



THE PANTHER PROWL

HENDERSON INSTITUTE NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2025

HENDERSON INSTITUTE BOARD of DIRECTORS

William "Bill" Holden, Chair
Larry Carroll, Vice Chair
Jeanette Kingsberry, Secretary
Karen Patterson Johnson
John Martin
James Ragland
Frederick Williams
Ruth H. Wilson
Jacquelyn Woodard
Janice Woods

As we enter this new year, 2025, I am pleased to share with you the achievements that we have accomplished together as an Association, thanks to your unwavering loyalty and support.

We extend a tremendous thanks to our current Board, National Committee and Chapter members for their hard work and dedication while facing many challenges. They were successful in achieving our objectives and uplifting the legacy of our 'Dear Ole H & I.'

2024 BOARD of DIRECTORS' COMMITTEE UPDATES

Budget and Financial Planning Committee

John Hodge, Chair Barbara Crews, Vice Chair
Karen Johnson, Museum Planning Chair
William Holden, Board Chair
Dorothy B. Henderson, Acting Treasurer
Calvin Thompson, National President
James Henderson, Vice Chair Museum Planning
Scholarship Committee Member

The 2025 Budget is scheduled for completion, review and approval this month. Last year's Budget Review process was completed and approved in January 2024. However, the 2024 Reunion attendance was two-thirds less than the previous year, and the Museum required several major repairs. Consequently, our funds were lower than anticipated. We received approval from the Board of Directors in conjunction with the National Executive Committee officers to make adjustments to ensure financial solvency into 2025. Our operating account balances are currently in good shape.

In October 2024, the Treasurer, Linda K. Terry resigned from the voluntary position as the Treasurer. We thank Linda for her dedicated service to the Association. Dorothy

Henderson has assumed acting responsibility as Treasurer including the issuance of all payments. Dorothy will continue following the established checks and balances while being assisted by assigned officers.

We want to thank Larry Carroll, Calvin Thompson, John Hodge, and Dorothy Henderson for assistance with the banking updates. We received approximately \$663.75 from the property sale at Powell Street. The amount was recorded and deposited into the Association's account.

HI Insurance Coverage

The Henderson Institute Alumni Association maintains three insurance policies which cover HI's overall insurance requirements. 1)- Non-Profit Business Owner's Policy covers replacement costs for the Museum and its contents. 2)-Directors and Officers Liability Coverage protects the actions of our volunteer leaders. Finally, 3)-Protective Bond that protects the Association from loss of money or property caused by officers.

Board member, Janice Woods is currently overseeing all HI insurance policies.

Fundraising

One of our Legacy members, Fedora Day, requested and received \$3,000.00 from a corporate donor in support of HI. We are grateful for her dedication, understanding and vision relative to sustaining our legacy.

Several HI members (asked to remain anonymous) donated \$3,100 to cover the cost of the chartered bus and meals for the junior and senior college-bound students who attended the 2024 ASBC-HBCU Scholarship Festival in Springfield, Virginia.

HI Website Committee

Frederick Williams, Co-Chair
Jacqueline Woodard, Co-Chair
Culpepper Website Development

The Henderson Institute Website provides a multitude of information on activity, and services, across the Association. It covers Henderson Institute's complete history from 1887 to 1970, the HI Museum virtual tour and Yearbooks from 1952 to 1970. Several updates since our last Newsletter include Al Sharpton Interview of Gerald Alston "News-Hometown Shining Star Makes National News," (View Gerald performing 'A Change is Gonna Come' with Sam Cooke's daughter).

The 2024 Reunion pictures were posted in September and we also displayed banners for the various holidays. **The Website also provides an opportunity for you to pay dues, registration for the 2025 Reunion and to make donations to HI.** Continue to visit our website at **Henderson-Institute.org**, for updates.

Museum Facility Support Committee

Willie Holloway, Vice Chair

James Henderson, Vice Chair Museum Planning

Larry Carroll John Hodge

Our HI Historical Museum underwent a series of needed repairs last year. All doors and several windows were re-corked, reframed and painted, the roof repaired, ceiling tiles replaced, and outside lettering painted and remounted. We are asking our members and friends of HI to increase their financial support for the Museum Operating Account. The Museum is an old building in constant need of repair. HI officers will continue to focus on obtaining state funding to restore our valued Museum.

James Henderson managed these repairs through their completion.

A Special Thanks from Bill Holden

I would be remiss if I did not offer thanks to some special members. In 2019, our HI National Committee was understaffed by six officers. We realized it would have been next to impossible to move the Association forward without those slots being filled.

So, we asked several past officers if they would fill those positions until full term officers could be assigned. Mrs. Francis Richardson-Turner, Mr. James Harrison, Mrs. Roberta Scott, Mrs. Margaret Cross, Mr. Willie Holloway and Rose Jean Bullock stepped in and provided solid support, expertise, and dedication as they anchored the National Committee in place. Their tremendous efforts allowed our legacy of HI to continue through COVID and beyond. Our appreciation could never be truly conveyed to those who selflessly stepped in at one of our country's and HI's most vulnerable times (COVID).

Robert Bogan National Scholarship Committee

Robert Bogan, Chair Anita Bailey Vivian Bullock James Harrison
Barbara Massey Elnora O'Hara Edward Ellis Deborah Brown
Geraldine Floyd LaVerne "Lucy" Johnson Pruden Jacqueline Woodard

Vivian Bullock, HI Scholarship Committee lead, provided Dr. Ross-Putney, Vance County Schools with an overall explanation of the Bogan Scholarship. Dr. Tim Hall, a member of Dr. Ross-Putney's team, reviewed the scholarship application process, including the application form, with William

Holden and Robert Bogan. Based on the final Vance County Schools’ review, Dr. Hall received the green light from all interested parties to communicate the program to staff and selected students. This new initiative should reach additional college-bound students while familiarizing them with the application requirements prior to submitting their packages to the Bogan Scholarship Committee.

The Robert Bogan Scholarship application and instructions can be downloaded from the HI website, henderson-institute.org. The deadline is March 18, 2025.

Alfred Street Baptist Church – HBCU Scholarship Committee

The 2024 ASBC-HBCU Scholarship program was a success. HI Board members, Jacqueline Woodard, John Martin, William Holden, Dr. Tim Hall, from the Vance County Schools and six college-bound students attended the Scholarship Festival in Springfield, Virginia. The HBCU experience opens doors and changes perspectives for students.

Dr. Hall and his team agreed to select at least twenty-five students to participate in the 2025 HBCU Scholarship Festival. We are awaiting information about this year’s host site and schedule.

Museum Planning Committee

Karen P. Johnson, Chair	James Henderson, Vice Chair	
Larry Carroll	LeVerne Burwell-Grant	Dorothy Henderson
James Henderson	Jeanette Kingsberry	Rodney Kingsberry
Willie Holloway		

The HI Museum continues to serve the Vance County community and the HI Association membership as a beacon of our history. Over the years, the Museum has served as a hub for HI alumni, school groups, church groups, and families nationwide. 2024 was no different. Numerous visitors have toured the museum to learn more about its historical importance. 130 guests visited the Museum last year, including students, educators, parents and parishioners. Throughout the year, the grounds were decorated to highlight various holidays; Black History Month, Memorial Day, July 4, Veterans Day, the Annual HI Reunion and Christmas. These activities will continue through 2025.

The museum is open to the public every Thursday from 1:00-4:00 PM. Special tours can be scheduled by calling the museum office at least 72 hours in advance. The contact number for the Museum, is 252-430-0616. Dorothy Terry-Justice manages all calls. Donations to the museum are appreciated.

HI Museum Veteran’s Day Ceremony

On Veterans Day 2024 approximately fifty veterans attended the annual HI Museum Veterans Day event. Each year the ceremony takes on a slightly different emphasis. This event was primarily an educational session focused on providing information critical to veterans. Representatives from the Vance County Veterans Services Office, Bailey Shaffer and Nicola Goslin-Ricks, reviewed the services available to the 2500+ veterans currently residing in Vance County. They serve as free advocates for veterans, helping to greenlight applications for compensation for those affected by tainted water at Camp Lejeune or by Agent Orange from the Vietnam era. After their presentation and a brief speech by alum, James Harrison, the attendees stepped outside for a flag-raising ceremony.

When entering the HI Museum, the first thing visitors see is a wall of photos of graduates who served in the US Armed Forces and a display akin to rows of service ribbons on an officer uniform. The event was received favorably by the attendees. Based upon the positive feedback, the Museum Committee

is planning a follow-up session in late spring/ early summer 2025. This will be an opportunity for the veterans to stay connected and share their stories/experiences with each other.

The following article was printed in the Daily Dispatch, November 12, 2024.

Henderson Institute veterans raise up Old Faithful

BY TYLER DAVIS

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252-436-2839

HENDERSON — The better part of 50 veterans turned up to the Henderson Institute Museum on Rock-spring Street on Monday for its annual Veterans Day ceremony.

Each year, the ceremony takes on a slightly differing shape — this time, it was an educational session held by the dynamic duo over at the Vance County Veterans Service Office, Bailey Shaffer and Nicola Goslin-Ricks.

The pair went over some of the services available to the 2,500-some veterans living in Vance County. They are, in essence, free advocates for



Tyler Davis | The Dispatch

Veterans salute the stars and stripes during Monday's flag-raising ceremony.

vets, helping greenlight applications for compensation for those affected by the tainted

water at Camp Lejeune, or for

SEE VETERANS/PAGE A2

VETERANS

FROM PAGE A1

Vietnam vets affected by Agent Orange.

There's a common thread throughout discussions about veterans — this country simply doesn't do enough. That's quite true, Shaffer said, and the nation isn't even close to providing sufficient services.

Many get an unfair lot. They're sent off overseas, earning meager paychecks while their families struggle at home. The military is often taken for granted.

"Vets are like teachers," said Shaffer, "underpaid."

Vietnam veterans were hated over there, hated at home, Shaffer said. And those who got cancer as a result of exposure to Agent Orange have to go through a process akin to seeking worker's compensation, one littered with hoops, to get their due.

"We love them all," said Goslin-Ricks. Veterans have seen gains, she said — President Joe Biden signed the bipartisan PACT Act in 2022, which expanded the list of presumptive conditions for veterans seeking compensation.

After their presentation and a brief speech by alumnus James Harrison, the crowd stepped



Tyler Davis | The Dispatch

Two attendees look over the wall of veterans inside the museum.

outside for a flag-raising ceremony.

There was, perhaps, no better place to hold a ceremony honoring veterans than the old Henderson Institute science building, the all-Black school that has turned out quite a few big names over its years of service.

The first thing visitors see is a wall of photos of HI graduates that enlisted in the armed forces, a display akin to rows of ribbons on an officer's uniform — orderly and exuding a certain gravity and distinction. Some of those names belonged to members of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

Black veterans, all too often, faced discrimination upon their return to the country for which they fought on foreign

shores.

Or shores domestic. One attendee, Horace Bullock is a member of the Buffalo Soldiers Museum in Houston, Texas. Those soldiers, all Black, helped pave the way to the west in the late 1800s — without them, "the United States would have stopped at Chicago," Bullock said. They played a crucial role in escorting wagon trains and the like through hostile lands.

According to the museum website, some 20% of cavalymen who served in the American Indian Wars were Black. Native Americans named them Buffalo Soldiers for their fighting spirit, bravery and tenaciousness.

For some, including HI alumnus and veteran Linwood Thomas, enlist-

ing was a way out.

The 71-year-old recalled that, during his youth, Thomas and nine others were charged with attacking a man and stealing \$10 — the victim in that case, Thomas recalled, chose 10 names off a football roster and accused them.

The Ku Klux Klan attended the trial. It was tense, he recalled. But after only 20 minutes, the presiding judge tossed the case out. Though he was never convicted, the charges remain on Thomas' record. At that time, the theater downtown had two entrances — one for Black citizens, the other for white citizens.

Naturally, Thomas wanted out, and it was either the military or college.

THE 47th ANNUAL SCHOOL REUNION

The Henderson Institute Graduates and Former Students Alumni Association celebrated its 48th Annual Reunion Labor Day weekend, Friday, August 28 - Saturday, August 29, 2024. The weekend's activities were hosted by the Executive Committee. All activities were held at the Henderson Country Club. Friday evening participants received their registration materials then gathered for a Meet and Greet. Saturday began with a brunch, then the Chair of the Board of Directors, William "Bill" Holden (69), convened the Annual Business Meeting. Committee reports and updates were given. After the meeting, attendees gathered on the steps of the Country Club for a group photograph, taken by Lenwood Thompson, former student/photographer.

The Reunion Banquet was held Saturday evening. Evelyn Marrow Alston (68) was the Mistress of Ceremonies. Anita Patterson Bailey (62) shared a heartfelt and intimate reflection of her years at Henderson Institute. The Memoriam presentation was narrated by the Necrology Chair, LaVerne Burwell Grant (69). The Awards Committee presented four awards; Service Award, James and Dorothy Henderson (67); Hall of Fame, Calvin Thompson (69); Humanitarian Award, Abdul Rasheed; and Community Leader, Alice Clark Sallins. Sandra Walton Jones (68) was recognized for her leadership in coordinating travel accommodations for the Vance County students who attended the Alfred Street HBCU Scholarship Fair. The official 2024 Reunion photograph was gifted to the Museum Planning Committee Chair, Karen Patterson Johnson by Ruth H. Wilson, on behalf of Lenwood Thompson.

The highlight of the evening was the guest speaker, the Honorable Melissa Elliott, Mayor of the City of Henderson, North Carolina. Mayor Elliott, the first African American and female to be elected mayor of Henderson, provided a thought-provoking and insightful overview of the status of Henderson; what is problematic and how to identify resources and resolve issues. She encouraged the Association to continue to support its hometown.

Throughout the evening, attendees were treated to the soulful and smooth sounds of Gilbert Avent, a saxophonist. The Banquet ended with an enthusiastic and personal tribute to Thomas Gilbert McKnight, three times Past President, former Board member, and current Parliamentarian from HI Chairman, William Holden. McKnight was extensively lauded for his entrepreneurial successes, and his unwavering service to the HI Association and his community. After the Banquet, attendees danced to the sounds of DJ Reggie Burgess and line danced with instructor Darlene Huggins.

TRANSITIONS

September 2024 – February 2025

Your memory is a keepsake from which we will never part.

You are in God's keeping, and forever in our hearts.

David Ballard (59)

Katie Cooper Davis (67)

Juanita Walker Richardson Diggs(47)

Ronald Douglas (67) Cornelius Gill Jr (69) Kenneth Ray Gooch (67)

James Thomas Harris (65) Annie Jones (68)

Charlie Marable Jr (64) Elsie Montgomery Hawkins (54)

John Junious Terry (69) Gaither Watkins(67) Joan Marable Williams

(20)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Calvin Thompson, National President Sandra W. Jones, 1st Vice Pres
Evelyn Alston, Secretary James Harrison, Asst. Secretary
Dorothy B. Henderson, Acting Treasurer John Hodge, Fin. Sec.
Barabara Crews, Asst. Fin. Sec. Ola Thorpe-Copper, Nat. Awards
LeVerne Burwell-Grant, Necrology Vera Hodge, Membership Susie P. Warren, Chaplain
Ola Thorpe-Copper, Asst. Chaplain Ruth H. Wilson, Publications
Robert Bogan, Nat. Scholarship Thomas Gilbert McKnight, Parliamentarian
Willie Holloway, Sergeant-at-Arms

Happy New Year and Greetings **PANTHER NATION**,

Firstly, and most importantly, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support of our great Alumni Association. Your support is invaluable and greatly appreciated. The National Executive Committee asks for your prayers and support as we endeavor to sustain and maintain the Alumni Association's membership, financial obligations and our undeniable history. We need your support so that we can continue to provide scholarships, sponsor and participate in community activities, continue our Annual Reunion and preserve the legacy of Henderson Institute.

The Executive Committee is in the process of planning for the **2025 Annual Reunion** which will be held on **September 5 - 6, 2025** at Vance Granville Community College. The class of 1965 will be the host class. Mrs. Frances Richardson Turner is the class contact.

Hopefully, everyone is looking forward to reconnecting, sharing and renewing friendships, acknowledging achievements, displaying our pride and taking that trip back down the HI memory lane. Time may have passed but it has not undone the beautiful stories we shared back in the day. Sometimes it takes time to know the value of people who helped us create the great memories we carry in our hearts.

For those of you who attended the 2024 Reunion, we look forward to seeing you again; and for those of you who were unable to attend, please don't miss the excitement of the 2025 Reunion.

As in the past, my challenge to you is, which class will have the largest turn out. We will keep you informed of the 2025 Annual Reunion plans. Details regarding registration are forthcoming.

May you be richly blessed.

Calvin Thompson and the National Executive Committee

"There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged to find the ways in which you yourself have altered." Nelson Mandela

HI Annual Golf Outing

A Golf Outing is being planned to kick off the 2025 Reunion. It has been scheduled for **Friday, September 5th**. The cost will be \$60.00 per golfer. Sponsors are needed to support this event. All proceeds will be used to enhance the HI Scholarship Fund and to support the Historical Museum. Please call Bill Holden ,914-552-8027, for more information.

Membership Committee

Membership dues paid from 2022 to 2029 are listed below by membership type.

12 - Former Student

181 - Graduate

25 - Legacy/Offspring

REMINDER. The last year that membership dues were paid is on the label of the newsletter on the line with Membership Yr. After three consecutive years of membership non-renewal, Association communications will cease. **Stay updated, RENEW.**

Awards Committee

Plan now to make your nominations. The Nomination form will be in the Registration Newsletter.

Award Categories

Review each category description carefully before making a nomination.

1. **Humanitarian:** A person who has made outstanding contributions to the welfare of humanity.
2. **Hall of Fame:** A person having excelled in athletics, education, medicine, business, government, military, etc.
3. **Community Leader:** Someone who recognizes a need in the community and takes the necessary steps to meet those needs. (i.e. mentoring “at risk” kids, organizing help for the needy; organizing crime prevention programs, etc.)
4. **Service:** Someone who has given outstanding service and support to the success of our Association and/or Annual Reunions.

Kingsberry swears in new HI officers



The Henderson Institute Triad Chapter met at the Henderson Institute Museum February 1, 2025, to install its new slate of officers. From left to right are John Hodge, Membership; Pattie Kittrell, Asst. Treasurer; Vera Hodge, Treasurer; Jeanette Kingsberry, Asst. Secretary; Hassan Kingsberry, Installation Leader; Lucille Alston, Secretary; Rodney Kingsberry, Vice President and Larry Carroll, President. Hassan Kingsberry is Henderson’s new City Attorney and new City Manager.