

LIMITED EDITION

JUNE 2026

FATHER

A LIFETIME OF LOVE AND LAUGHTER

"WOULD THAT
ALL DADS SO
VALUED THEIR
CHILDREN!"

*"My Dad
was my
hero! He
was a
man for
all seasons."*

THE
WORLD'S
BEST
DADS

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY

"You wanted a better education for me than you and
Mama were afforded. Guess what, Daddy? I got it all!"

NCNW
Orange County Section

TO THE MEN WHO HELP US STAND TALL

In every family, every community, and every movement, there are men whose love becomes part of the foundation we stand on.

They are the fathers who taught us how to be strong without losing our tenderness. The husbands who walked beside us, sometimes carrying the bags, sometimes offering the prayer, and sometimes wisely saying, "Yes, dear," at exactly the right moment. They are the sons who remind us why the future matters. The grandfathers, brothers, uncles, mentors, and father figures whose presence has shaped our homes, our hopes, and our hearts.

This Father's Day, the National Council of Negro Women, Orange County Section, pauses to celebrate these men. Their importance is not only found in what they do, but in who they have helped us become.

As NCNW women, we are committed to uplifting families, strengthening communities, advocating for justice, developing leaders, and preserving the legacy of those who came before us. Beside us are men who believed in us, protected our dreams, and encouraged our purpose. These men are part of our story.

So, to every father, husband, son, and beloved man represented in these pages: Thank you for your laughter, your lessons, your labor, your love, and your legacy. Thank you for standing with us, praying for us, challenging us, comforting us, and occasionally making us laugh when we were trying very hard to be serious. May these tributes remind you that you will always be appreciated, respected, and deeply loved.

With gratitude and joy, we celebrate you today.

Women of NCNW-OC

NCNW

Commitment. Unity. Self Reliance.

Contributors and Supporters



Trina Fleming



Sybella
Ferguson-Patten



DeVera Heard



Kathi Bowman



Gerry
Morgan-Smith



Shelly Collins



Jerilyn
King-Brown



Janice Macon

June 2026

Samuel McLeod

**Father of Mary McLeod Bethune,
founder of NCNW, the National
Council of Negro Women**

Mary McLeod Bethune's father, Samuel McLeod, was a formerly enslaved man who became a farmer in Mayesville, South Carolina. Samuel had to first purchase his wife's freedom from her enslaver before they were legally permitted to marry.



After emancipation, Samuel and his wife, Patsy (McIntosh), saved money to buy their own small farm and built a log cabin. Mary, who was the 15th of their 17 children was born in the log cabin on July 10, 1875. While some of Mary's brothers and sisters were sold into slavery, Mary was the first in her family to be born "free"!

Samuel and Patsy managed to keep track of their sold children through an informal, secret communication network that passed messages from plantation to plantation. Luckily, they were not sold very far apart and after slavery ended, they all reassembled at the McLeod place and the family was all together.



"Father and my brothers got the logs that built the cabin, the cabin where I was born – I was born in our own home cabin, and on our own soil."

– Mary McLeod Bethune

James Lauris Ferguson

LESSONS YOU TAUGHT ME

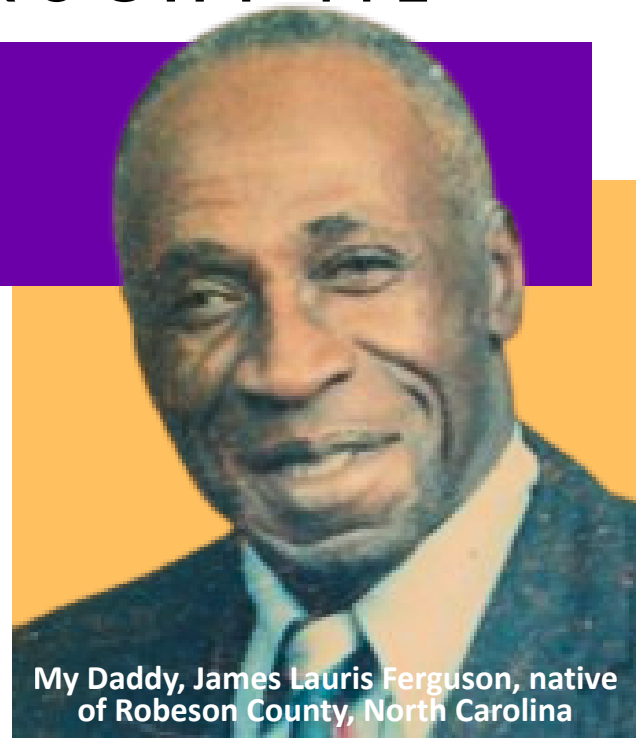
My Guiding Light

Thank you, Daddy, for teaching me a strong work ethic, the importance of family connections, and how to use my 'common sense,' something you said they don't teach in those books. You were a good provider: we always had indoor plumbing, food, shelter, and clothes; Mama had access to a good running car; we took family vacations every summer; you worked full-time at Seaboard RR but always had side jobs — cutting and selling firewood, plowing neighbors' fields, relocating families from one town/city to another. Always busy making another dollar.

When I was an undergraduate student at the HBCU NC A&T, you proudly told the gas station attendant that you were on your way to pick up your daughter from college or drive me back to campus.

Yes, I am indeed my father's daughter because I inherited that beast called the "Ferguson temper." Over the years, I've learned to control it. However, it does get the better of me at times. I'm a work in progress.

You drilled into me the value of a "good education." I worked hard to be an exemplary student because I didn't want to disappoint you; you wanted a better education for me than you and Mama were afforded. Guess what, Daddy? I got it all: high school diploma, BS degree, and MS degree, all with high honors. I found and married a good guy, too. His name is James, just like your name. We are celebrating 50 years of marriage this June! We have two wonderful adult children.



My Daddy, James Lauris Ferguson, native of Robeson County, North Carolina



Aberdeen, NC RR Depot
Daddy's Full-Time Job!



Handing over the keys to the
Aberdeen Railroad Depot;
Retirement at Last: 1970!

Thank you Daddy for being my guiding light. Everything I am began with you.
I thank you for more than words can say. I Love You Everywhere, Always.

Happy Father's Day 2026, Daddy!! Love Your Baby Girl, Sybella

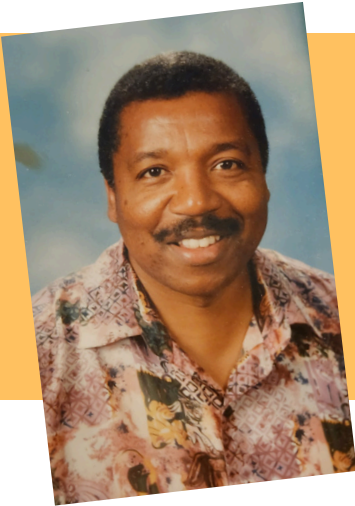
Anthony F. Heard

A WONDERFUL HUSBAND AND FATHER

This is the 80th year of Anthony's life. He has had the opportunity to live such a wonderfully full life and continues to do so. When he was born in Foley, Alabama in 1946 it was still the segregated Jim Crow era and there were things he did not have access to, but his Mom made sure he got a good education no matter how hard it was to get to the Negro schools. His Dad taught him how to farm, thus he still has a backyard garden. He was one of 13 brothers and sisters. Several have passed, but he has 2 brothers and 4 sisters still living in California, Nevada, Foley, and Florida.



A LONG LIFE DEVOTED TO HIS FAMILY
AND COMMUNITY THAT WILL
CONTINUE FOR MANY YEARS!



The majority of Anthony's life has been spent as a #1 Father, Husband, and community-involved citizen. He has 2 children (Kristena and Anthony), 3 grandchildren (Tabitha, Amelia, and Andrew), and ONE wife (DeVera) for more than 50 years. Additionally, he uses his knowledge acquired through his studies and the many degrees he earned in business education to fulfill the responsibility of helping our younger generation begin successful businesses through his work with SCORE.

His favorite past time is traveling. Since the 1970's he and DeVera have taken more than 50 cruises all over the world. His favorite places are Alaska, the Caribbean, Singapore, and the Baltic region. If he had the money, he would help others visit other nations to learn the many cultures that exist and appreciate that we are all of equal value in this wonderful world in our own way. If there is one thing that Anthony wishes he had done, it would be to become a filmmaker. He often says there are so many stories to be told about African American history that is never approached and he knows he could do a wonderful job.



Anthony's family wishes him a wonderful 80th Father's Day and many more, and thanks him for his devotion to the well-being of the family. Keep up the good work, Anthony.

Love your devoted wife, Dr. DeVera H. Heard

ONE OF THE BEST SONS AND DADS

ANTHONY R. HEARD



Anthony is one of two children born to Anthony and DeVera Heard. He attended school in Santa Ana, California; graduated and went to UCLA to receive his BS and MS; and then received his teaching credential from UCI. During his teaching career, he made time to travel the world. He backpacked Europe and Australia for months and made a lot of international friends.

After returning to his career in teaching, he got married and he and his wife were blessed with two children (Amelia and Andrew) who are the apples of his eye. He uses his teaching skills to make sure they have a good understanding of math, science, problem solving, and treating others with care and humanity.

His current career is one that contributes to the community through the Los Angeles Mission in downtown Los Angeles. The homeless and needy are helped with emergency services, food, rehabilitation programs for men and women, transitional support to restart a meaningful life, housing, legal services, and introduction to technology. Anthony is well respected and dedicates his efforts to the men and women trying to repair their lives.



Additionally, Anthony is a sports fanatic and an avid golfer. He says he is getting better and better as he plays at PGA courses around the country. Who knows, he might be someone you see on TV soon. Above all, being a quality DAD is Anthony's goal. Thank you for all you do for your kids and others needing your expertise.

***Would that all Dads so valued their children!
You are a GREAT Son and Dad!!***

An Honorable, Devoted Dad and Husband

Arthur Flanigan Jr.



Arthur Flanigan Jr. was born in 1928 in Covington, Georgia. His parents moved north and he ended up in Cincinnati, Ohio with his Mom and Aunt. He worked there until the call for men to enlist to fight the war was issued. He tried to volunteer for the Air Force, but Black men were not allowed to join that branch of the service. He had to enlist in the Army. He remained in the Army for six years until the Air Force enlistment was opened for Black men. He resigned from the Army and immediately joined the Air Force. He was fortunate enough to become a part of the Tuskegee Airmen Unit. He served the rest of his time in the service in Korea and around the world protecting other American servicemen during their assigned flights. His unit never lost a plane or a man.

They were always asked to be a part of any mission his Air Force unit was assigned to. His only concern was that he regretted killing people he did not know or had any issue with, but the U.S. government continued to tell the public that their service was protecting the folks back home.

Arthur returned to Denver, Colorado and was honorably discharged from the Air Force. He met Thelma there. They married and had one daughter, DeVera. They lived in Denver, moved to Cincinnati, and then moved to Long Beach, California. There Arthur became a Deacon at Christ 2nd Baptist Church and worked for the Long Beach Water District. He and Thelma then moved to Rossmore and then Henderson, Nevada. Arthur passed from lung cancer in July 1999. He had become a smoker while in the service because the men were given breaks and cigarettes to smoke during those breaks.

He was a rough and tough guy and is sorely missed, but still loved by the family. His wife of 50 plus years, Thelma, mentions him daily as a good Christian husband and dad. We will always thank him for being such an admirable, dedicated father and husband.

Your family and country thank you, Dad!

Your devotion to country, family, and community will be remembered.



JAMES LEROY BOWMAN

*Handsome, smart, kind, funny, quirky and
a much-beloved man of God.*

**Father of 3
Grandfather of 11
Great-Grandfather of 6**



Happy Father's Day

The Navy Log

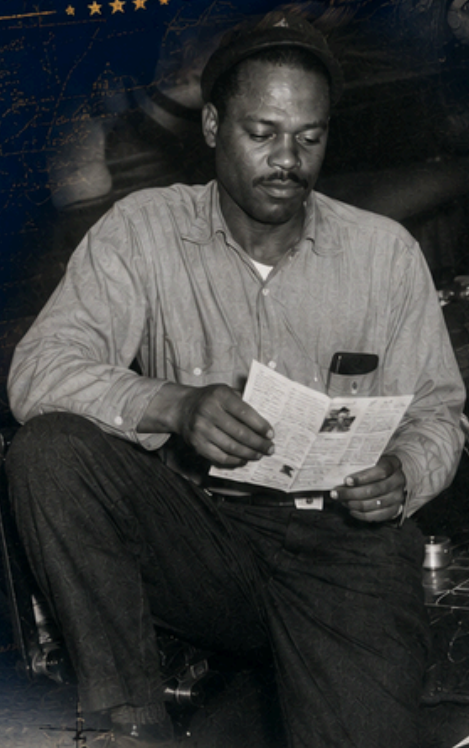


The U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation
Washington, D.C.

JOHNNIE JENKINS
★★★★★

4U

LOST RESQ



Popo,

*You changed the
trajectory of our lives.
Through courage, sacrifice and
unwavering dedication, you created
opportunities that gave our family
dignity, stability and hope.*



*Every chance you took.
Every door you opened.
Every life you touched.*



J.P. Morgan



MY DAD WAS
MY HERO! HE
WAS A "MAN
FOR ALL
SEASONS," VERY
COURAGEOUS,
GIVING AND A
TRUE LEADER.

He always showed his love for me and our family. "I have not stood alone in this life. What stood behind me, the most potent moral force in my life, was the love of my father." I miss him and his guidance daily.

Your loving daughter, Gerry Morgan Smith



Dr. Touncel Smith, Jr.

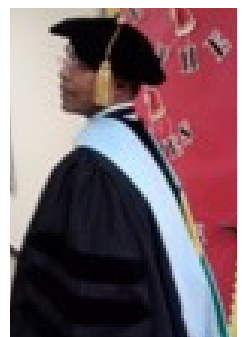


A Man for the People

*Your loving wife,
Gerry Morgan Smith*



God sent you to me late in life, but what a gift! We only had a short time together, but it was so special. I think of you daily and know that you are watching over me from above. I will always remember you as a lifetime educator, a Texas cowboy, and a lover of people with a giving heart to help others.



My Dad is the Best!

LEONARD OLIVER MILLER



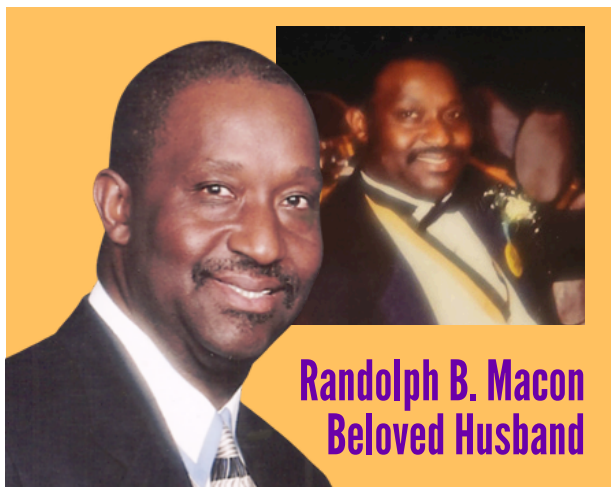
We can fix it!

My Dad taught me that whatever it is, we can fix it. He taught me how to use a drill, and he taught me how to stay calm under pressure. The first time I accidentally put a hole in the wall with his drill, he took one look at the gaping eyesore and calmly said, "We can fix it." That simple phrase has carried me through more than a few crooked shelves, hard days, and unexpected challenges. Assess the situation. Take a deep breath. Say a prayer. Select the proper tool. Do your best.

Thanks, Dad! Your advice continues to serve me well!
Happy Father's Day! Love, Trina

Never Far From Our Hearts

The steps of a Good Man are ordered by the Lord. *Psalm 37:23*



Randolph B. Macon
Beloved Husband



James L. Williams, Jr.
My Dad



Morris L. Williams
Oldest Brother



Though your earthly steps have ended, the path you walked still blesses us. Each of you held a special place in our family and in our hearts. Your love, laughter, wisdom, sacrifices, and quiet strength continue to live on in the stories we tell, the lessons we carry, and the family you helped shape.

You are missed beyond measure, remembered with gratitude, and loved always.

Love, your wife, daughter, sister, aunt, and great-granddaughter, Janice

Maurice J. Williams
Youngest Brother



Jack Bailey
Brother-in-Law

**The heart of a man
plans his ways, but
the Lord establishes
his steps.**

Proverbs 16:9

John Wesley (Bud) Seroyer
Great-Grandfather



Benjamin Macon
Father-in-Law



Marquis Williams
Oldest Nephew

ALBERT MCLEOD BETHUNE, SR.

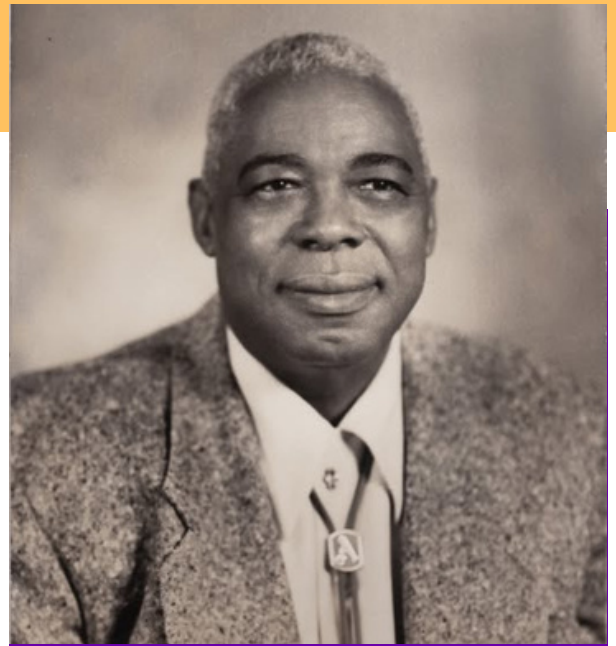
ONLY SON OF MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE, FOUNDER OF
NCNW, THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF NEGRO WOMEN

Albert was born on February 3, 1899, and served in the United States Army during World War I, when he was a young adult. Albert Bethune was one of the first students at his mother's school, after it merged with the Cookman Institute in 1923.

He later went to the Haines Institute in Augusta, Georgia. He also owned and operated Bethune Funeral Home for 25 years, the first Black man to own a mortuary in Volusia County.



When Albert's mother started the Daytona Educational and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls, he was right there. At five years old, he sold magnolia blossoms to help make money for the school.



NAMED 1989 FATHER
OF THE YEAR BY
NEW BETHEL A.M.E.
CHURCH IN ORMOND
BEACH, FLORIDA

When Albert passed away in 1989 at age 90, he was survived by his wife, his 5 children, 23 grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.



Become a Member



Membership in the Orange County Section, National Council of Negro Women Incorporated, is open to all people. It is as simple as completing our membership application, paying annual local and national dues, and getting to work. The value of NCNW is in its combined strength of members and member organizations, its communication of ideas, and its work with women of diverse interests and backgrounds.

There is a place in NCNW for anyone who desires to serve by contributing time and talent to NCNW programs and initiatives.

Our Core Four



Economic Empowerment

Empowering individuals with tools & opportunities to achieve financial independence and build sustainable futures.



Education

Inspiring growth and opportunity through access to education and lifelong learning.



Health Equity

Promoting wellness and equal access to healthcare for stronger, healthier communities.



Social Justice

Advocating for equality, fairness, and lasting change to build a just society.

"Believe in yourself, learn and never stop wanting to build a better world."

– Mary McLeod Bethune

NCNW
Orange County Section

Educating, Empowering and Advocating
for the Underserved since 1988
<https://www.ncnwoc1988.org>



Happy Father's Day 2026

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