

The National Council of
Negro Women, Inc.
Champaign County Section

Presents
2010 Living Legends' Brunch

Silent Thunder

Honoring
Senior Female Unsung Heroines
of our Community

Saturday, May 1, 2010

11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Hawthorn Suites
101 Trade Center Drive
Champaign, IL



PROGRAM

Greetings

Emcee
Shandra Summerville

Music

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"
Audience

Processional

Living Legends and Escorts
Narrator, Carol Hassell

*Familis
Dr. Olive W. White
Pope*

Prayer

Ruthann Lampkin

BRUNCH

(Hotel staff will release tables)

Instrumental Duet

Jordan and Amaya Patterson

Poem

Essence Chatman

Solo

Beverly Lacy

Tribute I

Daija Williams

Presentation of Honorees

Cheryl Kennedy

Tribute II

"We Speak Your Name" by Pearl Cleage

Lynn Randall

Expressions

Carol Lewis, President

*Members of the Champaign County Section of NCNW
thank each of you for helping to make this event successful.*



LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

Verse 1

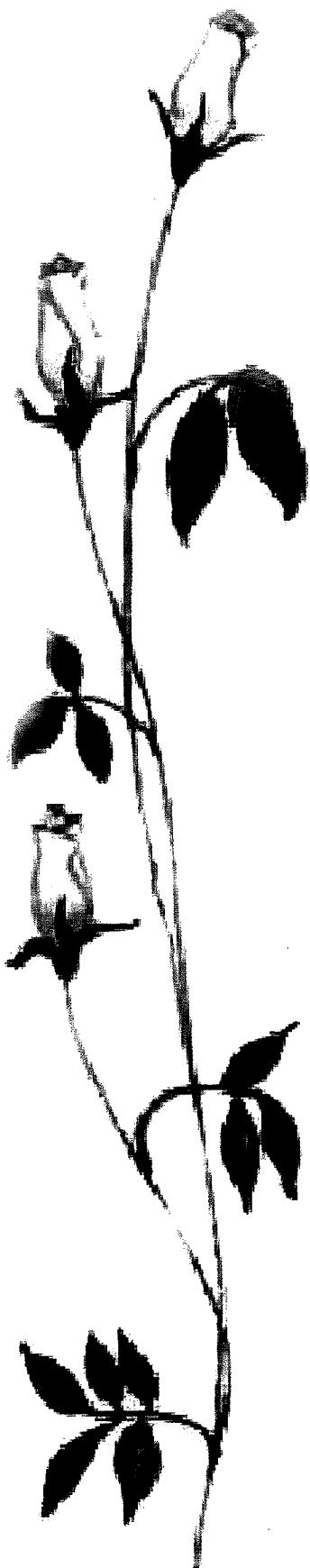
Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of liberty
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.

Verse 2

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chastening rod
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

Verse 3

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears
Thou who hast brought us thus far on our way
Thou who hast by thy might,
Led us into the light
Keep us forever in the path, we pray
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world we forget Thee
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand
True to our God, True to our native land.



THE 2010 LIVING LEGENDS

Mrs. Ethel L. Atkins

Escorted by her son, Mr. Sterling Atkins, Jr.

Mrs. Ethel Mae Kennedy

Escorted by Mr. Lincoln Huffman

Mrs. Florence G. Ransom

Escorted by her son, Mr. James T. Ransom

Mrs. Nina P. Sibley

Escorted by Mr. Wayne Shaw

Alternate Escort: her grandson, Mr. Adolphus Sibley

Mrs. Anna Wall Scott

Escorted by Rev. Larry Lewis, pastor of Bethel AME Church

Mrs. Murrie L. Taylor

Escorted by her grandson, Mr. Erwin Staples



Ethel L. Atkins

Ethel Atkins was born October 23, 1933 in Forrest City, Arkansas. She was one of twelve children - five boys and seven girls - born to Willie and Minnie Jones in Forrest City, Arkansas.

She moved to Champaign in 1951 where she married the late Sterling Atkins, Sr. She has four children, two boys and two girls: Sterling Jr., Shirley Ann, Marie and Dennis.

She attended school in Forest City, Arkansas and Parkland College in Champaign, IL.

Ethel has been a member of Morning Star Freewill Baptist Church for 58 years. She belongs to Eastern Star Deborah Chapter #27.

She loves to cook, sew and garden. Her special life memories include marrying at an early age, moving to Champaign and working her way up from domestic services to a cook at the University of Illinois.

Her favorite Biblical Character is John and her favorite Scripture is John 14:1-3.

Ethel Mae Kennedy



Ethel Mae Kennedy was born December 7, 1920 in Bessemer, Alabama. She was married to the late Rev. Earl Kennedy for 51 years and twenty-three days before his death. Rev. Kennedy was pastor of St. Luke C. M. E. Church from 1974 to 1989. She has one sister still living in Rockford, Illinois, four nieces and five nephews.

Ethel received her education in Bessemer, Alabama. After leaving Alabama, she moved to Chicago, Illinois where she lived for 20 years. Later, she moved to Rockford, Illinois and remained there for 8 years. After leaving Rockford, she moved to Kinloch, Missouri and stayed there for 3 years. In 1974 she moved to Champaign, IL and united with St. Luke C. M. E. Church.

Mrs. Kennedy has been recognized by the Lake of the Woods Early American Museum, Women's Missionary Council of Christian Methodist Episcopal Church of Jackson, Florida, the Ministerial Alliance of Urbana-Champaign and many others.

Mrs. Kennedy loves attending prayer service, Bible study and supporting all church programs. She is a member of Church Women United of Champaign-Urbana. At the C. M. E. Annual Conference Level, she is a member of the Southeast Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin Conference of Missionaries and the Ministers' Wives and Spouses' Alliance. At St. Luke C. M. E. Church she is a member of the Missionary and Stewardess Board of Women's Fellowship.

When active she enjoys horseback riding, bicycling, gardening, sewing, knitting, crocheting, bowling and macramé. Her Words of Wisdom are: "Do unto others as you would have them to do unto you."

Her favorite Biblical Character is Paul, the greatest missionary. Her favorite Scripture is Proverb 31:10, "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." To God be the Glory for Mrs. Ethel Kennedy.

Florence Ransom



Florence Ransom was born August 20, 1929 in Springfield, Illinois. She was married to James Ransom, Jr. who died in November 1996. She has two daughters: Rev. Linda Siddall and Shahidah Sanchez; a stepson, James T. Ransom (Terry); two grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

She graduated from Feitshans High School in Springfield, IL.

Florence has been a member of Bethel A. M. E. Church for over 50 years. She is currently a member of the Usher Board, secretary of the Trustee Board and President of the Class Leaders.

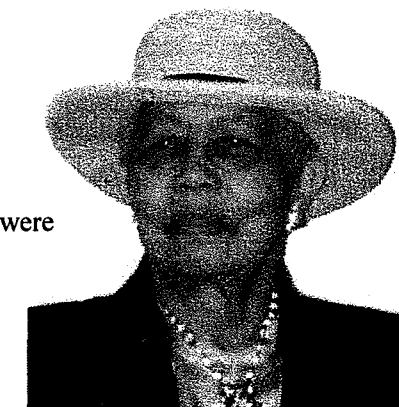
Mrs. Ransom is a member of Carle Hospital Auxiliary, the Douglass Senior Citizens' group and a sponsor of First String Inc.. She is a past member of the Royalettes and the Saturday Nites.

Football and Basketball are Florence's favorite sports. She is a past member of the Illini Quarterback Club and Rebounders. Her special entertainment is attending concerts and plays.

Florence's Special Life Memories include working 32 years for the City of Champaign, spending the first seven years as a member of the Meter Patrol and the last twenty-five years in the City Clerk's office; volunteering with the hospitality group at Carle Hospital, giving flowers to all the adult patients and balloons to the children. She was amazed at how these small tokens brightened up the patients' days. Her work with Carle Hospital's Auxiliary fundraising projects was also rewarding. Her Words of Wisdom are: "Give the world the best that you have and the best will come back to you."

Mrs. Ransom's favorite Biblical Character is Saul (later called Paul) because although God blinded him physically, He gave him clear spiritual insight. This former Pharisee became the greatest missionary of the early church. Her favorite Scripture is James 1:22, "But be ye doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

Nina P. Sibley



Nina P. Sibley was born August 28, 1929 on her great aunt Agnes Harmon Turnipseed's place right outside of Sallis, Mississippi. She was the twelfth child of thirteen children born to Hattie and Herman Harmon. She relocated to Champaign, March 19, 1949 where she met and married Samuel Sibley on November, 19, 1949. To this union three children were born, two boys and one girl.

She is a member of St. Luke C. M. E. Church where she attends Sunday School every Sunday.

Mrs. Sibley was a member of CB Radio for over 20 years, using the handle Calamity Jane of Deadwood Gulch. Her number one pass time is gardening. She grows, sells, and gives away vegetables. She is also a travelor and has visited over 40 states and toured ten different European countries.

Her special life memories include being married for 54 years, traveling to the Western States, helping hundreds of people and being honored to be on television for a one-hour live interview, call-in program. The Scripture she quotes often is Psalm 37:25: "I was young but now I'm old and I have never seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread."



Anna Wall Scott

Anna Wall Scott was born September 12, 1925. She has been a resident of this community for many years. She is a member of Bethel A. M. E. Church where she has served as a Class Leader and musician.

Mrs. Scott has many academic accomplishments: certification for teaching high school social sciences, former member of Certified Social Workers and retired Professor of Sociology from Parkland College after over 40 years of service.

Anna Wall Scott has been politically and socially active for many years in this community. Early on, she was appointed to serve on the Charter Human Relations Commission in Urbana, as Chair of the Subcommittee on Education.

In 1961, Mrs. Scott de-segregated the Champaign Department of Public Aid. She served as a charter member of the Urbana Human Relations Commission, appointed by Mayor Stanley B. Weaver.

In 1974, she was the first woman in the State of Illinois to be elected to the Democratic State Central Committee, covering seven counties in the East Central Illinois jurisdiction. From 1974 – 1978 she served as Vice-Chair of the State Democratic Party with the late Mayor Richard J. Daley and also on the Democratic National Committee, serving as delegate to the Nominating Convention which led to the election of former President Jimmy Carter. While on the Democratic National Committee, she served on the Winograd Commission.

Mrs. Scott has since changed politics and now is active in the Republican Party where she served as the Corresponding Secretary of the Champaign County Republican Women's Organization. After completing a 2-year term on the Illinois Real Estate and Banking Board to which she was appointed by the former Governor Jim Edgar. In this capacity, she attended a dinner and a series of meetings with Congressional leaders in Washington D. C.

Other community activities include: Past Matron of Deborah Chapter #27; Order of Eastern Star; Member of Hadassah; Member and past Board member of the League of Women Voters; Past Board member of Campus YWCA; Junior Vice-Commander of the Champaign County Council of American Legions; Commander of the William F. Earnest American Legion Post #559 -- the first woman in Champaign County to be elected to that position--, past president (6 terms) of the National Council of Negro Women; Organist of Eureka Grand Chapter Order of the Eastern Star; Prince Hall Affiliate; Past Grand Dgt Ruler of I.B.P.O.E.W.; member of Champaign-Urbana Symphony guild; NAACP; and Coordinator for the United Negro College Fund.

Mrs. Scott has worked on various committees and organized a forum for the Midwest Sociological Society. In 1993, she received notification from the governor's office that she had been recommended for consideration for appointment to one of the State's Boards and Commissions.

Mrs. Scott's favorite Scripture is Psalm 23 and she "loves" the book of Esther.



Murrie L. Taylor

Murrie L. Cooper was born September 7, 1924 in Tunica, Mississippi. She was the sixth of 15 children born to Lucy and James Cooper.

Murrie was baptized in 1938 at the age of 13 at Spring Hill Missionary Baptist Church in Earle, Arkansas by Reverend Herman.

Devoted to completing her education, she attended Washington School and later enrolled at Danville Area Community College where she earned her General Education Development Certificate.

At age 18, she moved to Swedesboro, New Jersey and worked for H. F. Huff Canning Factory. In 1945 at age 21, she moved to the Champaign-Urbana area. She later married Mathis Taylor. To this union five children were born. Three of the five siblings are still living. She has 12 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren ranging in age from 20 years to 11 months. Murrie's husband died in 1983 so all of her love and trust today is given to Jesus Christ.

When Mrs. Taylor moved to Champaign, she joined Salem Baptist Church under the pastorship of Rev. Donaldson. She ushered there for 21 years. In 1964, she was crowned Usher of the Year. In 1966, she moved to Freewill Baptist Church, pastored by Rev. Arthur Burks and remained there until 1977 when she became a chartered member of Canaan Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of her current Pastor, Rev. B. J. Tatum. She was a faithful member of the Usher Board for 22 years, serving three years as president. She has been a member of Canaan's Mother's Board since 2002.

Murrie worked at the Egg Plant for five years before it closed. She also worked more than 20 years at Kraft before retiring in 1990.

She is currently a member of The Douglass Senior Citizens' group.

Mrs. Taylor loves cooking, gardening and listening to gospel music and "fired up" preachers on tape. She is known best for her favorite dishes: tea cakes, greens, chicken and dumplings and peach cobbler.

Her Words of Wisdom are: "Mean what you say and say what you mean."

One of her most Special Life Memories was in 2004 when her family gave her an 80th Birthday Celebration. They told her at that time that she was the greatest gift that God had ever given to them. They presented her with a plaque, which she proudly displays on her "living room" wall. She will never forget that day.

Her favorite Biblical Character is Nehemiah because in all of his difficulties, he always depended on the Lord for his strength.

Her favorite Scripture is the 51st Psalm: "Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy loving kindness according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin..."

She says this is her DAILY prayer and has committed this Scripture to memory.

Acknowledgements



NCNW Officers

Executive Advisor, *Ruthie Hillsman*
President, *Carol Lewis*
1st Vice President, *Barbara Gillespie-Washington*
2nd Vice President, *Earlene Terry*
Secretary, *Lynn Randall*
Assistant Secretary, *Betty Hassell*
Financial Secretary/Treasurer, *Cynthia Biggers*
Parliamentarian, *Patricia Adair*
Historian, *Cheryl Kennedy*
Chaplain, *Nela Delaney*

Event Committee

General Chair, *Betty Hassell*
Program Chair, *Cynthia Biggers*
Patricia Adair
Ruthie Hillsman
Carol Lewis
Hostesses' Coordinator, *Kathy Mock-Shepherd*
Lynn Randall
Decorations Supervisor, *Brenda Smith*
Carol Smith-Hassell
Earlene Terry

Hostesses

NCNW Members

Vendors

A Woman of Purpose
Sharva Hampton-Campbell, Proprietor

Angels' Accessories
Irene Phillips, Proprietor

Infinite
Stacie Lee, Proprietor

Special Thanks

The Escorts
L. W. Graphics, Digital Creations
Washington Investments

Friends
Bibb
Linda Frank

