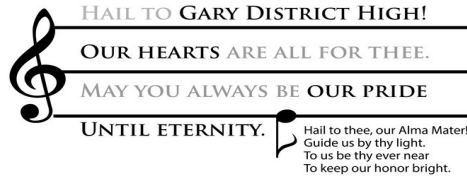


GDHAA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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Gary District High School



The WV McDowell County Board of Education allowed for voluntary integration based upon the individual district. By 1957, the number of black students attending integrated schools in the county was four times greater than the entire state of West Virginia in 1959. At the beginning of the fall term in 1958, Black students were given the choice of staying at Gary District High School or transfer to the all-white Gary High School. Many of the

students chose to remain at Gary District High School. In 1961, the West Virginia Human Rights Commission was formed after the West Virginia League of Women Voters, the NAACP, the Federal Civil Rights Advisory Committee, and the AFL-CIO lobbied the state legislature successfully. The Commission discovered that in 1963, there were eighty-eight all-Black schools still operating in the state. A meeting held in June 1964 by the State Board of Education found that only five counties still maintained all-Black schools, including McDowell.

Gary High School



By early 1965, it had become obvious that McDowell County would need to do more than allow voluntary integration to previously all-white schools. Shortly after a consultant had published a scathing remark against McDowell's controversial and discriminatory policies against

Black students, the county adopted a plan to merge its segregated school systems. Black students at Gary District High School would attend Gary High School. The building would be repurposed as an integrated elementary school. The segregated school systems were merged by the spring of 1966. By the fall, all Black students in the county attended integrated schools. The repurposed Gary District High School remained open for elementary students until it merged with a school in Welch in 1975.

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A Word from The President



Greetings, Garyites!

I hope that is going well, and that everyone is staying healthy and safe.

2023 GDHAA 54TH REUNION

The time has finally come! We will be meeting in person for our Reunion this year in Charleston, WV on July 6 – 9, 2023. Hopefully, you have received the reunion information in the mail. You will also find it on our website at <https://www.gdhsaa-national.org/>. Please get your registration in early. We are expecting a standing room only crowd!! 😊 It will be so good to see everyone again.

All roads lead to Charleston, so make sure that you are there! It promises to be a lot of fun! We have an outstanding committee working on the plans.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The GDHAA Board is looking for students to apply for the GDHAA Scholarship. The application and directions are on the GDHAA website. Any high school or undergraduate college student who is a descendant of GDHS is eligible to apply for the scholarship. The deadline for applying is May 1, 2023. The link to the scholarship application is:

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5ab8fe81620b854268eec06f/t/5e6fe0fd7ebdb151ca240c84/1584390397303/UPDATED-2020-GDHAA-ScholarshipApplication-FormFillable.pdf>

As you are aware, when the reunions are held, part of the reunion fee is allocated for the scholarship fund. Having no reunion for three straight years means that the scholarship fund has not been able to increase. Several Garyites have made donations to the scholarship fund so that we will have monies to award scholarships. Will you please seriously consider sending a donation to the scholarship fund. No donation is too small. If you can contribute to the scholarship fund, please mail your donation to:

WV Chapter GDHSA 54th Reunion
P. O. Box 325
Charleston, WV 25322

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Thank you in advance for your donation!

OTHER INFORMATION:

We are still looking for members who would be interested in being on the Board of Directors for GDHAA. If you are interested, please contact the Board Secretary, Dassa Giles at dassajg@verizon.net.

Lastly, if you are enjoying receiving this newsletter on a quarterly basis, please send news to Bill Madison (wfmadison1@gmail.com). He would love to hear from more of you about the happenings in your family! We are thankful to Bill for taking on the task of keeping us informed. THANK YOU, BILL MADISON!

Again, my friends, take care and stay well, and I will see you in Charleston WV on July 6!

Peace, love, and blessings –

Sandra

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Marnique Heath Robinson, daughter of Margo Walker Heath, Class of 1958



Congratulations to Marnique Heath Robinson, FAIA Principal and Board Chair of STUDIOS Architecture, for earning the distinct honor of elevation to The American Institute of Architects (AIA) College of Fellows. STUDIOS extended their heartiest compliments to its colleague for this highly selective recognition bestowed upon her for advancing the profession through civic stewardship, social awareness, and advocacy for underrepresented communities.

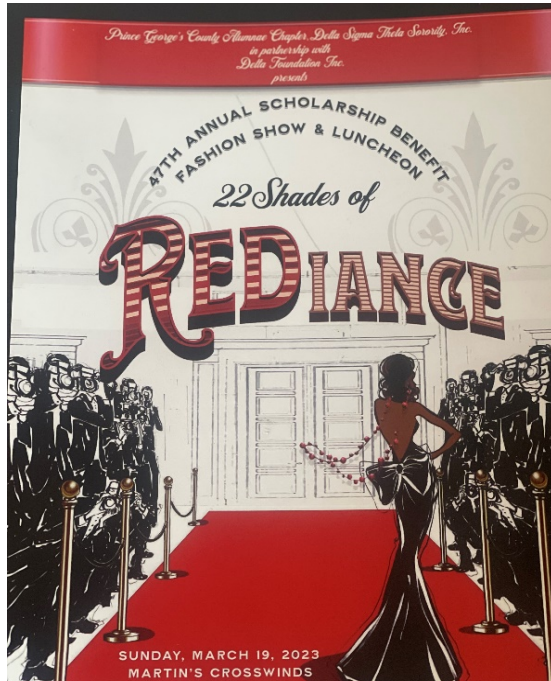
Marnique was appointed to Fellowship by a jury of her peers, who honor a small percentage of AIA members each year for individual achievement and contributions to architecture and society.

About STUDIOS:

Founded in San Francisco in 1985, STUDIOS Architecture is an international design firm that supplies services in architecture, master planning, interiors, workplace strategy, and environmental graphics and design. With over three hundred employees in San Francisco, Washington DC, New York, Los Angeles, Paris, Lyon, and Mumbai, the firm has forged relationships with groundbreaking and innovative clients throughout the United States, Europe, and Asia. Clients range from tech start-ups to private developers, universities to civic organizations, as well as name brands including Coach, Disney, Google, LinkedIn, Lyft, Major League Baseball (MLB), Microsoft, Nike, Pandora, Samsung, Sony, and Time, among others. Free from disciplinary silos that limit innovation, the firm's diverse and experienced team applies a range of insights gained across all work areas from master planning to interiors. Each client's solution is unique to them and responsive to context, program, and people.

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On March 19, 2023, Bill Madison was honored to be a Model in the 44th Annual Scholarship Benefit Fashion Show & Luncheon given by the Prince George's County Alumnae Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. in partnership with Delta Foundation, Inc.

The Show was entitled

"22 Shades of REDIANCE"

The venue was filled with over a thousand attendees to include the first Black Governor of the State of Maryland, The Honorable Wesley Moore, who came backstage to compliment Bill on his stellar performance.

Governor Wesley Moore

His Honor, Wesley Moore is the 63rd Governor of the state of Maryland. He is Maryland's first Black Governor in the state's 246-year history and is the third African American elected Governor in the history of the United States. There has only been two earlier Black Governors in the entire United States.

Born in Takoma Park, Maryland, on Oct. 15, 1978, to Joy and Westley Moore, Moore's life took a tragic turn when his father died of a rare, but treatable virus when he was just three years old. After his father's death, his family moved to the Bronx to live with Moore's grandparents before returning to Maryland at age 14.

Moore is a proud graduate of Valley Forge Military Academy and College, where he received an associate degree in 1998 and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Afterward, he went on to earn his Bachelor's in international relations and economics at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

While at Johns Hopkins, Moore interned in the office of former Baltimore Mayor Kurt Schmoke. Moore was the first Black Rhodes Scholar in the history of Johns

Hopkins University. As A Rhodes Scholar, he earned a Master's in international relations from Wolfson College at Oxford.

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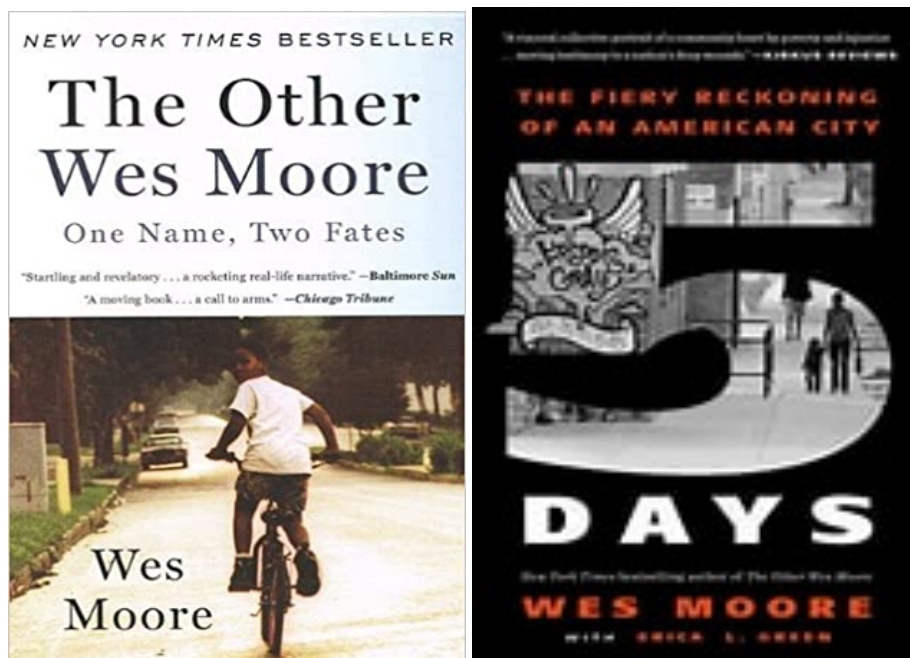
In 2005, Moore deployed to Afghanistan as a captain with the 82nd Airborne Division, leading soldiers in combat. Immediately upon returning home, Moore served as a White House Fellow, advising on issues of national security and international relations.

In 2010, Moore wrote “The Other Wes Moore,” a story about the fragile nature of opportunity in America, which became a perennial New York Times bestseller. He went on to author other best-selling books that reflect on issues of race, equity, and opportunity, including his latest book “Five Days,” which tells the story of Baltimore in the days that followed the death of Freddie Gray in 2015.

Moore built and launched a Baltimore-based business called BridgeEdU, which reinvented freshman year of college for underserved students to increase their likelihood of long-term success. BridgeEdU was acquired by the Brooklyn-based student financial success platform, Equity, in 2018.

It was Moore’s commitment to taking on our toughest challenges that brought him to the Robin Hood foundation, where he served for four years as CEO. During his tenure, the Robin Hood foundation distributed over \$600 million toward lifting families out of poverty, including here in Maryland.

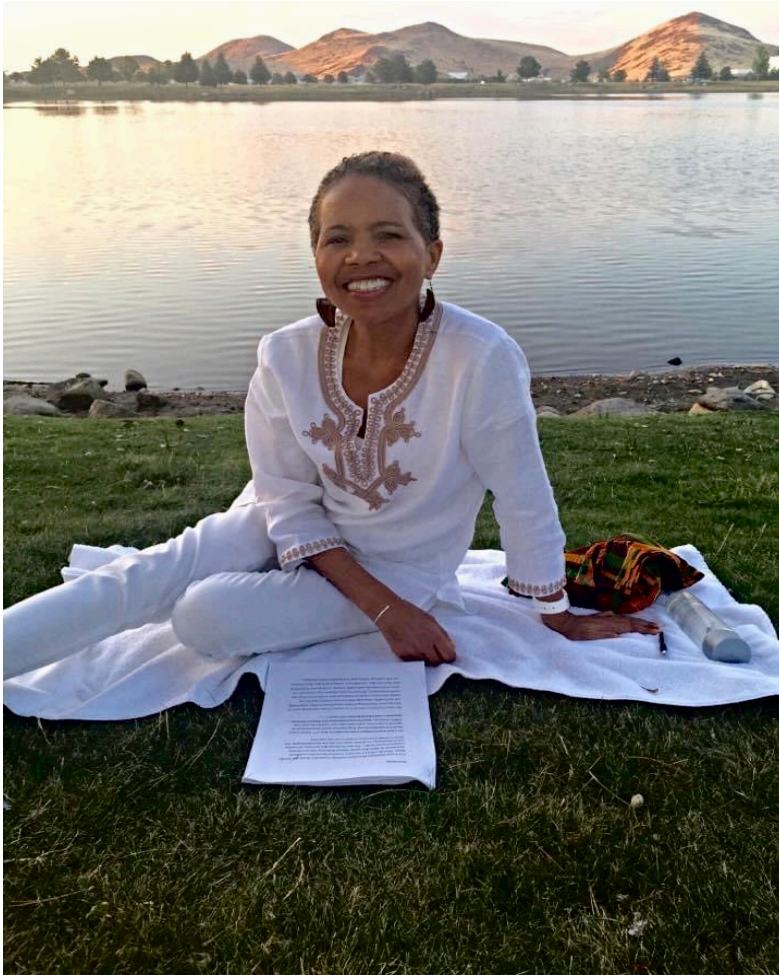
While the Robin Hood foundation is headquartered in New York City, Wes and his family never moved from their home in Baltimore. Moore has also worked in finance with Deutsche Bank in London and with Citigroup in New York. Moore and his wife Dawn Flythe Moore have two children – Mia, eleven (11); and James, nine (9).



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Happy Heavenly Birthday Tanya Denise Madison Morrison, Esquire



Tanya Denise Madison Morrison, Esquire was born on **April 1**, 1963, to William (Billy) and Norma Allen Madison in Washington, DC. She was the second of two siblings, Dyrell being the first. Tanya was one of the most courageous, inspiring, and encouraging women you would ever want to meet. She was spirit filled, graceful and beautiful, inside, and out! Tanya was also very authentic and always lived life on her own terms and to her own God led rhythm. She often paraphrased Psalm 118:17 by saying – *“I will not die but will live to share the power of the Lord.”*

At age 14, she was employed by Edwards Trucking Company, Clinton MD, as an Office Clerk and at age 16, by IBM in downtown Washington, DC as one of their

youngest and most efficient Office Assistants – all while attending Surattsville High School in Clinton, MD.

Tanya was granted a full scholarship to Northeastern University in Boston, MA, where she earned (at the top of her class) a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice. She went on to earn a Juris Doctorate from Howard University School of Law in Washington DC; an International Law Studies Certificate from the University of Nairobi in Kenya, East Africa; and other continuing education certifications in entrepreneurship in law and real estate.

In 2015, Tanya became a Doctoral Candidate at the University of Metaphysics, Sedona, AZ where she was earlier ordained “Minister.”

She went home to be with The Heavenly Father on January 27, 2017.


“To God Be the Glory”

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54th Reunion 2023



BULLDOGS

Gary District High School
Alumni Association

Continuing the Legacy

July 6-9, 2023

Charleston, WV

HOST HOTEL

The Embassy Suites, found at 300 Court St., Charleston, WV is the destination for your return-visit home. We promise a weekend of fun and festivities—the kind that you have become familiar with and have enjoyed during these past fifty plus years of celebrating our GDHS Legacy.

Complimentary shuttle service to the hotel is available upon your arrival at the Yeager Airport by calling (304) 347-8700. (Simply hold for the front desk. Do not press any key.)

Brace yourself for experiencing the hotel's luxurious accommodations and its "over the top" amenities which include, full complimentary breakfast daily and the evening Manager's Reception. Also, come prepared to enjoy the indoor pool and take advantage of the fitness center... you will be glad you did.

REVISED Hotel Room Reservations for GDHS 54th Reunion

- To get a room at the Reunion Rate for the GDHS 54th reunion, **you must first register for the reunion.**
- To register for the 54th reunion, you must mail your check and information to the Reunion post office box 325 in Charleston, WV.
- Once the check is received by the reunion committee, your name is provided to Embassy Suites and a room is reserved in your name for you.
- Registered attendee names are provided to Embassy Suites daily.
- **However, you need to contact Embassy Suites and provide Embassy Suites with a credit card to confirm/guarantee your reservation.**
- **Contact Embassy Suites as soon as possible as a room will not be held indefinitely without confirming with a credit card.**
- You will not be allowed to reserve a room at the reunion rate without registering for the reunion beforehand.
- If you have special requests (ADA compatible, away from or close to the elevator, two Queen beds, etc.) you can advise Embassy Suites when you call with your credit card information.

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- If you do not need a room, (i.e., you are staying with friends/family) please advise so a room will not be reserved for you.
- The list of individuals who have registered, and for whom a room is reserved is updated daily.
- All efforts to improve the room reservation process are being utilized and your patience is appreciated.

Parking

Overnight parking in the enclosed adjacent parking garage is available at the rate of \$15 per night. Permits are available at the Front Desk.

Hotel Policy

The Embassy Suites Hotel requires each guest to supply either a credit or debit card upon arrival at the hotel. In the event the guest pays for the hotel stay with cash upon arrival, a credit or debit card will still be required to secure any incidental expenditures that might occur during your stay.

Social Gatherings

To respect the rights of all Embassy Suites guests and to avoid interfering with the hotel's ability to conduct business serving all guests, group gatherings are to be limited to the Gary District High hospitality suites and the designated lobby areas for hotel guest gatherings. Thank you, in advance, for your cooperation.

Reunion Registration Package: \$150 per person

ADVANCE REGISTRATION ONLY

Please print names clearly and use additional pages if needed.

Name _____ MI/Maiden _____ Last _____

Name _____ MI/Maiden _____ Last _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State/Zip Code _____

Email _____ Telephone _____

Class Year _____

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Registration includes Access to Hospitality; Thursday evening Meet & Greet; Friday evening Reception; Saturday evening Black, White and Red Reception and Banquet; Sunday refreshments.

Tee Shirt Order Request: \$15.00 for S-XL; \$18.00 for XXL; \$20.00 for XXXL or XXXXL

Size/Quantity: S _____ M _____
L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ XXXXL _____

Scholarship Fund Donation \$ _____

National Member At Large Membership \$60 annually.

Deadline for Registration is June 1, 2023. **Payment for Registration," Tee" Shirt, Scholarship Donation and National Membership can be included in one check made payable to:**

WV Chapter GDHSA 54th Reunion

Mail to: PO Box 325
Charleston, WV 25322

Total Amount Enclosed \$ _____

Important: Please return this page with your check to ensure proper registration!!!

Legacy Banquet Table Assignments: (Table of eight; Show who is to be at your table)

SOUVENIR PROGRAM / PATRON LIST

All ads for the souvenir program must be camera ready and can be emailed to:

babs221@att.net All ads, along with check or money order made payable to: GDHAA, Inc., and should be mailed to: Barbara Maxwell, 28820 Tavistock Trail, Southfield, MI 48034. All ads must be received no later than June 1, 2023.

Full page \$100; Half page \$50; Quarter page \$25; Patrons \$10

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SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

The deadline for submitting applications for a 2023 National Chapter GDHAA, Inc. Scholarship Award is May 1, 2023. All applications must be postmarked by the deadline date and submitted to: Dr. Sandra Harris, 216 Charles Street, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. Scholarship applications and instructions can be downloaded from the website gdhsaa-national.org. Questions concerning the Scholarship program should be referred to:

Dr. Harris (734) 741- 8536 or drsjharris@comcast.net

REFUNDS

Request for a refund of Registration fees must be made in writing no later than June 16, 2023. All requests must be submitted to 2023 Annual Reunion registration committee, c/o Vivian Anderson, P.O. Box 202 Kimball, WV 24853 or vivianjocklyn@yahoo.com.

Registration refunds are subject to a \$25 administrative fee.

Bulldogs '65 team marked last days of segregation winning State Crown



The 1965 Gary District Bulldogs, winners of the state basketball championship in the school's final year. Front row, from left, Coach Ergie Smith, George Vineyard, Ronald Jones, Leon Allison, Greer Gentry, Dave Hamilton, and Coach James Wilkerson. Back row, manager Dallas Jones, Harvey Silas, James Berry, Robert Wade, Leon Stout, Maurice Cunningham, Larry Banks, Edgar Giles, and statistician James Redd. Absent from picture was Ron 'Chalk' Wilkerson.

Continuing with the theme of "firsts" being inducted into the McDowell County Sports Hall of Fame this Saturday is the 1965 Gary District Bulldog basketball team.

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The Bulldogs were the first team inducted that won a state championship. For that matter, Gary District was the first McDowell County team to win an WVSSAC title in any sport.

Coached by Hall of Fame coaches Ergie Smith and the late James Wilkerson, that 1965 team finished with a 24-2 record, losing only a game each to Beckley Stratton and Elkhorn during the regular season.

On the way to an 18-win regular season, Gary District claimed victories over Northfork, Liberty, Scott Memorial, Elkhorn, Park Central, Mullens Conley, Excelsior, Tazewell County, Kimball, and Gary. The Bulldogs defeated Elkhorn, Glen Rogers, Liberty of Williamson, and Harts on their march to the state tournament.

Once at the Big Dance, Gary District ran past Fairview 79-53 and took the championship game 79-70 over Fort Ashby. Players on that Bulldog team included Leon Allison, Larry Banks, James Berry, Maurice Cunningham, Greer Gentry, Edgar Giles, Dave Hamilton, Ronald Jones, Harvey Silas, Leon Stout, George Vineyard, and Robert Wade. Dallas Jones and Ron Wilkerson were managers and James Redd was the statistician for Gary District-Tournament team. In the state tournament, played at the old Charleston Civic Center, Berry, Hamilton and Jones were selected to the All-Tournament team.

Not only was that the first McDowell County team to win a state championship, but it was also in the last year of Gary District, as the school was integrated with Gary High School for the 1965-66 school year.

Gary District was one of only three West Virginia high schools to win a boys' state basketball championship in its final year of existence. Wheeling and Mullens are the other two.



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Would you like to be in the GDHS Reunion Fashion Show?

The Events Committee of the 54th GDHS Reunion has asked Bill Madison and his Team to produce and present a **Fashion Show**. The event will be held at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Charleston, WV on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 PM, July 8, 2023. Show location and time to be decided.

There could be no Fashion Show without Models. This email is a “**MODEL CALL.**” We are inviting everyone to audition and take part as a Model in the show.

We are seeking twenty-five models, male and female, all sizes, and ages.

The Scenes are as follows, and you must bring your own clothing:

1. Casual
2. Business
3. Church
4. After 5 (Formal/High Fashion)

If you would like to Hit the Runway, you must respond to Bill Madison (wfmadison1@gmail.com) no later than May 1, 2023. You will be required to participate in each of the scheduled rehearsals and follow all instructions. There will be no last-minute models in the show.

Additionally, please provide Bill with two photos:

1. Head Shot (Head – Waist).
2. Full Body Shot (Head to Feet).

Cell Phone pictures are acceptable.



GDHS

Model Call

54th Reunion 2023

Fashion Show

**CALLING GDHS MODELS
ALL SHAPES SIZES AND AGES
FORWARD YOUR INFORMATION TO
WFMADISON1@GMAIL.COM**

**NAME
AGE
HEIGHT
WEIGHT
PHOTO**

GDHAA QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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GOT SWAG?



THE EVENTS COMMITTEE OF THE 54TH GDHS REUNION IS
HOSTING A FASHION SHOW TO HIGHLIGHT SPRING AND SUMMER ATTIRE.
SEEKING 25 MALE AND FEMALE MODELS, ALL AGES AND SIZES TO TRAIN AND PARTICIPATE



THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY TO PARTICIPATE

GET THE REQUIRED DETAILS TO BILL MADISON ASAP

WFMADISON1@GMAIL.COM

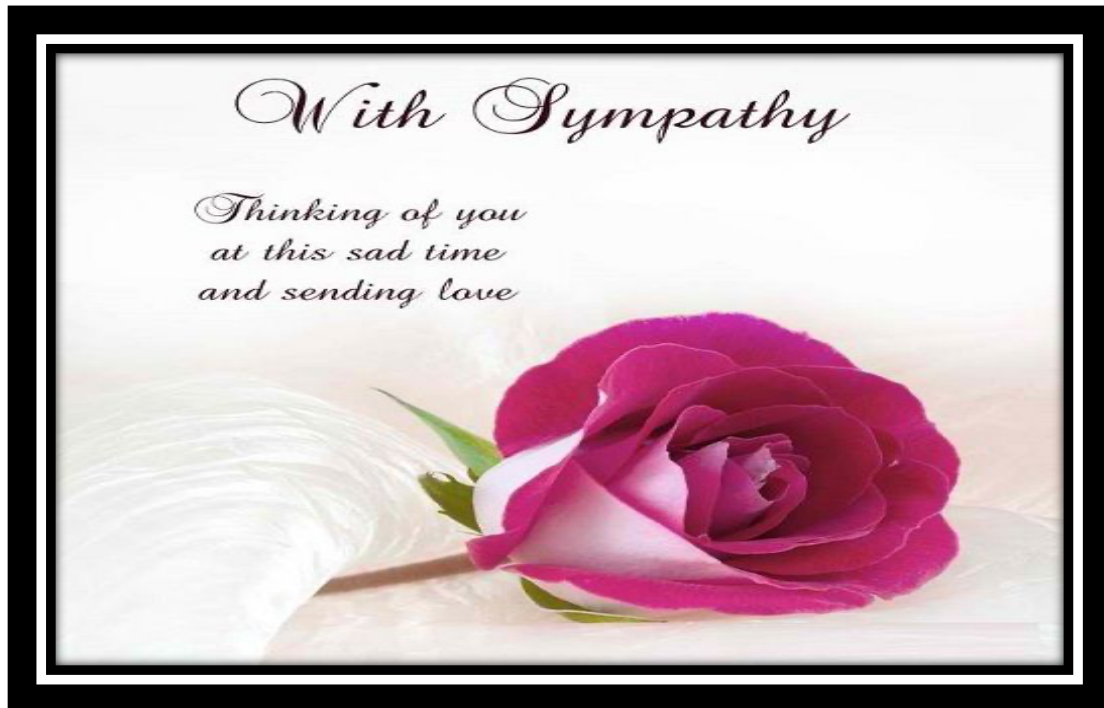
FASHION

DESIGN

MODEL

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Your Loved One (s) who transitioned and was a student or dependent of a Gary District High or Gary High School graduate, leaves a legacy through their walk of faith that does more than point us back to a wonderful life remembered. It also points us forward in hope to an amazing celebration that is to come. Within the last few months, the following individuals, transitioned to be with the Heavenly Father, there may have been others:

Doris Holloway-King
Henry Neal Richardson
Ronnie English
Col/Ret. Vandy L. Miller
Cheryl (Geter) Grace
Carmen Anderson Goode
Peggy Cloyd
Dorothy Lapsley
Joanne Smith
Roland Stephney, Jr.
Edwin Wilkerson
Corcoran Holt
Charles Nathaniel Ratcluff

Viola English
Shelia Cunningham
Joseph Alexander Forbes
Jannie Marie White Burks
Ernestine Davis Pendagrass
James Daniels
Henry Neal Richardson
Eclester O'Neal
Frank Buenrostro
Larry Hairston, Mayor, Gary, WV
Evelyn Joanne (Smith) Williams
Jordan M. Smith
Rebecca (Becky) Smith Griffin

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Katherine (Sanders) Malone
Brenda Maxwell
Yvonne Maxwell Barker
Larry Lane
Frederick Ray Rash
David “Mike” Smith
Barbara Eggleston
Carolyn Greene
Frederick Ray Rash
Clara Mae Harvey Roberts
Kenny Young
Russell D. Hodge
Dwight Hamilton
Ron Hendricks
Robert (Pal)
John Henry Hairston
Dan Nester
Joseph Burnrostro
Charlie Davis
Anita Bowman Green
Noah Robinson
Raymond Thomas
Frank Pisano, Jr.
John Billups
Geraldine Harvey Alexander
Kamara Franklin
J.T Horton
Velma Green Burke
Erna Carter Taylor
Jannie White
Kenny Young
Russel D. Hodge
Arnold (Flookie) Hughes
Ron Hendricks
Betty Jean Geter-Gatling
William Leroy Redd
Ballard Armstrong, Jr.
Juanita Wilkerson
Ann Rucker Moore
Carolyn Blakely Price
Emma Clemons
Tamp Watkins

Barbara Phillips
Pauline Hairston Smith
Don Nester
Joseph Burnrostro
Charlie Davis
Anita Bowman Green
Brenda Cunningham