webster High School was the center of Black Culture in Minden, Louisiana.

Our ultimate goal is to establish a museum that would house all of the memories that we hold dear to share with generations to come.

Membership is open to anyone who can contribute to the history of our high school via a written memory or a tangible piece of memorabilia that helps to tell the complete story.

From the pages of our memories come news that was shared with us and now we share with you.

In this issue, we pay tribute to our classmates, teachers and staff that served in the Armed Forces in observance of Veterans Day.

Floristene Green Johnson, Class of 1965

PFC Walter Allen, Sr. *World War II Veteran (1907-1983)*

By Delois Allen Hall



How did this resident of Minden, Louisiana – who did not graduate from high school – become a prominent photographer in north Louisiana? He took advantage of The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly known as the G.I. Bill, which provided a range of benefits to returning World War II veterans.

While stationed at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas, he was the driver for the army photographer and became intrigued with photography. He said he was allowed to take long pictures (panoramic pictures) by the photographer for various units. After receiving a medical discharge from the army, he enrolled in photography school at Wiley College in Marshall, Texas.

In addition to capturing many of the memories of the area's African American

population over many decades, he is remembered for being an active political voice for the community, a tireless worker for public improvements, a role model and mentor to aspiring entrepreneurs, and a respected property owner providing affordable housing.

Walter Allen was the father of five children, including Walter Allen, Jr., from a previous marriage, and four children with his wife of 42 years, Lula Watson Allen (Webster High Class of 1937). The other children are Carolyn Allen Caesar (Class of 1960); Ollie Allen Scoggins Hayes (1962); Delois Allen Hall (1965), and Michael "Jee" Allen (1972).



TSgt. Robert T. Tobin**

Webster High-School teacher/principal. Served in the US Army 78th Signal Corps as a Technical Sergeant.



Dr. Mervell Winzer Bracewell**

WHS Class of 1945
First Lieutenant, US Air Force. Served in multiple locations including New York, NY from 1954-1958.



T/Sgt. Ora D. Mims**

Webster High-School Graduate and Principal
US Army Technical Sergeant
1942-1945
Trained at Camp Claiborne, La.
Awarded Victory Ribbon and Unit Citation.



John "Buster" Walker Sr.**

WHS Bus Driver for Sibley Route.
Served US Army abroad in Italy and Africa.

** Deceased

Celebrating our Webster High School Veterans

WHS Class: Early 50s



Joseph Clark Odom **
Served in the US Army. Bus Driver WHS Jr. High. Father of Kenneth Odom, Class of 1973.

WHS Class: 1958



T/Sgt. James Sims
From 1958 served a 21-year US Air Force career at Lackland AFB, Shepard AFB, Strategic Air Command, Pentagon, Athens Greece, Hawaii. Tele-Communications Specialist Served as a Non-Commissioned Officer/Manager National Emergency Airborne Command Post Communications Center at Andrews AFB. Direct Support to the US President and Air Force One Operations, the first Black to do so.

Class of 1960



Theron Winzer
US Army, Specialist 4, Math Statistician from 03/11/65 to 03/11/67, Fort Huachuca, AZ



Herbert Taylor
US Army. 1964-67. Basic Training, AIT Fort Ord, CA. 2 years in Hanau, Germany and 6 mos. In Cleveland, Ohio.

WHS Class of 1961



Milton Allums, E-4
Served US Army 2 years in Fort Polk, Ft. Sill, Fort Bragg and Viet Nam. MOS: 13B40, Rec'd Viet Nam Medal of Honor, Auto Mechanic earned through GI Bill.

Class of 1964



PFC Philip M. Myles **
US Army, Served in Vietnam

WHS Class of 1965



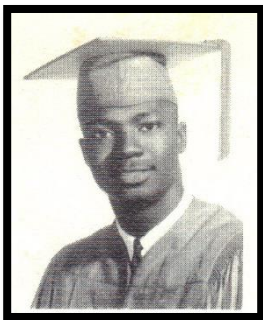
Willie Billard, Jr.
US Army, 1966-1968 in Fort Hood, TX and other stations including Viet Nam. Earned National Defense Medal, Viet Nam Service Medal with 3 Bronze stars.

Class of 1965



Billy Joe Cosby, Spec. 5
US Army, 2 years Vietnam, Fort ORD, CA

WHS Class of 1965



Sgt. Milton Dixon
Served US Air Force 1965 – 1969 at Lackland AFB, Takhili, Thailand. Aircraft Engineer, Mechanic, Served in the 493rd Army Reserve 1971-1985.

Class of 1965



Sgt Earon Davis
US Air Force, 06/65 to 06/69 Basic Training at Lackland AFB, Duty Station Spokane, WA 810th Medical Group Dietitian.

WHS Class of 1965



Sgt. Major Larry R. Houston
Served 2 years US Army, 24 years in US Army Reserves. Fort Lewis Washington, MOS: 95B (Military Police) Sr. Chief Instructor, Military Police. During Desert Storm, Served as the Chief of the Enemy Prisoner of War/Civilian Internee administration and all processing of prisoners of war during Desert Storm.

Class of 1965



Lt. Walter Reaves,
Entered the US Navy in 1972. E-3 Recruit Chief Petty Officer in Orlando, Fla. Served on the USS Purdy – Destroyer 214. Then on to Office Candidate School in Newport, Rhode Island As an Ensign, served as an Oceanographic Watch Officer in Eleutra, Bahamas.. Personnel Officer USS Assurance HE 2521. Navy Reserve 3 years. Discharged 1982.

**Deceased

Class of 1962

Celebrating our Webster High School Veterans!!

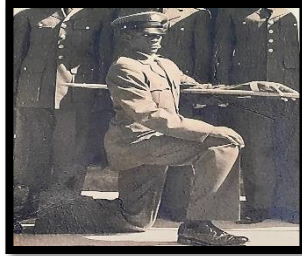
Class of 1965



Carl Rugely

US Army August 1967. Served at Ft. Polk, LA. Viet Nam, Fort Lewis, Washington, 11-C Mortar Division First Calvary.

Class of 1965



Jamesell Williams **
US Air Force Served in Viet Nam Photographer.

Class of 1965



SFC Vincent Wilson
Served US Army 20 years 1067-1988, Ft. Polk, LA, Ft. Gordon, GA, Switchboard Operator, Seoul, Korea, Frankfurt, Germany and Ft Carson to name a few.
Good conduct Medal, Meritorious Service Metal National Defense Metal Numerous Ribbons, Expert Badge Rifle.

Class of 1966



Felton Dixon, Spec-4
US Army 1968-1970. Served at Fort Polk, LA, Charleston, South Carolina, Field Telephone Wireman
Class of 1970

Class of 1966



Billy Ray Smith

Served US Navy 1968-1974 and Navy Reserve from 1974-1988 for 20 years in San Diego, CA, Served USS Bon Homme Richard CVA 31, Ship company as a Boatswains Mate and Helmsman, 2 tours Vietnam.



David Rabb, Jr.

US Army, Served 8 years at Ft. Polk, LA, Training Officer, Amberg, Germany 2nd Armor 3rd Squad Calvary Regiment. Army Reserves, Relief Captain for Combat Engineers. Awards M551 Qualified M60 Squadron Platoon First Place

Class of 1970

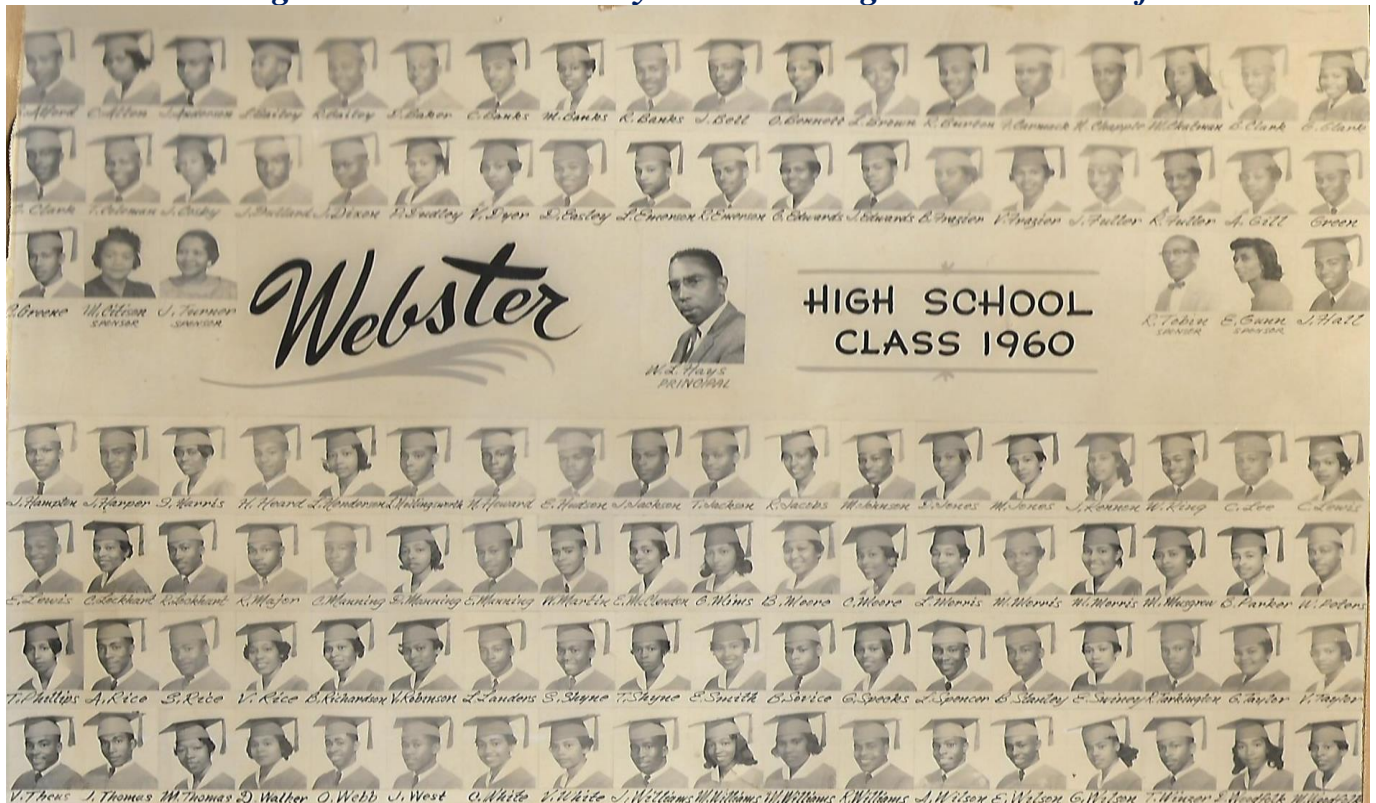


Larry Jackson
US Marine Corp Reserve, Served 2 years at Camp Pendleton, CA. San Diego, CA.

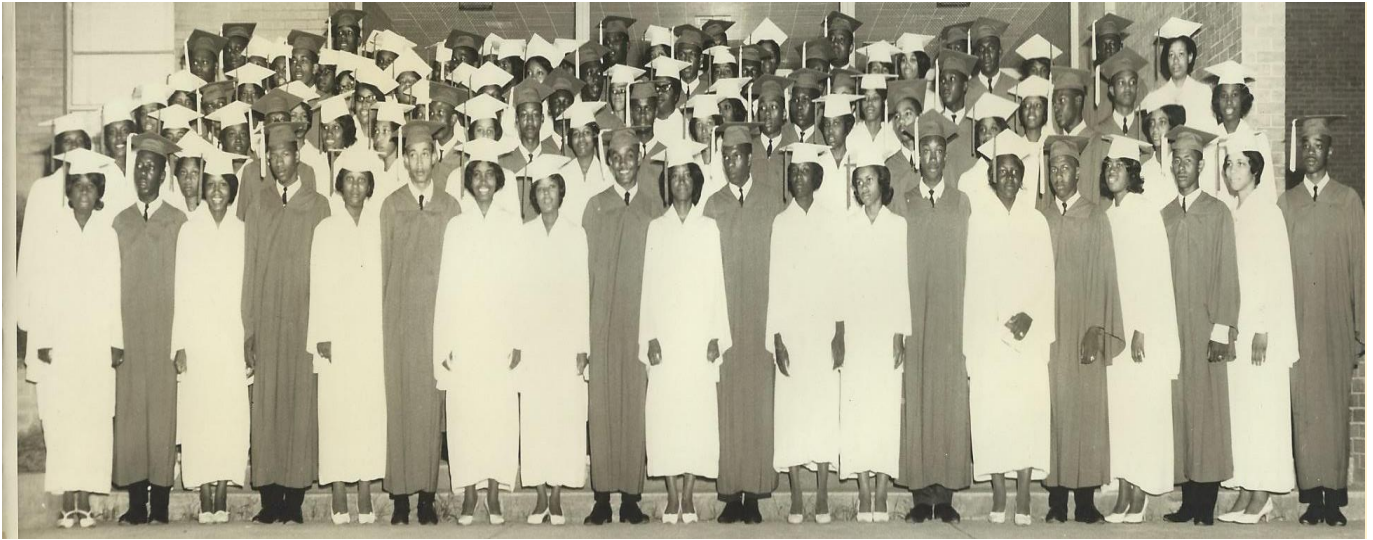


SFC Johnny Washington
US Army, Served 23 years at Fort Polk, Fort Riley, Fort Ord, Fort Carson, Fort Gordon, & Germany. Rec'd ARCO-3 Oak Leaf Cluster

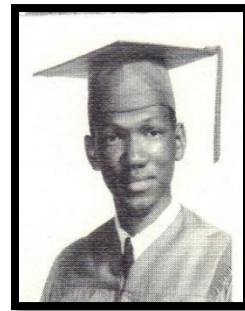
Celebrating Their 60th Anniversary – Webster High-School Class of 1960



Celebrating Their 55th Anniversary – Webster High-School Class of 1965



*Miss Webster's Court,
Lee Bell, Ida Allums, Larry Houston, Willie M. Hill (Miss Webster), Robert Walker, Delois Allen*



*Senior Class President
Larry R. Houston*



Celebrating Their 50th Anniversary – Webster High-School Class of 1970

Their senior year began with a somber moment, the passing of our beloved principal who served the country also.



S/Sgt. W. Leon Hayes **

Served 1942-1945 in Fort Dix, NJ, Italy and France. Earned an EAME ribbon and 5 Bronze Ribbons.

*From JL Jones to
Phillips to
Reunion 2017*

