

1931-1968

# *The Phenix Legacy Reception and Dinner*

*George P. Phenix High School Alumni Association*



**2012 Distinguished Alumni Honorees**

**Geraldine J. Courtney  
Princess Robinson Facen  
Emory Thomas Turner (Posthumously)**

**July 21, 2012  
Crowne Plaza Marina Hotel  
Hampton, Virginia**

# G. P. Phenix High School Alumni Association

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### President

Calvin Pearson, Class of 1969  
757-380-1319

### Vice President

Joyce Turner, Class of 1962

### Treasurer

Louis Johnson, Class of 1963

### Financial Secretary

Madeline Barnes, Class of 1958

### Recording Secretary

Jacquelyn McIntyre, Class of 1968

### Assistant Recording Secretary

Olivia James Cherry, Class of 1946

### Chaplain

Jo Shuler, Class of 1960

## **Alma Mater**

**Our strong band can ne'er be broken**

**Formed in Phenix High**

**Far surpassing wealth unspoken**

**Sealed by friendship's tie**

**Dear Ole Phenix, Dear Ole Phenix**

**Deep graven on each heart,**

**Shall be found unwavering true**

**When we from life shall part.**

**High school life at best is passing,**

**Gliding swiftly by,**

**Then let us pledge in word and deed**

**Our love for Phenix High.**

## **RECEPTION COMMITTEE**

Jacqueline McIntyre

Joyce Turner

Calvin Pearson

Robert Mann

Olivia James Cherry

Barbara Wilson

Louis Johnson

Madeline Barnes

Gwendolyn Chisman

**George P. Phenix High School Alumni Association**

**P. O. Box 1233**

**Hampton, VA 23661**

**Alumni Webpage [www.phenixalumni.org](http://www.phenixalumni.org)**

George P. Phenix Alumni Association Legacy Reception 2012

# Welcome

**W**elcome to the sixth annual George P. Phenix High School Alumni Association Legacy Reception Dinner and Dance. Today we will induct three more classmates as Distinguished Alumni.

We hope that you enjoy the Legacy Reception and Dinner. If you are not a member of the Association, we encourage you to join and to ask your classmates to join. Today is the beginning of our membership drive. Between 1932 and 1938 3,681 graduated from a Phenix High School. We estimate that there are approximately 2400 living alumni. The benefits of joining entitle you to many social activities during the year including the Alumni Newsletter 3-4 times per year; a copy of the monthly minutes; a card or flowers when you have an extended illness or are hospitalized. And part of your membership fee goes toward preservation of archives; social events, and hopefully printing a book on the Phenix Legacy. The Alumni Dues at \$35 annually.

The first school opened the week after Thanksgiving in 1931 and the first class graduated in 1932. In the elementary school there were 316 students, 172 girls and 144 boys. In the high school there were 274 students; First year, 57 girls and 61 boys; Second year, 46 girls and 30 boys; Third year, 29 girls and 13 boys; and fourth year, 30 girls and 8 boys.

Sit back and enjoy the program. Say hello to old friends as we remember those classmates who have passed on. See you here next year, Saturday July 20, 2013.



# THE PHENIX LEGACY LIVES ON

## The History of George P. Phenix High School

George P. Phenix was born on September 25, 1864 in the town of Portland in Cumberland, Maine. He moved to Hampton, Virginia in 1904 to teach at today's Hampton University. His exemplary service at the Institute earned him immediate notice and promotion. In 1908 he rose to the position of Vice-principal. He further earned the responsibility of overseeing the Institute's summer-school program. In 1928, Phenix



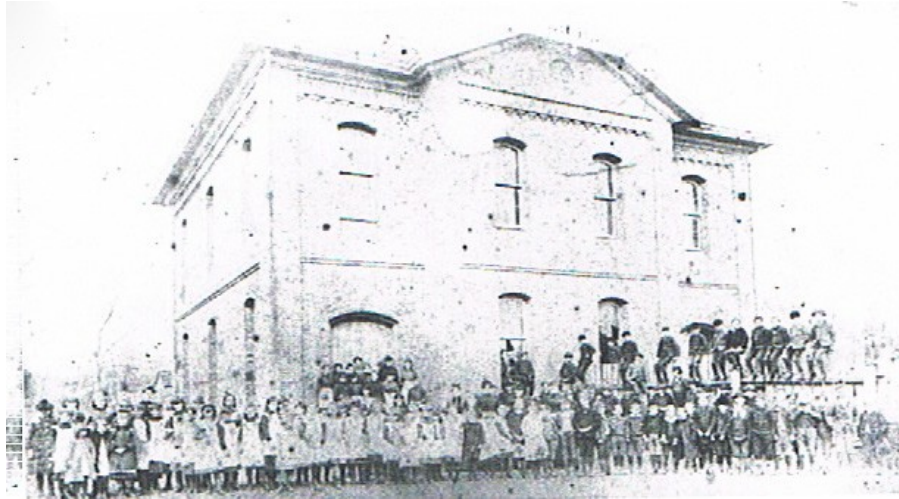
succeeded Dr. James Gregg as principal of Hampton Institute. Dr. Phenix saw the need to have equal education for Black students and campaigned tirelessly to raise funds to construct a new K-12 school on campus. The school was under construction when Dr. Phenix died of an accident on October 4, 1930. Dr. Phenix was the first to use the title president. In 1931 the new school opened on campus and was named the George P. Phenix Training School in his honor. Ian Ross became the first principal of the school. This was the only high school black students could attend at the time. Mr. G. W. Stephenson became the sixth principal in 1954 and served until 1966. In 1962 the last class graduated from the Phenix School on the campus at Hampton Institute. In 1962 the City

of Hampton opened a new predominately black high school on LaSalle Avenue to replace the school on Hampton's campus and the school was named George P. Phenix High School to carry on his legacy and the first class graduated in 1963. In 1968 the Hampton City School Board, due to integration re-named Phenix to Pembroke High School. Pembroke closed in 1980. However the Phenix Plus 50 Alumni refused to allow the legacy to die. The Alumni Association gathered over 700 names on a petition to the Hampton School Board and a new \$100 million dollar school was named the George P. Phenix Pre-K8 School, located behind Bethel High School on Big Bethel Road.





## Union Street School



(Courtesy of the Cheyne Collection, City of Hampton Museum)

Before there was the George P. Phenix Training School on the campus of Hampton Institute, Union Street School was the primary high school for black students in Hampton. In 1866 a school building was relocated from the Hampton courthouse to Lincoln Street and it was called the Lincoln School. The school was used to teach Contraband children after the Civil War. In 1870 Lincoln School became part of the public school system to teach black students. The Union Street School replaced the Lincoln School. Principal Yarborough Henry Thomas served for 25 years. During his tenure he worked to improve the curriculum from a grade school until they reached the standards of a high school. The first high school class graduated in 1924. Segregation was alive and thriving in Hampton so this was an important day in Hamptons black community.

Union won state football championships in 1924, '25 and '26. But its spirit soon gave way to an even more ambitious school when a new, well-equipped structure with 25 classrooms opened at Hampton Institute in 1931. Named after Hampton's first president, the George P. Phenix Training School was designed as a laboratory for students and teachers, who distinguished themselves by such achievements as organizing the only symphony orchestra at a Virginia black high school.

Y. H. Thomas was an advisory board member for the Girl Scouts and for a defunct community center on King Street. He was scoutmaster for Hampton's first black Cub Scout pack. Thomas also coached school football teams and taught swimming. He died Jan. 2, 1946. In 1953 Hampton's new Y. H. Thomas Junior High School was named in his honor.

## **~ Program ~**

<b>4:00 P.M.</b>	<b>Meet and Greet, Find Seat</b>
<b>4:30</b>	
<b>Welcome</b>	<b>Calvin Pearson, Alumni Association President</b>
<b>Invocation and Blessing of food</b>	<b>Deacon Chauncey Brown, Class of 1963 Queen Street Baptist Church</b>
<b>Musical Selection</b>	<b>Tyler Ferguson EDUSTAR Academy of Performing Arts</b>

## **~~ Dinner ~~**

### **Recognizing Reunion Classes**

<b>G. P. Phenix Prek-8 School</b>	<b>Anita Owens, Principal, The Year in Review</b>
<b>Membership Committee</b>	<b>Celestine Carter, Class of 1953</b>
<b>Introduction of Speaker</b>	<b>Carolyn McPhatter Fortune, Class of 1968</b>
<b>Keynote Speaker</b>	<b>Hampton Sheriff B. J. Roberts, Class of 1968</b>
<b>Distinguished Alumni Awards Presentation</b>	<b>Dr. Alvin Puryear, Class of 1955</b>
<b>Honoring deceased classmates, teachers &amp; administrators</b>	<b>Corlease Sills, Class of 1967</b>
<b>Singing of the Alma Mater</b>	
<b>Closing Remarks</b>	
<b>Benediction</b>	<b>Deacon Chauncey Brown</b>

**Enjoy the rest evening with DJ Mr. Flex, 757-298-5831**

**Join us for church service on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Casual Dress  
Bethel AME Church, Lincoln Street**

## ~ MENU ~

Garden Tossed Salad with Ranch and Italian Dressings

Citrus Champagne Chicken

Chef's Choice of Starch  
Chef's Choice of Vegetable  
Warm Rolls and Butter

Carrot Cake

Freshly Brewed Regular & Decaffeinated Coffee, Iced Tea



Thank You For Your Contribution.

The following classmates contributed money so that less fortunate classmates could attend today's Legacy Reception.

Knox Tull Jr.

Barbara L. Johnson

Mrs. Sallie Mae Pearson

B. J. Roberts

Gladys Billups - Sherlock Bruce ~ Celestine and Rudy Carter

Raymond and Reba Diggs ~ Rosilyn and John Melvin

William Minns, III ~ Princess Facen ~ Patricia Gross ~ Alberta Robinson

Gwendolyn Altmon ~ Barbara A. Johnson ~ Clinton Thornton Jr.

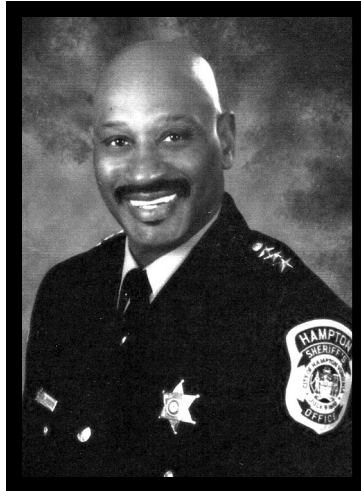
Edward Hardy Jr. ~ Jo Shuler ~ Stephen Smith

PATRONS

Linda Woods ~ Edward Miller Jr. ~ Sandra Brown

## **Keynote Speaker**

# **Hampton Sherriff B. J. Roberts, Class of 1968**



B. J. Roberts attended the Thomas Nelson Regional Police Academy in 1972, and subsequently earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Management from Hampton University in 1986. Sheriff Roberts completed the Northwestern University Public Safety Management School in Evanston, Illinois; the National Sheriffs' Institute (NSI) program, conducted at the National Institute of Corrections Center at Longmont, Colorado, the Virginia Sheriffs' Institute's Chief Executive Training program; and the Civic Leadership Institute in 2004.

Sheriff Roberts began his law enforcement career as a patrolman on the Newport News Police Force. He then began his 19 year career with Hampton University's Campus Police, where he moved through the ranks to become the Director of Police and Public Safety. Sheriff Roberts was elected as Sheriff in 1992, for the City of Hampton.

Sheriff Roberts was also appointed to the Governor's Special Commission on Sentence and Parole Reform and Governor Tim Kaine's Transition Team. He is a member of the American Jail Association, the American Correctional Association, and a past president of the Virginia College Campus Chiefs of Police Law Enforcement Association (VACLEA).

Equally important to Sheriff Roberts is his involvement in and commitment to his community. He is a member of the Wythe Exchange Club of America and the Salvation Army (Peninsula and Girls Clubs of America, Alternatives, Inc., Peninsula Foodbank, and Kenneth Wallace Neighborhood Resource Center. Sheriff Roberts is a life member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He has also devoted his time and efforts to the City of Hampton's Athletic Association, working with the community's youth.

Sheriff Roberts, who is a member of Queen Street Baptist Church in Hampton, has received numerous honors and awards including: the City of Hampton's Citizen of the Year, Role Model of the Year from the 100 Black Men Organization, Public Service Award of the Year from CHUMS, Inc., and has been elected to the Police Hall of Fame.



**Sheriff B.J. Roberts and  
The Hampton Sheriff's Office  
Proudly Supports the Legacy of  
George P. Phenix High School**



Photo taken at the Fort Monroe Deactivation Ceremony



**Sheriff B. J. Roberts**



*"The Legacy Reunion is an excellent opportunity for us to fellowship with our Phenix family. It is great to reminisce about the past and celebrate the present with fellow classmates. I am indeed proud to be a Phenix High School alumnus."*

**Paid for by Friends of B.J. Roberts**

## 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### GERALDINE J. COURTNEY CLASS OF 1950



Geraldine, class of 1950 is a graduate of Virginia State College (VSU) and Columbia University. She began her professional career as a teacher at her former grade school, Aberdeen Elementary. She later became an Assistant Principal and a Principal.

She was appointed Hampton's first Director of Elementary Education. Working with the local Police department and the Sears Roebuck Foundation, Chicago, Illinois, she began a professional program for primary students (K-3) to promote a calm, respectful appreciation for police officers. Geraldine presented a proposal and in collaboration with several primary teachers devised the Officer Friendly Kit, sponsored and published by the Sears Foundation. She served on the Officer friendly National Committee and worked as Consultant, demonstrating the practical use of the kit.

She was a Critic Teacher at Hampton University.

She was nominated by her peers and was selected Virginia's National Distinguished Principal by members of the National Principals Association. She was recognized as an Outstanding Educator by the Commonwealth of Virginia General Assembly.

In Honor  
of  
William S. Webster & Louise Martin Webster  
Phenix High School Class of 1940  
and in honor of all of the Webster family members who  
received their education for life at this great  
institution.

The Phenix Legacy Lives On . . .  
Best Wishes On This Special Day As We  
Reflect Upon A Tradition of Excellence And  
The Administrators, Teachers, and Alumni Who  
Have Made George P. Phenix High School  
So Special To So Many.

Barbara L. Johnson  
P.H.S. Class of 1968

# 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

## PRINCESS ROBINSON FACEN CLASS OF 1966



Princess Robinson Facen, Colonel, USA (Ret), class of 1966 was a Cheerleader and a member of the Modern Dance Group while at Phenix. She received her Associate in Applied Science Nursing Degree from Thomas Nelson Community College in 1972; and in 1978, her Bachelors of Science Degree in Nursing from Hampton University. After working in the Veterans Administration (VA) hospital for eight years, she joined the Army Nurse Corps, subsequently serving 28 years and obtaining the rank of Colonel. During this period she obtained a masters degree in Health Care Administration from Central Michigan University, 1984; a Masters in Nursing Administration and a Certificate in Nursing Education from George Mason University in 1990. She held various executive levels, supervisory and managerial positions while serving in the U.S. and abroad to include Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; 121st Evacuation Hospital, Korea; Hanau Health Clinic, Germany; Task Force Med Eagle, Bosnia Herzegovina; Tripler Army Medical Center, Hawaii; and the Combat Support Hospital in Honduras. While at Walter Reed, she was directly involved with the planning, management and care of the wounded warriors returning from Afghanistan and Iraq. She also championed a program for palliative care obtaining approval from the Secretary of the Army to implement the first ever DOD Palliative Care and Family Unit to support patients' and family members' needs for privacy during impending death. In support of the 25th Infantry Division, Hawaii, Colonel Facen deployed to Bosnia as Chief Nurse, Task Force Med Eagle (249th Caretakers Hospital) for six months to execute the humanitarian healthcare mission in the villages for the Serbs and Bosnia population. She has made numerous international presentations. She was one of three nurses selected to speak at the International Medical Conference in Singapore in 2008 and she was a guest speaker at the Royal Thai Medical Conference in 2009. Her awards and decorations include the: Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Korean Distinguished Service Medal, Armed Forces Service Medal, Armed Forces Regimental Medal, NATO Medal and various service awards and ribbons. She is the recipient of the Order of Military Medical Merit, the Command General and Staff College, and the Lean Six Sigma Black Belt. Colonel Facen is currently working as a Regional Nurse Educator for the Vaccine Healthcare Network providing outreach education to all DOD beneficiaries on vaccine safety and efficacy. She covers the east coast area from Maine to Puerto Rico and all European countries. Her current professional organizations include Nursing Education and Staff Development Association, American Nurses Association, Sigma Theta Tau, ROCKS and LINKS.

**CONGRATULATIONS**  
to  
**PRINCESS ROBINSON FACEN**  
**DISTINGUISHED PHENIX HIGH SCHOOL**  
**ALUMNI HONOREE**  
**Year 2012**

**“We are very proud of your accomplishments”**

**your siblings:**  
**Joe, Corinthia, and Edward Robinson**  
**Barbara Hilton-Ford, Patricia R. Gross**  
**and our family members**

**2012**  
**Distinguished Phenix High School**  
**Alumni Honoree**  
***Congratulations***  
**Princess Robinson Facen**



***In recognition of this most deserving honor  
and for all you have achieved  
we salute you!***

***We are so proud and happy to have you  
as a mother, grandmother, mentor and friend.***

**Sandford, Rhonda, Lauren & Leah Clarke**

Distinguished Phenix High School  
Alumni Honoree

For Year 2012



For the caring services  
you provide to our military  
population  
your mother,

Alberta H. Robinson

In Loving Memory

Of

**David Russel Smith**

Class of 1966

To the  
Mighty “Baby Pirates” of  
Phenix High School

**EDUSTAR**



**Academy of Performing Arts**

Congratulates you for all you have achieved!

Instruction in Music, Dance, Drama

424 Catalpa Avenue, Hampton, VA

Call us today, 244-8466!

Roscoe & Dianne Redcross, Directors



**CLASS OF 1962  
GEORGE P. PHENIX HIGH SCHOOL**

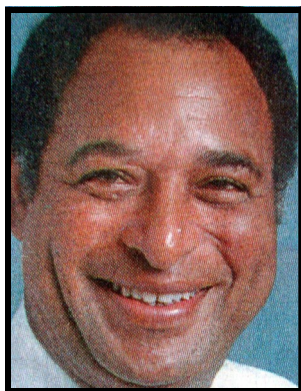
**CELEBRATES OUR 50<sup>TH</sup> REUNION  
REMEMBERING OUR DECEASED CLASSMATES**



Randolph Thomas	
Joan Batts	
Wynsol Webster	
Jacqueline Brooks	
Joel Hunt	October, 1989
Gene Griffin	December, 1990
Celestine Whitfield	July 6, 1991
Julia Green	January 30, 1993
Evelyn Holloman	December 27, 1993
Leroy Banks	January 20, 1994
Dorothy Gallop	February 20, 1995
Chilton Brown	August 14, 1995
Leroy Bailey	September 2, 1995
Nathaniel Handy	1997
Milton Williams	September 6, 1997
Arthur Perry	September, 1997
Joseph Berkeley	November 6, 2000
Roland Pugh	October, 2001
Samuel Knight	
Jackie Boykins	February 12, 2003
Gloria Simmons	October 27, 2003
James Dawson	December 6, 2003
Emanuel Martin	November 19, 2005
Michele Perry	September 29, 2006
Ernest "Dan" Flannigan	November 18, 2006
Mamie Thompson	January, 2007
Sylvius Moore	July 7, 2007
Jimmy Baylor	April, 2008
Brenda Norman	2008
Sylvia Winston	April 29, 2009
Evelyn "Baby Sis" Small	December 20, 2009
John Wallace	February 3, 2010
Gerald Benjamin Taliaferro	June 12, 2010
Claudine Gladden	August 20, 2010
William Carter	October 25, 2010
James Chavers	January 25, 2012
Jacqueline Carr	February 15, 2012
Linwood Shields	March 26, 2012

## 2012 DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

### EMORY THOMAS TURNER (POSTHUMOUSLY) CLASS OF 1956



He was affectionately known as Shug. He had a charismatic character and always had a smile on his face. That is how many of his Phenix classmates, and generations of students and athletes remembered him. Emory Thomas Turner was born on March 23, 1938 in Phoebus. From an early age Shug made a memorable impression upon everyone he met, touching the lives of many.

Shug graduated with honors from Phenix High School in 1956 and was voted the most outstanding student by his peers. Shug along with a handful of students set a historical precedence as the first “Negro” students to take the National College Entrance Examination. He was the first recipient of the J. Dett Marshburn Scholarship. He was awarded a full academic scholarship to Purdue University but he elected instead to accept a full athletic scholarship to play football. His excellence as a guard on the football team resulted in him being drafted by the Philadelphia Eagles and the Dallas Texans in 1960. His pro career was cut short by a serious automobile accident.

With his Bachelor of Science Degree from Purdue he returned to Hampton to teach and coach at his Alma Mater, Phenix High School. He taught Biology and Physical Education as well as coached football and track. In 1968 his football team won the V. I. A. Eastern District Football Championship and he was named the V. I. A. Coach of the Year. He left the profession to pursue other interest but his desire to teach and coach led him to Spotsylvania County, VA. His climb back up the ladder led to administration success as Assistant Principal at Caroline High School; principal at King George Middle School; Vice Chairman of Spotsylvania County School Board, Assessor for George Mason University; and the State Local Health benefits Advisory Board (appointed by Virginia Governors Wilder and Baliles).

Shug was a member of many organizations including Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Phenix Alumni Choir. His gregariousness, booming laughter and constant playfulness were the hall marks of his personality. In 1993 Shug decided to return home and accepted the position of principal at Yorktown Middle School. However on June 25, 1993 as he was in the process of moving back home, he died in a car accident.

## A salute to Emory Turner's Legacy.

He was gregarious, smart, intelligent, funny, lovable, charismatic, playful, a great athlete, an educator, an administrator, an outstanding coach, a health and fitness guru, and a friend to anyone he met.

Some may say he was larger than life. His presence made your day brighter through his laughter and compassion for life. His toughness as a coach made you a better athlete and person.

Shug, we miss you and your fellow teachers, administrators, students, and friends thank you for sharing your life with us.  
We are better for having known you.



Knox Tull Jr. & Calvin Pearson

# ANNIVERSARY CLASSES

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

### **1932 - 80TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Depression continues and the unemployment rate is 24.1%. The Tuskegee study of untreated syphilis in the Negro male begins. Franklin Roosevelt is elected president. Parking meter is invented. The cost of a house was \$6510; average wage was \$1650 annually; gas was 10 cents; new car \$610; loaf of bread 7 cents

### **1937 - 75TH ANNIVERSARY**

Amelia Earhart's plane disappears over the Pacific Ocean. Hindenburg airship burst into flames killing 35 passengers. National Basketball League is formed. Disney releases Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. New house costs \$4100, annual wages were \$1780, new car was \$760, loaf of bread was 4 cents.

### **1942 - 70TH ANNIVERSARY**

Congress of Racial Equality was formed. Major League Baseball is organized. New movies included Casablanca, Bambi; Yankee Doodle Dandy; Bing Crosby sang White Christmas; Jimi Hendrix's was born. Duck Tape and instant coffee was invented. New house cost \$3770, wages were \$1880, gas was 15 cent a gallon; Coca-Cola was 5 cents.

### **1947 - 65TH ANNIVERSARY**

Jackie Robinson breaks the color barrier in baseball signing with the Brooklyn Dodgers. John Hope Franklin authors the book From Slavery to Freedom. The Frisbee was invented and the sound barrier was broken. Transistor radio invented. New movies were Miracle on 34th Street and The Jolson Story. The CIA was established. House costs \$6600; wages were \$2850, new car \$1330, bread 13 cents, stamp 3 cents.

### **1952 - 60TH ANNIVERSARY**

Malcolm X becomes a Minister of the Nation of Islam. Ralph Ellison authors the Invisible Man. Eleven Black students attend white school in Delaware becoming first students in 17 states to integrate school. South Africa arrest Nelson Mandela. Polio kills 3300 people and the March of Dimes is founded. The Diary of Anne Frank is published. Kentucky Fried Chicken opens first store. New movies were The African Queen; Singing in the Rain, Greatest Show on Earth. First mechanical heart. House cost \$9050; wages were \$3850, gas was 20 cents;.

### **1957 - 55TH ANNIVERSARY**

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference is founded by Martin Luther King Jr. and Fred Shuttlesworth. Nine Black students are blocked from entering school in Arkansas and Federal troops are called to protect the "Little Rock Nine". Civil Rights Act of 1957 signed by President Eisenhower. House costs \$12,220, wages were \$3850, gas was 20 cents; children shoes were \$5.95; eggs were 28 cent a dozen.

### **1962 - 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

Wal-Mart opens first store. John Glenn orbits the earth. Salt and Vinegar potato chips debut; Andy Warhol paints the famous soup can;. New movies were Spartacus; West Side Story; To Kill a Mockingbird. 90% of homes had a TV. Silicon breast implants invented. James Meredith becomes first Black student to enroll at Mississippi. President Kennedy sends troops after riot breaks out. Leroy Willis becomes first Black graduate from UVA. Fannie Lou Hammer attempts to register to vote in Mississippi. Cuban Missile Crisis. President Kennedy outlaws housing segregation in Federally funded housing. Wages are \$5556 and gas is 28 cents.

### **1967 - 45TH ANNIVERSARY**

Muhammad Ali stripped of heavyweight title for refusing induction into the Army. Vietnam protestors march on Washington. Otis Reading dies in airplane crash. Apollo 1 destroyed on launch pad. Movies were Guess Who's Coming to Dinner; Great White Hope; Dirty Dozen; In the Heat of the Night. First ATM machine. First heart Transplant. New house was \$14,250; wages were \$7300, gas 33 cents, movie ticket \$1.25. Federal minimum wage was \$1.40.

## Class of 1957 — 55th Anniversary WE SHALL OVERCOME - The Little Rock Nine

Little Rock High School, now Central High School National Historic Site, is a national emblem of the often violent struggle over school desegregation. *Parting the Waters* author Taylor Branch calls the Little Rock crisis "the most severe test of the Constitution since the Civil War."

Three years after the Supreme Court's *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, which officially ended public-school segregation, a federal court ordered Little Rock to comply. On September 4, 1957, Governor Orval Faubus defied the court, calling in the Arkansas National Guard to prevent nine African American students--"The Little Rock Nine"--from entering the building. Ten days later in a meeting with President Eisenhower, Faubus agreed to use the National Guard to protect the African American teenagers, but on returning to Little Rock, he dismissed the troops, leaving the African American students exposed to an angry white mob. Within hours, the jeering, brick-throwing mob had beaten several reporters and smashed many of the school's windows and doors. By noon, local police were forced to evacuate the nine students.



When Faubus did not restore order, President Eisenhower dispatched 101st Airborne Division paratroopers to Little Rock and put the Arkansas National Guard under federal command. By 3 a.m., soldiers surrounded the school, bayonets fixed.

Under federal protection, the "Little Rock Nine" finished out the school year. The following year, Faubus closed all the high schools, forcing the African American students to take correspondence courses or go to out-of-state schools. The school board reopened the schools in the fall of 1959, and despite more violence--for example, the bombing of one student's house--four of the nine students returned, this time protected by local police.

## 65th Anniversary - Class of 1947

### Jackie Robinson Breaks Color Barrier In Baseball

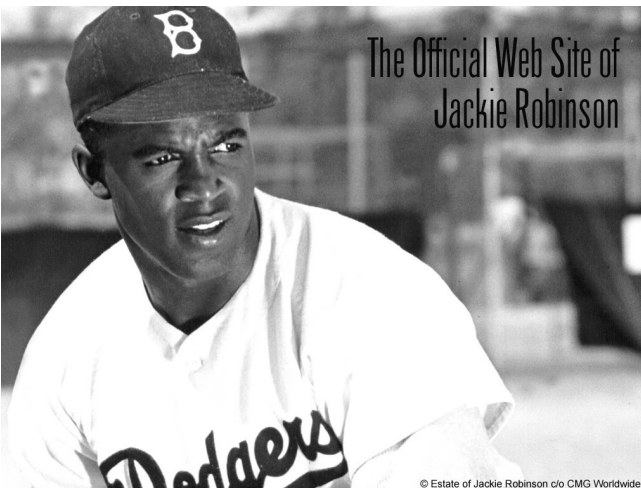
Jack Roosevelt Robinson was born in Cairo, Georgia in 1919 to a family of sharecroppers. His mother, Mallie Robinson, single-handedly raised Jackie and her four other children. They were the only black family on their block, and the prejudice they encountered only strengthened their bond. From this humble beginning would grow the first baseball player to break Major League Baseball's color barrier that segregated the sport for more than 50 years.

Growing up in a large, single-parent family, Jackie excelled early at all sports and learned to make his own way in life. At UCLA, Jackie became the first athlete to win varsity letters in four sports: baseball, basketball, football and track. In 1941, he was named to the All-American football team. Due to financial difficulties, he was forced to leave college, and eventually decided to enlist in the U.S. Army. After two years in the army, he had progressed to second lieutenant. Jackie's army career was cut short when he was court-martialed in relation to his objections with incidents of racial discrimination. In the end, Jackie left the Army with an honorable discharge.

In 1945, Jackie played one season in the Negro Baseball League, traveling all over the Midwest with the Kansas City Monarchs. But greater challenges and achievements were in store for him. In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers president Branch Rickey approached Jackie about joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. The Major Leagues had not had an African-American player since 1889, when baseball became segregated. When Jackie first donned a Brooklyn Dodger uniform, he pioneered the integration of professional athletics in America. By breaking the color barrier in baseball, the nation's preeminent sport, he courageously challenged the deeply rooted custom of racial segregation in both the North and the South.

At the end of Robinson's rookie season with the Brooklyn Dodgers, he had become National League Rookie of the Year with 12 homers, a league-leading 29 steals, and a .297 average. In 1949, he was selected as the NL's Most Valuable player of the Year and also won the batting title with a .342 average that same year. As a result of his great success, Jackie was eventually inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962.

Jackie married Rachel Isum, a nursing student he met at UCLA, in 1946. As an African-American baseball player, Jackie was on display for the



whole country to judge. Rachel and their three children, Jackie Jr., Sharon and David, provided Jackie with the emotional support and sense of purpose essential for bearing the pressure during the early years of baseball.

Jackie Robinson's life and legacy will be remembered as one of the most important in American history. In 1997, the world celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Jackie's breaking Major League Baseball's color barrier. In doing so, we honored the man who stood defiantly against those who would work against racial equality and acknowledged the profound influence of one man's life on the American culture. Each year on the date of Robinson's historic debut, all Major League teams across the nation celebrated this milestone.



## Previously Honored Distinguished Alumni

### Class of 2011

**Celestine Wynder Carter**, class of 1953, received her B.S. degree from Hampton Institute, and her M.Ed. degree from Boston University. She credits the years at Phenix as providing her the quality experiences necessary for her success in life. She has been described as a community activist and educator. During the years of teaching, she enriched the lives of hundreds of young people at Huntington and Warwick High Schools in Newport News, VA. After the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. she and the late Rev. Cornelius Fauntleroy initiated the largest community march ever to be held in Newport News. In 1993 she became actively involved in the local NAACP branch and was later elected as the first female president.

**Olivia James Cherry**, Class of 1946, received a certificate from Cortez Peters Business School in Washington D. C. While in school she was selected to work at the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB). After working at the NLRB for years and no advancement in 1950 she moved to New York where she integrated the Accounts Department at R. H. Macy's Department Store, the largest store in the world. This was before integration and she was the first black hired in any office position at Macy's, paving the way for others to follow. She later became the first black secretary to the president of the Lutheran Church of America, where he governed 180 pastors and their churches.

**Janice E. (Jay) Johnson**, Class of 1957, received a BA degree in Psychology from Wilson College in Chambersburg, PA. and an MA in Guidance and Counseling from Hampton Institute. Janice has spent most of her life working with and for young people. In professional Girl Scouting she rose through the ranks from field director to national staff member to Executive Director of Western Reserve Girl Scout Council in Akron, Ohio. She then moved back to Hampton where she was employed for 15 years with the City Of Hampton. During her work with Hampton's Citizens Unity Commission she cofounded the "Opening the Door to Diversity Book Group".

**Dr. James E. Lassiter, Jr., DDS**, class of 1951 had a key role in assisting Mrs. Etta Bright, then Band Director, organize the first marching band at Phenix. In 1956 he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Howard University and received his Doctor of Dental Science Degree from the Howard University College of Dentistry. Dr. Lassiter continues to be actively involved in training students at the College of Dentistry in Newark and the Farleigh Dickenson University of Dentistry, to become highly qualified dentist. Prior to becoming a consultant to the Colgate-Palmolive Company, the Head Start Program, the Job Corps, and the Medicaid Utilization and Review Committee, he was a consultant to the W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and the Congressional Black Caucus Braintrust.

**Alvin N. Puryear, PhD** - Dr. Puryear was Valedictorian of the Class of 1955 and, as a member of three varsity teams, was awarded nine letters, a record at the time. Dr. Puryear received a BA Degree from Yale University where he was a two-way tackle on the football team and a Ranking Scholar in Sociology. He received MBA and PhD degrees from Columbia University where he was both a Samuel Bronfman Fellow and a John Hay Whitney Fellow. Until 2007, Dr. Puryear was the Lawrence N. Field Professor of Entrepreneurship and Professor of Management at Baruch College of the City University of New York. During leaves-of-absence from Baruch College, Dr. Puryear served as a Vice-President of the Ford Foundation and First Deputy Comptroller of the City of New York.

## Previously Honored Distinguished Alumni

### Class of 2010

**Hugh Harrell III**, Class of 1962 - has ancestors who were Nottoway, Chickahominy, Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Cherokee, African and Irish. His heritage led him to co-found the Weyanoke Association for Red-Black History and Culture. The Association specializes in researching, collecting and disseminating information about peoples of African and Native descent. Hugh is also a singer and co-founder of Legacy of Weyanoke, and a cappella vocal ensemble specializing in the music and stories of African Diaspora. He has toured with major performing organizations to North America, South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, Europe, Italy, Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay and has performed with Handel's Messiah as a soloist with the Phenix High School Choir and Hampton Institute Choir.

**Linwood D. Harper**, Class of 1965 - Butch as he is affectionately known, has excelled at creating opportunities through sports to foster an environment for the youth to succeed. In 1982 he co-founded the Aberdeen Athletic Association that started out with one team and ten kids. The program has grown to include 5 football teams, 5 cheerleading squads, 20 basketball teams and 6 baseball teams. The program now is known as Deen Ball Sports, Inc. and has over 100 coaches and 600-700 kids every year. Mr. Harper served as Youth Director for the Boo Williams AAU Program for over twenty-five years. Mr. Harper serves as a member of the Hampton School Board and enthusiastically voted to support the naming of a new school after George P. Phenix.

**Barbara L. Johnson**, Class of 1968 - After graduating from Phenix, Ms. Johnson received her B. S. Degree in Pre-Med with concentration in Chemistry in 1975. She began her professional career as an analytical chemist and instrument engineer for Dow in Midland, Michigan. She then decided to go to law school and received her J. D from the College of William and Mary in 1984. Ms. Johnson is a trial lawyer for Paul Hastings in Washington D. C., specializing in the representation of management in labor and employment litigation. Ms. Johnson's current practice involves litigation in a number of areas, including civil rights discrimination, public law (municipalities and schools), environmental racism, and employment arbitrations. Ms. Johnson routinely assists employers with workplace investigations, implementing affirmative action plans and diversity programs, and day to day employment law issues.

**Charles A. Wynder**, Class of 1959 - After graduating from Phenix he attended Florida A&M University, graduating with honors in Health and Physical Education. After teaching in the Hampton City School system for one year, Charles received his Masters of Arts Degree in School Administration from Hampton University in 1970 and became an Instructional Supervisor. Mr. Wynder was commissioned a Second Lieutenant, United States Army in 1964. Subsequently, serving in numerous leadership and supervisory roles, one being the first black aide de Camp to the Deputy Commanding General US Army Communications Zone Europe. He concluded his military career with the rank of Colonel, US Army. As a single parent, he and his three children were selected as the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) Family of the Year. His community work ranges from Boy Scouts, Peninsula Habitat for Humanity; Williamsburg James City County Community Services Board and Big Brothers – Big Sisters volunteer.

## Class of 2009

**Mark W. Clark, MD MPH** - Dr. Clark, class of 1967 was known at Phenix High School as a studious person who was excelling in all that he was aspiring to do academically. When Dr Clark had completed most of his studies in Cardio Vascular Medicine, he came to the Peninsula area and joined the staff at Newport News General Hospital in addition to other hospitals in this area. His reputation and status as a Cardio-Vascular Surgeon and his ability to therapeutically manage cardiac pathology had preceded him. He brought a wealth of knowledge and advancement to the Newport News Hospital that helped elevate the level of health care practice and service to the Southeast Community. His Cardiology Team in addition to himself were, Dr V Francis, and Dr. D Ridley. They were a team of highly specialized physicians who all seemed to be well prepared and fluent in their practice of cardiovascular medicine. His Educational accomplishments includes Columbia University – 1970 – Bachelor of Arts; Harvard University; Doctor of Medicine and Masters in Public Health; Massachusetts Gen Hospital, Senior Assistant Resident, Medical College of Virginia, Cardiology Fellow. The designation of Fellow of The American College of Cardiology (FACC) represents recognition of high professional achievement in a cardiovascular subspecialty.

**Mr. Rudy Langford** - Mr. Langford has a diverse professional career, having worked as an adjudicator and accountant, General Accounting Office; Clerk, Circuit Court and Department of Corrections, Washington, DC Government; and Postmaster and Lecturer, Hampton University. He worked for ten (10) years with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. during the Civil Rights Movement, working directly under Hosea Williams, 1958-1968. Also, he worked in three presidential campaigns, Robert Kennedy, Jimmy Carter, and William “Bill” Clinton. Mr. Langford has demonstrated exceptional leadership qualities, serving as President of: the State Coalition for Justice for Civil Rights, the Hampton Tenants’ Association, and the Coalition for Good Government. He is founder of over sixteen (16) Civic Organizations, 1985-2005 and holds membership in the NAACP, SCLC, Urban League and Rainbow Coalition. Mr. Langford is sometimes deemed as controversial in his activism. However, he may also be perceived as an “unsung hero.” This is because of his many acts of kindness, compassion and assistance, especially with the youth and senior citizens in the community. He willingly accepts this responsibility, but these services are largely unknown by the general public.

**Knox W. Tull, Jr.** - Mr. Tull, class of 1962, attended Hampton Institute where he spent two years. He then transferred to the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor where he received the BS degree in Civil Engineering in 1967. He received the MS degree in Civil Engineering in 1972 from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta. He has completed the Owner/President Management Program (OPM31) at the Harvard Business School in Boston, MA. Prior to forming his company, Knox worked as a bridge engineer in California and as a structural engineer in Washington, DC and Atlanta, GA. He has also served on the faculties of Howard University and the University of the District of Columbia. Knox is the President and CEO of Jackson and Tull an engineering and technology company founded in 1974 and based in the Washington, DC area. A noteworthy project is providing construction inspection services for the rehabilitation of the Manhattan Bridge in New York City. J&T has evolved into a 250-person, primarily aerospace company with offices in Albuquerque, NM; Houston, TX and Los Angeles, CA. The company provides engineering services and builds satellite instruments for NASA, the Air Force and other customers. A noteworthy project is the Hubble Space Telescope. J&T is a family business. Brenda Temple Tull is an officer and manager. Mossi is the Chief Operating Officer (COO). Nzinga, Kimathi and Hatshepsitu are managers and engineers.

## Class of 2008

**Jean Wooden Cunningham** - Jean began her professional career as a junior high school teacher in Prince George County, Virginia. After a year, Jean relocated to New York and began working for IBM. After law school Jean began her legal career as a labor attorney with a three year stint with the Ford Motor Company and then continued her legal career with Reynolds Metals Company and Alcoa. She rose in the corporate ranks to the position of vice president and retired as vice president of human resources from Integris Metals. In 1986, Jean was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, 71<sup>st</sup> House District and served with distinction until 1998, always running unopposed. Among her numerous awards and public service includes Co-Chair, Governor Warner's PASS Initiative; Outstanding Legislator Award Virginia Interfaith Center; NAACP Lifetime Achievement Award

**Lillie Mae Johnson Jones** - Lillie Mae (1950) was the president of her high school class and graduated from Dixie Hospital School of Practical Nursing in 1958. She retired from Langley AFB Hospital in 1994 where she was often recognized as the Civilian of the Quarter. She served as chairperson for the Licensed Practical Nurse group. She was instrumental in the hospital receiving an outstanding rating from the Air Force Health Services Management Inspection Team. She was selected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Tactical Fighter Wing Surgeon Civilian of the Year. Ms. Jones served 2 terms as the President of the Phenix Plus 50 Group and served two terms as the President of Phenix Alumni Association. She has been recognized by the Hampton Alumnae Chapter; Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, and citations from Zion and Queen Street Baptist Church.

**Dr. Sarah E. (Price) Moten** - Sarah is a 1960 graduate of Phenix High School and received her B. S. Degree from Hampton Institute, a Masters Degree from George Washington University and a Doctorate from Clark Atlanta University. Since 1982 she has had a distinguished career with the Federal Government. In 1982 she was a Country Director for the United States Peace Corps serving in Africa. She then held positions with the United States Department of Health and Human Resources; United States Department of State; the National Council of Negro Women; International Affairs Consultant, National Security Council; and currently works for the United States Agency for International Development – Africa Bureau. Her diverse career included being the Chief US Negotiator, Japan, for the return of refugees to Cambodia and Nicaragua.

**Dr. Terry M. Whittaker** - Dr. Whittaker was an outstanding student athlete at Phenix in the classroom and on the basketball court and football field. He served as senior class president for the Class of 1968. A graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Dr. Whittaker received a master's degree from the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and a doctoral degree from the University of Delaware. He was the first African American football player to receive the University of Wisconsin's Ivan B. Williamson Award for outstanding scholastic-athletic ability. He joined the University of Delaware in 1983 and has risen from Director to Assistant Dean of the Learner College of Business to the current position of Assistant Provost in 2003. Dr. Whittaker has received numerous honors and awards for his exemplary community service and work in higher education administration. He supports the Y. H. Thomas Community Center and the Aberdeen Civic Association.

## Class of 2008

**Walter T. “Fuzzy” Ward** (Posthumously) - Fuzzy (1957) received a B/ S. Degree from Hampton Institute and a Masters from Manhattan College. Walter was best known for his great athletic skills in basketball. He played for the Baby Pirates at Phenix from 1952-1957. It was there he gained much popularity and fame for being the best all time player in the history of the school. At Hampton Institute he broke the all-time scoring record. He was drafted by the Detroit Pistons and the Washington Capitols to play professional basketball, but was required to accept the military draft. He served in the U.S. Army where he played basketball and was a one-man scoring machine. After his tour of duty he played in the nationally acclaimed Rucker Professional Basketball Tournament in New York, and the Eastern Professional Basketball League.

## Class of 2007

**Dr. Mary Christian** - Dr. Christian served her community and the Commonwealth of Virginia for over fifty years. Dr. Christian started her professional career as a teacher at Aberdeen Elementary School in Hampton, Virginia. For more than 25 years, Dr. Christian was a professor at Hampton University in the School of Education. She then was elected to the House of Delegates and retired after 18 years of service.

**Lionel Hope** - At Phenix he was an avid athlete who was quarterback of the 1941 and 1942 State Football Championship teams, Captain of the basketball team, and a pivotal track team member. During his career he worked as an auditor for the District of Columbia; and Management Analyst for University of the District of Columbia. He entered politics and was elected to the Alexandria City Council in 1982, and became the City's first Black Vice Mayor.

**Lillian Epps Johnson** – A graduate from Phenix High in 1948, she earned a MA in Nursing from St. Philip School of Nursing at the Medical College of Virginia in 1952. Mrs. Johnson retired from Langley Air Force Base Hospital in 1987 after 32 years of faithful service. Mrs. Johnson was the first civilian employee to receive the Congressional Award for Exemplary Service to the Public and the Community and received the Outstanding Civilian Nurse and Federal Women of the Year awards.

**Wilbert L. Lovett Sr.** – He was Guidance Counselor and taught Physical Education and Biology and coached football at Phenix High School. Served as Athletic Director, Assistant Principal, and was the first Black Principal appointed to serve at Hampton High School. Was also principal at Bethel High School. He was instrumental in starting the Upward

Bound Program at Hampton Institute for at risk students in high school and he started the National Teachers of Education Seminar at Hampton Institute.

**Dana Nottingham** – Dana was an outstanding tennis player at Phenix and earned a Masters in City Planning from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1977. He currently is the Executive Director of the Miami Florida Downtown Development Authority. From 1996 to 2002 Dana was the founder and president of Nottingham & Associates, a consultant firm specializing in real estate, economic development and community building. From 1989 to 1996 Mr. Nottingham was a real estate executive Vice-president for the Walt Disney Company.

**Irving Peddrew, III** - A Phenix 1953 graduate, Irving was the first African-American to be allowed to enroll at Virginia Tech. His success opened the door so that others could follow. On March 29, 2003, Irving L. Peddrew III and Charlie L. Yates were guests when Virginia Tech dedicated the Peddrew-Yates Residence Hall in honor of their achievements as and the first African-American to enroll and graduate from Virginia Tech.

**Leonard H. Powell** - He is a widely respected national and international motivational and inspirational speaker. For over 25 years he served as an internal and external organizational development consultant. He is president of Powell and Reese, Inc. Management Consultants specializing in *Energizing the Human Potential* in Organizations. He is founder of the Powell Foundation, an organization designed to improve life in communities.


**B. J. Roberts** - A 1968 graduate of Phenix High, Sheriff Roberts began his law enforcement career as a patrolman on the Newport News Police Force. He then launched a 19-year career with Hampton University's Campus Police, rising to the rank of the Director of Police and Public Safety until 1992, at which time he was elected the first African-American constitutional officer and Sheriff for the City of Hampton.

**Ruppert Leon Sargent (Posthumously)** – A graduate of Phenix High School, he completed two years of college at Hampton Institute before entering the military. In 1967 in Viet Nam, 1st Lt. Ruppert Sargent valiantly gave his life by throwing himself on two grenades to save the lives of his fellow soldiers. In 2002 the City of Hampton dedicated the new administration building the Ruppert Leon Sargent Administration Building in his honor.

**Mildred Smith** - A graduate of the Dixie Hospital Nursing Program, she began her career at Hampton General Hospital. In 1963 she led a sit-in of the segregated cafeteria and was fired. She fought her battle all the way to the Supreme Court and won. Her victory eventually integrated all services of the hospital. She worked as a Supervisor at Whitaker Hospital before retiring from the VA Medical Center.

**Raymond Washington** – A 1954 graduate, earned his MS in Education from Indiana University. He began teaching in 1961 and rose to Assistant Superintendent in Hampton in 1976. In 1991 he was appointed the first Black Superintendent of Hampton City Schools and remained until he retired in 1994. His legacy was implementing programs for low achieving and gifted students.





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## *Upcoming Events*

### Monday September 5th

Monthly meeting at the Hampton Public Library on Victoria Boulevard at 11:00 a.m. will feature the election of officers for the next two years.

### Saturday December 1st

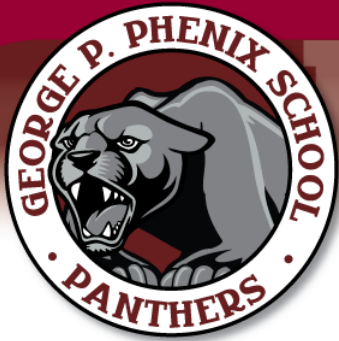
**Edenton, North Carolina Trip** - Join the Alumni Association as we travel to Edenton to the dinner theater to see the Christmas Play "Let Us Adore Him". The cost is \$60 per person with a deposit of \$10.00 to reserve your seat. The charter bus will leave at 8:00 a.m. and return at 6:00 pm.

To sign up send your check to Phenix Alumni Association, PO Box 1233, Hampton, VA 23661.

### December 12th

Annual Alumni Christmas Party, Mary Helens Restaurant on Lincoln Street. \$10 for association members who have paid dues. \$20 for all others and guests. 6:00 p.m. Fee includes buffet dinner, door prizes, and caroling. Plan now to attend as we get in the Christmas spirit. Send your money to the above address.

## Join Your Alumni Association!!!!



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**Alumni Webpage [www.phenixalumni.org](http://www.phenixalumni.org)**

