### NAACP CAPE MAY COUNTY





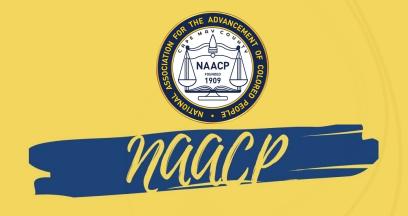
MRS. ANGELA B. JUDGE

CAPTAIN WARREN D. JUDGE, COMMANDING OFFICER UNITED STATES TRAINING CENTER, CAPE MAY

"WE RISE TOGETHER"

SATURDAY March 16, 2024

WILDWOOD CONVENTION CENTER WILDWOOD, NJ



### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

### VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the National
Association for the Advancement
of Colored People is to ensure a society
in which all individuals have equal rights
without discrimination based on race.



#### NATIONAL NEGRO ANTHEM

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning 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.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning 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 has 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.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the 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.

#### GREETINGS & WELCOME TO THE Naacp cape may county 4th annual freedom fund gala!



On behalf of the members of the Cape May County NAACP, I thank and appreciate all who have joined us today to hear the transformational words from two dynamic speakers and bestow accolades and honor to individuals whose leadership and service to our community has made them worthy of recognition.

I would also like to thank our wonderful community partners for their kind donations and sponsorships of this event which helps to support our mission to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination here in Cape May County. Your generosity will always be commemorated, and your support is invaluable.

Thanks also to our Freedom Fund Chairperson, Mr. Clayton Palmer and the Freedom Fund Committee for their dedication and hard work in planning this awesome event.

Sincerely,

Quanette Vasser-McNeal

Quanette Vasser-McNeal President



On behalf of the Cape May County branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Freedom Fund Committee I would like to welcome you to the Fourth Annual Freedom Fund Gala and the beautiful Wildwood Convention Center. This is our second year that the Wildwood Convention Center has served as the host venue and I would like to thank the entire staff here for being so gracious and accommodating.

Tonight's event is our branches' yearly fundraiser; but, even more so it is a time for us as the local branch of the NAACP to say thank you to each and everyone here and those not here who have supported us either through generous donation of funds or through donation of your ever so valuable time. To our many sponsors we as a branch are grateful that you were able to share.

We are excited this year to introduce to you our keynote speakers, Mrs. Angela B. Judge and Captain Warren D. Judge, Commanding Officer United States Coast Guard Training Center, Cape May. As husband and wife they are awesome firsthand examples of this year's theme, "We Rise Together".

Tonight is also an opportunity that we have to thank and recognize many in our communities for what they have done to make Cape May County a better place to live. Each individual being honored is a representative of the truest gift of all, selfless service. The individual acts of kindness, of love and of sharing not for gain or notoriety but because of their love for the members of our community. Their commitments to community go beyond the invisible borders of Cape May County and reach out to others in our state, to others in our country and in some cases others around the globe.

As branch vice—president and co-chair of the Freedom Fund Committee I want to also say thank you to my co-chair, Dawn Gayle, to all those on the Freedom Fund Committee past and present without you tonight does not happen. Thank you also to the executive committee for the work being done by each of you. Finally,

Finally, thank you to Quanette Vasser-McNeal, our branch president. You represent the organization in such a positive way and your tireless work trying to uplift and inform the communities in Cape May County do not go unnoticed. As we said in the Army "Keep Driving On Soldier!"

Sincerely,

Clayton E. Lalmer, Or.

Clayton E. Palmer, Sr.

Vice-President & Freedom Fund Co-Chair



"ONE WAY TO SERVE OTHERS IS TO Be a voice for those who don't have one" – Rev. dr. martin luther king

# CAPE MAY COUNTY NAACP BOARD MEMBERS & FREEDOM FUND COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Quanette Vasser-McNeal President



Clayton Palmer Sr. Vice-President & Freedom Fund Chair



Dawn Gayle Secretary & Freedom Fund Co-Chair



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Lori Valentine Legal Redress



Dawn Robinson Housing



Melisha Anderson Political Action



Nena Wise Member at Large



Cheryl Spaulding Member at Large



## SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2024 PROGRAM AGENDA

5:00PM - 11:00PM

#### **Cocktail Hour**

#### Welcome

Dawn Gayle Secretary & Freedom Fund Committee Co-Chairperson

#### Flag Salute

Clayton Palmer, Sr. & Dawn Gayle Vice President & Freedom Fund Co-Chairperson

#### **Invocation & Blessing of Food**

Pastor Andrea Davis, Asbury AME Church, Wildwood, NJ

#### **Introduction of Program**

Clayton Palmer

#### Video & Music

#### **State of The Branch**

Quanette Vasser-McNeal President, Branch 2081-B

### Special Live Auction By

GSM Charity Auction



### "WE RISE Together"

#### **Keynote Speakers**

Mrs. Angela B. Judge & Captain Warren D. Judge, Commanding Officer United States Coast Guard Training Center Cape May

#### **Presentation of Honorees**

Ms. Rubye Hutchinson Mr. Kyle Wilson Mrs. Rosie Jefferson Mr. Gregory Hudgins Assemblyman Antwan McClellan Harriet Tubman Museum

#### **Lifetime Honorees**

Mrs. Gloria Hodges Mrs. Emily Dempsey

#### Auction And Gift Baskets Wanda Young

Closing Remarks
Quanette Vasser-McNeal

#### **Benediction**

Music / Dancing
DJ Drumatic / Mike Dempsey

# GUEST SPEAKER ANGELA B. JUDGE

Retired Local Government Executive / Home Chief Executive Officer Cape May, New Jersey



Angela Judge is a retired local government administrator and land use planner who has dedicated many years to serving the public. A native of Atlanta, Georgia, Mrs. Judge relocated to Elizabeth City in 2005 and joined the City of Elizabeth City as the Senior Planner prior to her appointment as Assistant to the City Manager. She was promoted to Assistant City Manager in September 2016. As Elizabeth City's second in command, Mrs. Judge oversaw the completion of capital projects valued at over a million dollars, improving the City's physical plant. In 2021, Mrs. Judge completed a major three-year utility billing operating software conversion and mass smart meter infrastructure project. In 2021, Mrs. Judge decided to explore new challenges elsewhere, taking an appointment to become the Deputy City Manager for the City of Rockville, Maryland. During her tenure as Rockville's second chair she managed the development of the city's first emergency standard operating procedure, restructured the City Manager's Office to include the city's first Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (JEDI) Officer and Division, and navigated the organization through pandemic reorganization and post-event reopening, while maintaining oversight of various departmental operations, public affairs, quality assurance and controls, budgeting, and executive talent recruitment, development, and retention. Mrs. Judge retired from local government service in June 2022.

Mrs. Judge previously served as Executive Assistant to the Chief of Staff for the City of Atlanta. She also held the position of Legislative Aide to the Mayor, City of Atlanta and Intergovernmental Liaison/Planner II for Cobb County Government.

Mrs. Judge received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Spelman College, and a Master of Urban Policy Studies Planning & Economic Development from the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies at Georgia State University. Her educational accomplishments include completing the University of North Carolina Municipal and County Administration curriculum, while being awarded as the municipal salutatorian. She returned to UNC Chapel Hill to earn her Public Executive Leadership Academy Certificate from the Knapp School of Government. In July 2018, Mrs. Judge completed the Senior Executives in State and Local Government residency program at Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, MA.

Mrs. Judge is equally committed to civic and community building. She serves or has served as board member to the Coast Guard Mutual Assistance (CGMA), Albemarle Area United Way, Albemarle Hopeline, Inc., North Carolina Community Foundation, NC Rural Center, and others. Mrs. Judge maintains professional associations with the International City Manager's Association (ICMA), the American Planning Association (APA) and New Jersey Planning Chapter (NJAPA), and several academic affiliations. She continues to serve her community as a Rotarian, volunteer at the Cape May Community Food Closet and a member of the Cape May (city) Environmental Commission. With her years of experience and community service, Mrs. Judge has been recognized as a 2016 Chamber of Commerce Woman of Excellence, a 2017 Albemarle Commission Planning Champion, and the 2019-2020 NCCCMA Assistant Manager of the Year.

Angela is married to United States Coast Guard Captain Warren D. Judge, Commanding Officer of Training Center Cape May; they have two adult children, four grandchildren, and two fur kids. She spends her spare time managing the Brown-Henley family estate, her mother's personal care team, and supporting the captain's successful achievement.

#### **GUEST SPEAKER**

#### CAPT WARREN D. JUDGE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD



Captain (CAPT) Warren Judge has 37 years of distinguished service in the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and is currently the Commanding Officer of Coast Guard Training Center Cape May, NJ – the birthday of the Enlisted Corps for the Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard's only boot camp. Annually, he oversees the military basic training of approximately 3,800 new Coast Guard men and women. CAPT Judge is a 1986 graduate of Coast Guard recruit training with company Mike-123.

In his previous assignment as the Engineering Services Division (ESD) Chief stationed in Portsmouth, VA for the Coast Guard Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Cyber and Intelligence Service Center (C5ISC) located in Alexandria, VA. As the ESD Chief, he led a staff of nearly 800 people in delivering innovative

engineering rigor, and standard processes utilizing the System Engineering Lifecycle while overseeing a budget of \$260M. While stationed at Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City, as the Executive Officer he provided full mission support service on the Coast Guard second largest Base.

CAPT Judge was stationed at the White House Communications Agency (WHCA) from May 2009 to August 2012 where he served as a Presidential Response Officer - Executive Tier One communications lead for the President of the United States (POTUS) and the executive senior staff. He was the only Coast Guardsman at the 950 joint military personnel unit and was hand-picked as one of seven personnel within WHCA who traveled on board Air Force One, Marine Two and to Camp David as a WHCA Command Representative, overseeing communications. CAPT Judge also traveled as a Presidential Communications Officer and deployed in advance on short notice anywhere in the world to provide instantaneous secure/non-secure voice communications and five-minute recorded message traffic to POTUS, Vice-President, National Security Council, and the United States Secret Service. While serving in this capacity, he traveled around the world to locations such as Moscow, Russia; Shanghai, China; Seoul, South Korea; Dublin, Ireland, and many other domestic and international locations.

His previous experiences include serving as the Career Management Branch Chief for the Coast Guard Officer of Personnel Management, where he provided dedicated career management advice to more than 8,000 officers. CAPT Judge was also the Operations Officer for the Coast Guard's Electronic Systems Support Unit New Orleans, LA where he worked following Hurricane Katrina leading teams to rebuilding the Coast Guard's lower gulf coast command and control infrastructure, resulted in saving more than 34,000 lives; Assistant Operations Officer and Law Enforcement Officer, Coast Guard Group Mobile, AL; and Software Developer. CAPT Judge is a highly decorated officer and has greater than 35 medals, honors and commendations to his credit, to include the Department of Defense's and three Coast Guard's Meritorious Service Medal.

CAPT Judge has achieved a stellar list of military and civilian educational accomplishments including, recently completing the Department of State National Security Executive Leadership Symposium, the Center for Homeland Defense and Security Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program in February 2022, recipient of the 2021 Stars and Stripes Black Engineer of the Year recipient for the Coast Guard, the 2017 Coast Guard's recipient of the Blacks In Government Meritorious Service Award, attended the Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education for Cybersecurity, Project Management Professional (PMP) Certification, Acquisition program level II, and named as one of the Modern Day Technology Leaders for the Coast Guard at the 2013 and 2014 Black Engineer of the Year award celebration. CAPT Judge also received the 2013 Elizabeth City State University Chancellor's Legacy Leadership award for the military. Moreover, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science at Elizabeth City State University in Elizabeth City, NC in 1997, where he was a distinguished Ronald E. McNair Scholarship, earned his first Master of Science degree in Computer Science from Howard University in 2004 and earned a second Master of Science degree in System Quality Management (Six Sigma emphasis) from the National Graduate School 2007. He completed Officer Personnel Management Leadership Potential Seminar in 2008. CAPT Judge is also community focused, in 2023 he received the National Association for Advance of Colored People (NAACP) for 'Devotion and Dedication to the Community' and received the was awarded a 'Key To The City' by the mayor of Elizabeth City, NC and Cape May, NJ.

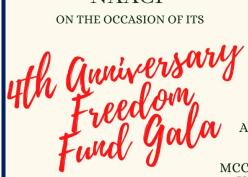
A native of Tampa, FL, CAPT Judge is married to the former Angela Brown, has two adult children and four grandchildren, is an avid racquetball player, and a life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

THE

Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey

CONGRATULATES THE

Cape May County NAACP















AND CELEBRATES OUR FELLOW
HONOREES EMILY DEMPSEY,
ASSEMBLYMAN ANTWAN
MCCLELLAND, KYLE WILSON, GLORIA
HODGES, GREG HUDGINS, ROSIE
JEFFERSON AND RUBYE HUTCHINSON



WE RISE TOGETHER BY LIFTING EACH OTHER UP!

#### THE HARRIET TUBMAN MUSEUM OF NEW JERSEY

The Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey shares the inspiring story of our American hero who lived and worked in Cape May to earn the proceeds that she used to fund her missions, guiding so many others out of slavery to freedom in the North. The Museum illuminates the history of abolitionist activism and amplifies the enduring legacy of the African American community in Cape May County and New Jersey. At the heart of the Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey is the community that has

come together to create it from their passion, talent, and love -- from the History Committee of the Macedonia Baptist Church to the volunteer contractors and tradespeople who contributed to the restoration of the Howell House, from the Center for Community Arts that documented the community's history over decades to the artists who contributed their works, from researchers who rediscovered the abolitionists' activities in Cape May to lawmakers in all forty legislative districts in New Jersey that voted to make it officially the Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey.



We stand on the shoulders of giants like Harriet Tubman herself, and the other abolitionist organizers she knew and worked with such as William Still and Stephen Smith, as well as more modern exemplars of service such as Reverend Robert O. Davis who brought our communities together through faith, song, and education, and Amelia Hampton who advocated to save the Stephen Smith House -- giants like our fellow honorees tonight, and in particular Emily Dempsey whose lifelong dedication to preserving history is witnessed in so many of the Museum's exhibits, and Assemblyman Antwan McClellan who sponsored the bill to give the Museum unopposed statewide recognition in 2020 and similarly navigated the New Jersey Black Heritage Trail bill to unopposed passage in 2022.

The Museum has been recognized by Smithsonian Magazine as one of the 10 Most Anticipated Museums in the World and by USA Today's Readers' Choice Awards as the #5 Best New Museum in the United States. It has been nominated for the National Medal for Museum Service three times by U.S. Senator Cory Booker, with bipartisan support from Governor Murphy and U.S. Representative Van Drew, among many others. Tonight's theme, We Rise Together by Lifting Each Other Up, truly captures the spirit of the ambitious and continuing project of the Museum. We see it every day in the faces of tens of thousands of visitors and students who come to experience the Museum, to learn an unvarnished perspective on our past, to see ourselves reflected in its narratives, to ground our empathy in our shared history. The Museum team is humbled by tonight's recognition from the Cape May County NAACP and grateful for the opportunity to serve our growing community.

Cindy Mullock,

Executive Director Harriet Tubman Museum of New Jersey

"Social progress does not roll in on the wheels of inevitability. It comes only through persistent work and the tireless efforts of dedicated individuals."

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Nonviolence and Racial Justice," delivered in Cape May, NJ June 27, 1958

#### FOLLOW THE HARRIET TUBMAN MUSEUM OF NEW JERSEY

https://www.facebook.com/harriettubmanmuseum/ https://www.instagram.com/harriettubmanmuseum/ https://twitter.com/HarrietMuseum

# Congratulations

To the Cape May County NAACP
On its 2024 Freedom Fund Gala
And to all the Honorees



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Chief Dekon W. Fashaw Sr.

Proud Member and Past Recipient of the Freedom Fund Award



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#### ASSEMBLYMAN ANTWAN MCCLELLAN



Assemblyman Antwan McClellan is a dedicated public servant with a distinguished record of service. A prominent figure in the New Jersey State Assembly since 2020, he became the Deputy Republican Leader in January 2024, following his service as the Republican Whip from 2022 to 2023.

A lifelong resident of Ocean City, Assemblyman McClellan has been actively involved in his community in various capacities,

including coaching the Ocean City 7th and 8th Grade Girls Basketball teams for an impressive 15 years, as well as President of the Ocean City High School Athletic Hall of Fame.

Besides his community engagement, Assemblyman McClellan is a dedicated Member of the NJ Legislative Black Caucus, diligently working to advance the interests of Black constituents in the state. He is also a valued Member of The Ocean City Tabernacle Board of Trustees, where he contributes to the church's mission and operations.

Moreover, Assemblyman McClellan has been appointed as a Commissioner on the New Jersey State Amistad Commission, where he plays a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the remarkable contributions of African Americans that have profoundly enriched the fabric of New Jersey.

Assemblyman McClellan's educational journey began with his graduation from Ocean City High School in 1993, followed by his pursuit of higher education at Virginia State University and Old Dominion University. He serves as Chief of Staff and Personnel Director in the Cape May County Sheriff's Office, effectively combining his dedication to public service with professional expertise. His multifaceted contributions continue to positively impact his community and the State of New Jersey.















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#### Lucky Bones Backwater Grille 1200 NJ-109 Cape May luckybones.com



#### Cape May Winery & Vineyard 711 Town Bank Road Cape May capemaywinery.com

Sending Best wishes for a successful Freedom Gala to the Cape May County NAACP!

A heartfelt

Congratulations

То

## Assemblyman Antwan McClellan

and the esteemed individuals being honored.

With Appreciation from Middle Township

Mayor Christopher Leusner Deputy Mayor Theron "Ike" Gandy Committeeman James Norris



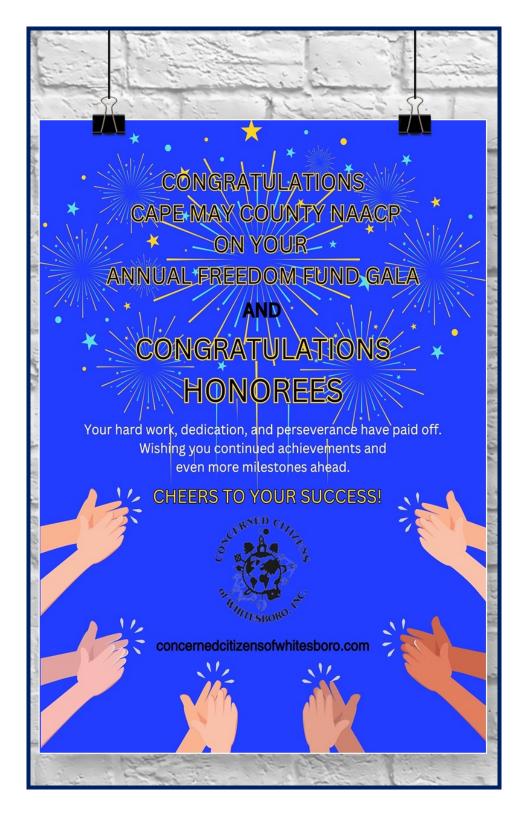


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#### MRS. EMILY DEMPSEY

Mrs. Emily L. Dempsey was born in Cape May, New Jersey in November of 1936 and was the second of three children from the union of Albert and Sara (Bose) Edgecombe. As an infant she was baptized in their family church, Allen AME, located in Cape May. She attended the Franklin Street School and a young age showed strong interest and a passion for the arts, history and her community. It was also in her youth which her appreciation for history would direct her towards a deeper appreciation for African American history and a strong sense of cultural awareness. It was these early life experiences and cultural awareness which would shape the conscientious spirit which she is today.

In 1957 Emily married her husband and life love, Eugene Dempsey. The couple would move to Germany where he was serving in the United States Air Force. It was in Germany where their first child, Pamela, was born.

In 1962, their young family moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and their union brought forth two more children, Eugene Jr. (Skip) and Mary Katherine (Kathy). They would also raise her nephew, Leland Edgecombe, who was her sister's son.

In 1964 the family moved to a new house in Willow Grove, Pa. However, Emily's heart was always in Cape May and in 1968 her and her family would return to Cape May and have resided here ever since.

Upon returning to Cape May area she would work a multitude of jobs. She would be the first African American to be employed by the Cape May County Health Department Family Planning Clinic. She managed the Kitchen at Vance's Bar in Cape May and was the owner/operator of The Family Tree Restaurant which was located in West cape May. She and her sister, Florence also owned an antique shop in West Cape May.

Emily's sense of community and love of the arts would be a lifelong passion and as a result she began her journey into the world of community activism. She has served on the Mayors Advisory Board for both the City of Cape May and West Cape May. As a founding member of the Center for Community Arts which began in 1995 she was a member of a sub-committee, the Neighborhood History Committee for both the City of Cape May and Cape May County. In 2022 the committee published the book, Black Voices of Cape May — A Feeling of Community, which highlighted and shared some of the African American experience in Cape May. On March 5, 2024 this book along with Center for Community Arts/Community History Committee was recognized by the New Jersey Historical Commission.

One of Emily's proudest accomplishments, which she has many, was her impact in saving the Franklin Street School and getting it restored to become part of the Cape May County Library System. The former school has a space dedicated to John and Janet Nash, memorializing what the school represented and is also the headquarters for the Center for Community Arts.

She has served seventeen years on the West Cape May Shade Tree Commission as well as the WCM Tax Payers association. She also a faithful and avid supporter of the Harriet Tubman Museum of Cape May. She is a key philanthropic donor of several essential artifacts that are currently on display.

In May of 2022 Emily was honored by Ramapo College in Mahwah, NJ. She was the recipient of the Russ Berrie Award for Making a Difference. This award is presented to unsung heroes each year for remarkable work in transforming their communities.

Emily's sense of community awareness, love of history, tireless leadership and love of community are a testament to her desire to serve. Her unwavering commitment to not only the preserve history but to pass on her cultural and community awareness through both verbal and written work is one of the many reason she is loved by our community. It is also why this beautiful lady of 87 years; this tireless warrior of our history continues to be an inspiration to many of us.

# Lifetime Honoree

#### MRS. GLORIA HODGES

Mrs. Gloria Jean (Bryan) Hodges was born in March of 1945 in the Felton, Delaware and is the second of nine children born to Reverend Percy William Bryan and Beulah Hortense Bryan. Her parents set the standard for education and her Christian life. Gloria and her husband, Andre, were devoted to one another and their union produced three children; Rev. Andrea Davis, Chrystal Holmes and Andre Hodges, Jr. She is currently a member of Asbury A.M.E. Church which is pastored by her daughter, Rev. Andrea Davis.

Through Mrs. Hodges' Christian journey she and her husband, Andre, carried out a ministry through the Interdenominational Outreach Choir. For over twenty- five years they spread "The Word" to churches of all denominations all around the tri-state area.

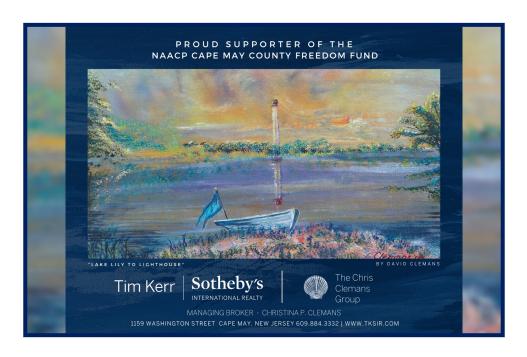
Gloria excelled both academically and socially throughout her educational journey. She graduated from Booker T. Washington Middle School in Dover, Delaware and Hightstown High School in Highstown, New Jersey. She received her Bachelors of Arts degree from Delaware State College. She received her Masters of Arts degree as well as Supervisor Certification from Rowan University.

Mrs. Hodges devoted forty-nine years to education in the Middle Township School District in Middle Township, New Jersey. In 1966 she started as a math teacher in the Middle School where she remained for twenty years. She was twice named Teacher of the Year. In 1986 she transferred to the high school and started a new role as a guidance counselor. Her impact as a member of the guidance team was almost immediate as she introduced programs such as Peer Mediation to peacefully resolve interpersonal conflicts and Positive Black Generation which created opportunities for students to develop their talents in the Arts, self-awareness and confidence.

Throughout her career Mrs. Hodges has been recognized multiple times for her accomplishments; one which stood out as a highlight was the award for Counselor of Cape May County. She was promoted to Director of the Guidance Department where she continued to push initiatives while leading efforts in coordination of state testing, career fairs and other key operations managed by the department. She also supervised the Alternative Education Program where she oversaw the district afterschool program which supported students' efforts to receive high school diplomas.

Although Mrs. Hodges retired in 2007, she remained a strong advocate for students in the community and was elected to the Middle Township Board of Education in 2014. She continued to serve the young people of Middle Township in this capacity until 2023 and in the same year was inducted into the Middle Township High School Hall of Fame.

Mrs. Hodges was not only dedicated to a Christian life but to her love of education. She and her husband as well as all of her children are education professionals. Prior to his passing her husband was an instructor of "Holocaust Studies" at Atlantic Community College. Both of her daughters are teachers and her son is a vice-principal.









# Congratulations!

Congratulations to this year's NAACP Cape May County Annual Freedom Fund Gala honorees for your dedication to upholding the principles of justice, equality, and freedom.

Your efforts contribute significantly to the strength and unity of our community, reflecting the enduring values that guide us toward a prosperous and harmonious future.



#### MR. GREGORY HUDGINS

Greg graduated from Middle Township High School in 1965 and attended Bowie State College. He returned home and joined the staff of the Woodbine Developmental Center. His career at Woodbine Developmental Center started as a Human Service Assistant and after several promotions, Greg retired as Senior Training Assistant in 2002 after 27 years of service. Following retirement, Greg devoted his time to community service in a variety of areas across Middle Township and Cape May County.

Greg coached Pee Wee and Little League baseball teams in Woodbine. He also served on the Woodbine Planning Council and 20 years on the Woodbine Board of Education where he is currently in his 7<sup>th</sup> year as President. During his tenure, the school moved from a budget deficit to surplus; hired a new Superintendent resulting in improved grades among elementary and middle school students and worked with the Middle Township Superintendent to bring additional resources for students and parents.

Greg served 3 years as a volunteer interviewer with the State Intensive Supervision Program (ISP) to prepare prison inmates for release into the community. Other services include serving as member of the Cape May County Coalition for Safe Communities and at Cape Regional Hospital where he volunteered to transport patients from the parking lot to the hospital entrance and also worked at the front desk as needed. While employed at Ascenda, Greg worked transporting individuals to and from mental health and rehabilitation treatment.

In 2021, Greg worked with Nan LaCourt to organize the 180<sup>th</sup> celebration of the John Wesley Methodist Church in Swainton, the oldest Black church in Cape May County. Approximately 180 people from throughout Cape May County attended the celebration. This is also Greg's childhood church home.

Currently, Greg is an active member of SOAR Church and serves as a Deacon. He also volunteers in many capacities at his church, such as food distribution, bookbag and school supply drive, Autism Walk and the Men's program.

Greg enjoys retirement life with his wife, Rose, and their two children and four grandchildren.



#### MR. KYLE WILSON



Kyle Wilson was born in 1962 in Philadelphia, Pa to Clarence and Annette Wilson. He and his wife, Lisa, currently reside in Rio Grande, NJ. In their thirty- years of marriage they have parented three sons; Kyle II, Dominick, Vaughn and a daughter, Kyleesa. They are also grandparents to six grandchildren.

Kyle split time in his youth between Newark, Wildwood and Blackwood due to his parents' divorce. It was however, a curiosity

during this period that he would be introduced to his profession. In Sixth grade he made a shoe shine kit which he would use shining shoes in Penn Station in Newark or in a barber shop in Wildwood. It was listening and learning in that environment which stayed with him into adulthood. At seventeen Kyle enlisted in the United States Army and trained to be Cannon Fire Direction Specialist (13E). He served four years on active duty in which he would attain the rank of Specialist-4. During his active duty time he served eighteen months in South Korea on the Demilitarize Zone (DMZ), the infamous 38th Parallel, which is the line which divides North Korea and South Korea. He would serve out his last years of active duty time at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He would finish his service commitment in the New Jersey National Guard serving one year with Cape May County's 253rd Transportation Company.

After his enlistment ended he returned to the United States and eventually returned to New Jersey. In 1985 he began employment at Harrah's Resort and Casino of Atlantic City as a Bell Captain. He was employed by Harrah's Casino for fifteen years. Due to the growth of his family and having three boys he started cutting hair. "The cost of taking three boys to the barbershop started to wear too much on our finances so I purchased some clippers in 1990. I would sit in a local barber shop in Atlantic City and watch then cut each of my son's hair on my porch."

In 1999 Kyle finished his training at Shore Beauty School and became a licensed barber. He opened Island International Unisex Salon in Wildwood in 2000. His brother-in-laws helped with the construction of the space located underneath the Wildwood bowling alley. We had to put in flooring and redo some of the walls and make the space look like a barber shop. Over time the shop would grow and clientele increased.

One of the things that Kyle stated was most memorable about his journey in the business world was "the pride of opening on that first day. It was a reminder of the days when the local barbershop was a sort of community center."



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Each office is independently owned and operated It a







#### MRS. ROSIE JEFFERSON



Rosie Jarmon-Jefferson, eldest of two children born to Dorothy Jarmon of Cape May NJ, attended and graduated from Lower Cape May Regional High School Class of 74. She tried the military, but enjoyed her career as a public servant.

It started in 1976 at the Wildwood Housing Authority as a secretary, working to house families, the elderly and disabled in the newly completed Commissioners Court and Sandman Towers housing complex.

Eventually attaining the status of Office Manager, responsible for not only resident concerns, but also responsible for employee payroll and all related reports and documents.

In 1991, Rosie gave birth to her first son and took some time off to enjoy being a new mom. She continued her career in 1994, working for Middle Township in two capacities, secretary with the Public Works/Road Department, and Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics, retiring from it all in 2011.

Rosie was a member of the 2003-2004 Middle Township School District's Equity Committee, had two unsuccessful attempts at becoming a member of the Middle Township School Board and in 2007 after visiting and volunteering at the Homework Club, sponsored by the Concerned Citizens of Whitesboro, Inc., she withdrew her 2<sup>nd</sup> nomination stating, "She felt she could be of better service to the children being hands-on at the Homework Club and not sitting at the table making policies."

Today, Rosie is the Director/Prog Coordinator for CCWI Rainbow Summer Camp & Hmwk Club. This program provides homework assistance during the school year and a fun loving memorable 9wk summer camp. Recently, and after much time and commitment, she has successfully provided all the local, state and federal mandates and the program is now a NJ state licensed childcare center.

Rosie has also received recognition from the Food & Nutrition Service (FNS) "Turnip the Beet" contest. This program recognizes sponsors nationwide who work hard offering quality, appealing meals to children during summer months when food insecurities increase.

Rosie is married to Raymond Jefferson, and together they have two sons, Raymond Jr., a Meteorologist living in New York and Thomas "TJ" Jefferson, a senior attending William Paterson University studying Musical Performance.



#### MRS. RUBYE HUTCHINSON



My name is Rubye Dyann Hutchinson, and I am a proud, lifelong resident of Woodbine, NJ. My life has been hugely transformed by my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, my family, recovery breast cancer, community service, and academic dedication.

I was born to Janita Hutchinson and the late Leroy Young, and I am the granddaughter of Betty Crymes and the late Pastor Reuby Mackey. I was raised in a close knit family, being one of six children. From my childhood years, I have always tried to have a strong sense of empathy and a commitment to positively impacting the lives of those around me.

Growing up in Woodbine, my roots provided me with a robust community foundation and solid values. Having experienced the challenges of life from a young age, I gained a profound understanding of resilience and the intricacies of navigating adversity. I tried to absorb the principles of compassion, kindness, and community support. These principles became a guiding force for me in my life's journey, and has led me to devote myself to the teachings of Christ while trying to make a meaningful impact in my community.

My personal and transformative journey in recovery reflects the resilience and determination my family and community have taught me. I'm committed to lifelong recovery, and face challenges head-on, coming out stronger after each challenge.

My dedication to sobriety has reshaped my life and but inspired others who are grappling with similar struggles. My experiences serve as a testament to the belief that recovery is achievable with God, perseverance, and a strong support system.

My deep-rooted faith in Christ is central to my life. Living out the teachings of love, forgiveness, and compassion, I have embodied the tenets of my faith. This spiritual foundation propels me to help others, especially within the recovery community, where I work to foster hope and healing through my ministry, Inside Out Prison Ministry. This has allowed me to share my experiences in the Cape May County Correctional Center, where I have been volunteering for the last 28 years.

In addition to my spiritual calling and advocacy work, I worked academically to gain an Associates in Human Services from Atlantic Cape Community College.

One of the things I am most proud of is when I was able to re-establish the Boy Scouts of America in Woodbine as a Charter Representative and eventual Cubmaster for Pack 77 and Troop 77 of the Boy Scouts of America. I hope that my commitment to this organization has helped to instill valuable life skills and principles in the younger generation.

I am not only a woman of faith, an advocate, and an academic achiever but also a community leader who works towards improving the city of Woodbine. Whether organizing recovery support groups, participating in local outreach programs, or being a voice for the marginalized, my commitment to community service is not just a slogan but a daily reality that I hope works to positively impact others.

Beyond my community efforts, I find immense joy and fulfillment in my role as a proud mother of two daughters Malekia and Felish Watkins, and three grandchildren, Neriah, Ayanna, and Luis. My family stands as a testament to the values of love, unity, and support that I hold dear. My journey has not always been easy, but I hope parts of it can serve as an inspiration, proving that a life dedicated to Jesus, family, recovery, community service, and academic achievement can create a lasting impact on yourself, your community, and beyond.



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"Everybody
Can Be Great,
Because
Everybody
Can Serve"



-Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Congratulations

TO ALL
CAPE MAY COUNTY
NAACP 2024 HONOREES



#### **CAPE MAY COUNTY NAACP**

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# TO ALL CAPE MAY COUNTY NAACP HONOREES

# Congratulations

From: The Executive Board & Advisory Council



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# Robert "Rob" Evelyn

Sales Associate USCG CPO (Ret)

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### CAPE MAY COUNTY NAACP MONTHLY MEETINGS 2024

Meetings are held in person or via Zoom

#### Whitesboro Grammar School 100 E. Main Street, Whitesboro, NJ

January 11th April 11th July 11th October 10th
February 8th May 9th August 8th November 14th
March 14th June 13th September 12th December 12th

#### **JOIN US TO DISCUSS:**

Branch Updates | Upcoming Events | Ways you can be involved

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES:**

Community Coordinator | Education | Health | W.I.N.

Youth Engagement | Armed Services & Veterans | Housing
Legal Redress | Membership | Political Action

#### **OUR MISSION**

To achieve equity, political rights, and social inclusion by advancing policies and practices that expand human and civil rights, eliminate discrimination, and accelerate the well-being, education, and economic security of black people, and all persons of color.

Meeting Dates Are Subject to Change.

Contact: secretary2cmcnaacp@gmail.com or Phone: 609-899-3248

Quanette Vasser-McNeal, President





THE NAACP OF CAPE MAY COUNTY WILL CONTINUE ITS CARING AND COMMITMENT TO THE RESIDENTS OF CAPE MAY COUNTY WHILE SERVING AS AN IMPORTANT LEGAL ADVOCATE FOR ALL CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUES

