

AFRICAN AMERICAN PORTRAITS PROJECT 2015 HONOREES

Evers Lee Anderson was born in LaGrange in 1914 and lived in Austin from 1932 until his death in 1977. He owned and operated a popular and successful service station from 1952 to 1977. He was also a volunteer ambulance driver. As a businessman, he was a donor to the old L.C. Anderson High School football team and booster club. When a nearby drug store closed, Anderson would offer treats to school age children walking home from L.L. Campbell Elementary School. He was a member of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

John Phillip Crawford Sr. was the first African American Assistant Attorney General for the State of Texas. Born in Chicago in 1929, he was educated in Texarkana schools, attended Prairie View A&M University, and graduated from Southern University. He earned his law degree from the University of Texas in 1957. In the U.S. Army, he was awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Service Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the United Nations Service Medal. The first African American to be admitted to the Travis County Junior Bar Association, he was an active member of the Austin branch of the NAACP. He helped his friend, NAACP President Volma Overton, achieve several civil rights successes, including allowing African Americans to use Bastrop State Park facilities, and also ending segregation at Southwest Texas State College, now Texas State University. He was in private practice with well-known attorney Virgil Lott for several years.

Ron Davis grew up in East Austin and was an East Austin activist on community and environmental issues before being elected to the Travis County Commissioners Court in 1998. He is a graduate of Southwest Texas State University and has received numerous awards for his accomplishments. He co-founded the East Austin Strategy Team (E.A.S.T.), a grass-root organization that worked to resolve pressing community issues. In 1990 he worked to fight against Barton Creek Planned Unit Development, which resulted in joining forces to address East and West Austin working together on environmental concerns together.

Rev. Freddie B. Dixon Sr. served the Austin community for more than three decades in the capacity of United Methodist minister and elder, and as a board member of several city and nonprofit agencies, including the Capitol Area United Way, Campfire USA Board of Directors and the Austin City Planning Commission. Rev. Dixon is credited with co-founding the Austin Area Urban League and providing leadership in the creation of the magnet school at Kealing Middle School. He has been an active voice for East Austin on many issues. As a diversity and community engagement officer in the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Rev. Dixon has been instrumental in creating several strategic partnerships between the university and community organizations, including special relationships with the African American Men and Boys Harvest Foundation, and the ProArts Collective.

Dr. Chiquita Watt Eugene is currently the Manager of Youth and Family Services/Youth Initiatives Office for the City of Austin. Dr. Eugene is a former principal at Kealing Junior High School in Austin. While serving as Principal she was instrumental in getting the shared use of the land between the Carver Museum and Kealing. She signed all documents representing AISD in the approval of the work. From 2006 -2010 she served as the Chief Executive Officer and President of the Capitol City African American Chamber of Commerce, currently named Greater Austin Black Chamber of Commerce. While serving at the Chamber she was responsible for getting the City of Austin to increase its financial support of the Chamber which resulted in all ethnic Chambers receiving additional dollars. She also initiated the international option as part of the contract with the City of Austin. This made it possible for the Chamber to engage in international trade with people of African descent from other countries. This initiative allowed trade missions to be a part of the work of the Chamber. Dr. Eugene is the longest serving African American female serving as a City of Austin Commissioner for the African American Resource Advisory Commission. In an effort to integrate the Austin Ballet, she was a founding member of the Ballet Noir, a support group of African Americans wanting to support the arts. She has a B.S. Degree and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California. Her Master of Arts degree is from California State University. Dr. Eugene is also former President of the Town Lake Chapter of Links and is currently the CEO of Embrace Learning Services, Inc. a non-profit organization.

Gregory Hamilton grew up in Killeen. The popular high school athlete left Killeen to accept a football scholarship at Southwest Texas State University, where he started as quarterback for four years. He led his team to the Lone Star Conference Championship in 1980. Hamilton completed his degree in Criminal Justice from SWTSU in 1982. His journey to become the highest-ranking law enforcement officer in Travis County began in 1985 as a Corrections Officer in the Travis County Sheriff's Office. In 1994, Greg was appointed Chief of Enforcement at the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC). He was elected Sheriff of Travis County in November 2004. He is currently serving his third term. Each term is four years. He has been in office since Jan. 1, 2005. Hamilton is also a national speaker and trainer for the Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention under the U.S. Department of Justice. As a member of the MADD National College Commission Advisory Board, Hamilton's role is to help U.S. colleges prevent binge drinking.

James Ernest Hamilton was an educator for 25 years. He was also a great musician. He had the 'No Jive Jazz Band'. His band was excellent. He and his band provide music for the Ebony Fashion Fair shows. He established and trained a boys youth corps that traveled nationally to perform and compete in parades for the annual Shriner's Conventions. He had memberships in several community organizations: Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Prince Masonic Lodges and several others.

A native of Macon, Georgia, **Nelson Linder** is a U.S. Army veteran. Linder arrived in Austin in 1981 and graduated from Huston-Tillotson College. He has been an independent insurance agent since 1992. Also in 1992, Linder founded the Garvey/Allen/Washington Project, an organization that combined the philosophies of Marcus Garvey, Richard Allen and Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Dubois. The organization focused on self-empowerment and social justice. Linder was elected president of the Austin Branch of the NAACP in 2000. In 2006, Linder joined the Austin community Radio Station, KAZI on the Tuesday's edition of the Wake Up Call (Empowerment Mode) program which works on solutions to problems African Americans face. In 2012 he was appointed to the Charter Revision Committee and was instrumental in paving the way for the new 10-1 City Council configuration of citizen representation form of government.

Constable Donald R. Nesby, a retired constable of Precinct One, was born in Austin. Donald attended Blackshear Elementary, Kealing Jr. High, and L.C. Anderson High School. After a six year tour of duty in the Navy, he served as a Travis County Sheriff's Deputy. His successful run for public office made him the first elected black law enforcement officer in Travis County in 1972. Don created the first patch for Constables to wear. He also was the first Constable to have patrol cars in Precinct 1. Mr. Nesby organized the first chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers in Travis County. Don authored a book entitled: 'A Shootout at Cedar Creek, June 1889'. He was a lifelong member of Simpson United Methodist Church until his death in 2012.

Theodore Roosevelt Youngblood moved to Austin from Coolidge-Mexia, Texas in 1919. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Samuel Huston College. As a first generation college graduate, the only jobs he could get during segregation were serving as headwaiter, a porter at the State Capitol, and shining shoes. He used these setbacks as opportunities. As headwaiter for the Driskill and the Stephen F. Austin Hotels from the 1920's until his retirement in 1968, he served and organized receptions, dinner parties, and meetings for prominent politicians, including President Lyndon B. Johnson. Mr. Youngblood was the longest serving African American Headwaiter/Maitre for both hotels, his service was for 48 years. His civic and community work included serving organizations such as the Negro Chamber of Commerce, the Juneteenth Commission, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., He also served as YMCA College president. He served as Travis County Grand Jury member and trustee steward of Wesley United Methodist Church. Mr. Youngblood died in 1993 at the age of 90 years old.