



MCKINLEY HIGH SCHOOL CONTINUES THE LEGACY



- MCK started as Hickory Street School in 1907
- Renamed *Baton Rouge Colored High School*
- MCK initial class of 4 young ladies were first African American high school graduates in the state
- Original MCK building (Alumni Center site) erected in 1926-27.
- In 1950 moved to McCalop St. (McKinley Middle Site)
- In 1962 the present school was erected.
- In 2016 President Barack Obama became the first sitting president to ever host a town hall at a secondary school , McKinley High School.

SALUTING OUR EDUCATORS



Dr. Dolores Spikes, class of 1953, was a woman of many firsts. She was a longtime educator in Louisiana, who made history by becoming the first African American to earn a Ph.D. in mathematics from LSU.

While working at Southern U, she became the first female chancellor of a land grant university in the State of Louisiana. She was the first McKinley graduate to be appointed board member of Harvard's Institute of Educational Management. She later made history once again by being named President of Southern U, the first female to oversee a university system. After leaving Southern, Dr. Spikes became president of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Dr. Spikes' life is a wonderful testimony to the power of McKinley to shape young lives.

www.mckalumniassociation.com



Dr. Harrison Duncan Lawless Jr., was a McKinley High School football star and graduate of the renowned class of 1928. After graduating from Fisk University, doing further work at Columbia and receiving a doctorate from Indiana University,

Dr. Lawless gave his life to educating the children of Louisiana, first in Delhi LA and then in Baton Rouge. He retired from the field of education, after 38 years of devoted service to Southern. Dr. Lawless was also a Boy Scout leader, named the First Negro Boy Scout Executive in the State of Louisiana, a member of the Mount Zion Baptist Church, he YMCA, and the MCK Alumni Association. The Alumni Association continues to celebrate the achievements of Dr. Lawless by naming the Annual Alumni Picnic for him.



From the pen of the Alumni Association President...

This issue is a landmark one, in that we are celebrating some of the McKinley graduates and faculty who helped to shape the minds of countless students throughout this city, state and the world. Whereas educators were some of the most revered citizens of our community, today they often do not receive the respect they deserve. Looking back on your days at McKinley, don't you remember a teacher, a coach or a principal who touched your life and help to mold you into the person you are today? As people whose history is filled with struggle simply to get an education, I ask that you never forget and that you don't allow your children and grandchildren to forget the truth of Nelson Mandela's words : *"Education is the most powerful weapon you can use to change the world."*

Dale Flowers

MCKINLEY ALUMNI CENTER

How many of you have stopped to reflect on the importance of an alumni association? We, the graduates of McKinley are the ones who create the reputation of this great school through our accomplishments in the world. We help to sustain the reputation through our donations and our volunteerism, and a key part of our success means keeping in touch with you.

We want you to hold McKinley and its memories close to you for all of your lives, always reflecting on what a tremendous gift we were given in being allowed to attend this greatest of high schools in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Let us all commit ourselves to lifting high the banner of McKinley and pledge our loyalty to our alma mater forever.

Support your Alumni Center Through: Your Donations Support

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Donations • Renting the facility • Volunteering at McKinley | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility Upkeep • Educational Outreach • Community Outreach |
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AN INCONVENIENT JOURNEY

The path to success is education, and graduates of McKinley remember when teachers and principals insisted that when they crossed the threshold of MCK, the only acceptable way to leave was by way of a diploma. And in the early part of the school's history, this was not always easy. Some dropped in and out of school to go to work, taking as many as seven years to graduate. Others left their small towns to attend the only "colored" high school available to them and often roomed

with families they barely knew in exchange for taking on household duties. There was very little, if any, bus service and children walked miles to get an education from underpaid teachers and cast-off books. To some the memories may be harsh, but McKinley graduates often saw those times as the most precious of their lives: times, when everybody knew everybody else, when they were more frightened of "Mama" than they were of the police, and when they actually lived the phrase, "it takes a

community to raise a child." Graduates spoke fondly of first principal, Mr. J. M. Frazier Sr. who would lock the doors of the school once the bell rang or of Mr. J. D. Young math teacher and assistant principal who kept students spellbound, teaching the magic of numbers.

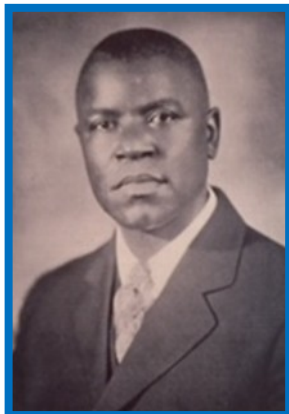
To hear some graduates directly, come to the Alumni Museum and listen to voices on tape of McKinley history, as they talk about the school from the 1920's through 2006.

Have a Story About McKinley to Share?

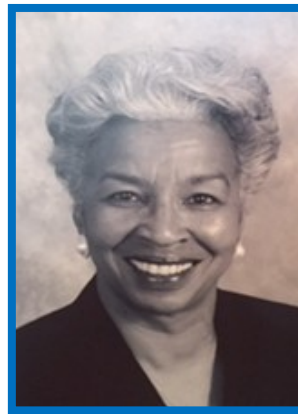
Contact the Alumni Center.

LEGENDS AND LIVE WIRES: EDUCATION

The pantheon of educators produced by McKinley is large enough to highlight them in newsletters many years into the future. In this issue, however, we cite just a few of those who made a name for themselves by nurturing young people. The people below taught that education is the power to think clearly, to act well and appreciate life. Somehow, they also imparted to students that they were capable of doing new things, that they were creative and inventive, had the power to discover many things and the wisdom to be discerning. The Alumni Association salutes all McKinley educators, past and present.



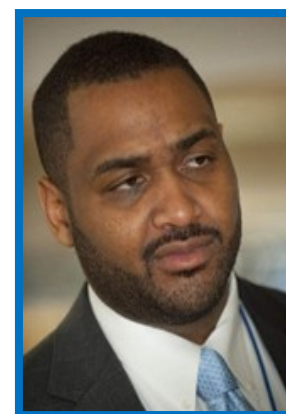
J. M. Frazier Sr.
1st Principal
McKinley High School



Almenia Warren
1st Female Principal
McKinley High School

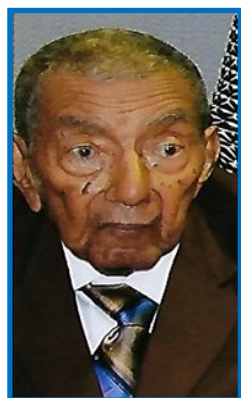


J. B. Williams
1st African-American Principal
Baton Rouge High School



Herman Brister Jr.
1st – Rate Principal of
McKinley High School

It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.



Mr. Olides Brickens, long time teacher at MCK, probably holds the record for longevity in teaching. After retiring, Mr. Brickens continued his dedication to the children of East Baton Rouge Parish by serving as a substitute teacher into his 90's. He celebrated his

100th birthday on Feb. 28, 2016.



Louis Miller, a 1951 graduate of McKinley High School, had a long and illustrious career as an educator in Houma, LA. After college, Mr. Miller worked in various positions in the Terrebonne Parish School System, from teacher to coach to principal.

As Supervisor of Vocational Education and Director of Vocational and Education and Federal Programs, Mr. Miller realized his dream of setting up a program for young people who were not "college bound." The result was the first Vocational Technical High School in the Houma area.

Louis was a life member of the Southern University Alumni Association and the first McKinley grad to be a member of the Southern University Board of Supervisors.



McKinley High School
Alumni Association

1520 Thomas Delpit Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

McKinley Alumni Newsletter

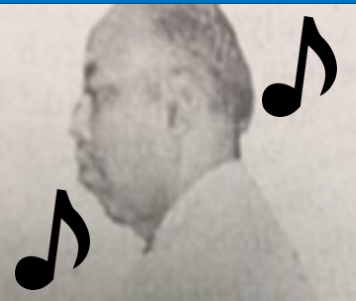


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McKinley Principals

Dr. J. M. Frazier
Caesar Piper
A.H. Jackson
Julius Thomas
Robert West
Julius Thomas
William Breda
Clarence Jones
Charlie Thomas
Almenia Warren
Armond Brown
Herman Brister

**Mr. A. E. Carter: Author and
Composer of the Alma Mater**



*Hail, Hail McKinley
High...*

If you have stories you'd like to submit to the newsletter or items to donate to the museum, contact center director, Melvin Mitchell at (225) 383-4865.

SUPPORT YOUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Calling all McKinley High graduates! If you are a McKinley High graduate, but not a member of the Alumni Association, please join and keep in touch with your school and its activities. Give back to a PLACE and an IDEA that has given you so much!!! Pick up an application at the center or call the office at (225) 383-4865.

Yearly dues: **\$25.00**
Sustaining Life: **4x\$37.50/year**
Life membership: **\$150.00**

Join online at: www.mckalumniassociation.com or call (225)383-4865 for an application. You may also pick up an application at the Alumni Center, 1520 Thomas H. Delpit Dr., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70802.



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