



HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY!

The Valley Weekly

Friday

May 6, 2022

Vol. 8, No. 35

ValleyWeeklyllc.com

SALUTE!

Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK



Mr. Freeman Holifield, Sr.

*"To be black in this country and to be relatively conscious is to be in rage almost all the time." - James Baldwin*

## NHBA Hosts Diversity Roundtable



The North Huntsville Business Association (NHBA) hosted a two-hour Workforce Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Business Roundtable on Thursday, April 28, from 9-11:30 a.m. at the Huntsville Public Library on Sparkman Drive in the Dr. Shurney Conference Room.

Eight (8) local area Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DE&I) professionals gathered to share best practices for DE&I efforts at their respective companies.

Kenneth Anderson, director of Diversity, Equity

& Inclusion for the City of Huntsville, along with John Allen, CEO of the Committee of 100, brought greeting and comments.

Among the presenters were Renee Knight, Aerojet Rocketdyne; Dr. Karen Ray, Drake State Community & Technical College; Dr. Darrell Ezell, HudsonAlpha Institute for Biotechnology; Amy Nation, Huntsville Airport Authority; Lucrecia Points, Huntsville Utilities; Katie Comer, Meta; Nichole Mitchell, Wilson Lumber Company; and Vonda Douglass-Drake, Turner Construction.

Judy Hardin, executive director and Reginald McKenzie, president of the NHBA, served as the facilitators for the event.

Other events of this nature will continue throughout the coming months.

For further information, contact Judy Hardin, executive director of the North Huntsville Business Association. NBHA is located at 2007 Memorial Parkway Northwest, Suite J, Huntsville, AL 35810.

Call the office at (256) 326-6941 or visit [www.northhuntsvillebusiness.com](http://www.northhuntsvillebusiness.com).

## Commissioner Edwards Hosting Harrison Center 10th Anniversary

The Robert "Bob" Harrison Senior Wellness and Advocacy Center celebrates ten years of service in Madison County.

With programs targeting health, nutrition, wellness, and movement, the center has become a beloved haven in the north Huntsville community.

"Our seniors enrich our community through their wisdom and diverse life experiences," says Commissioner Violet Edwards, whose office oversees operations. "This center was built to enhance their lives, and in return, they are showing the community how to age gracefully, stay healthy, and live life to the fullest."

The center will host a three-day celebration from May 12-14, 2022. The celebration kicks off Thursday, May 12, at 10 a.m. with a program on the center's front lawn, located at 6156 Pulaski Pike.

This program will look at the center's past, present,

and future. Friday, May 13, will be game night starting at 5 p.m. Members and friends will meet for an evening of fun that includes cards, bingo, trivia, and light refreshments.

The celebration will culminate Saturday, May 14, with an outdoor family festival with live entertainment, food trucks, and a car show. The fun kicks off at 10 a.m. and will run through 4 p.m. All events are free and open to the public.

The Harrison Center opened in 2012 focused on

senior fitness and advocacy.

Post-COVID, it has expanded programs to include nutrition education, brain stimulation for seniors, free health screening, and community engagement.

"We consider our 10-anniversary weekend to be a homecoming. Whether you've been here for an event, a meeting, or to work out, we hope you will join us in reflecting on how this wonderful facility has brought so many of us together," says Edwards.

The Valley Weekly

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## Washington in One Minute



Here are the happenings in Washington, D.C., this week:

1. **ON THE FLOOR.** The Senate is in session this week and the House is in recess. The Senate will continue negotiations with the White House on a plan to pair a new \$33 billion Ukraine assistance supplemental appropriations bill (see item #2) with the stalled \$10 billion COVID relief bill.

2. **THE WHITE HOUSE.** Last Thursday, President Biden sent a request to Congress for an additional \$33 billion in security, economic, and humanitarian aid to Ukraine, including \$20.4 billion in additional security and military assistance, \$8.5 billion in economic assistance, \$3 billion in humanitarian assistance, and \$500 million to U.S. farmers to support the production of food crops that are experiencing a global shortage due to the war in Ukraine, especially wheat and soybeans. Congress approved a prior supplemental appropriation of \$13.6 billion for Ukraine on March 15, 2022.

On Sunday, the President spoke at the memorial service for former VP Walter Mondale in Minneapolis, Minn., who passed away in April 2021 at age 93. On Monday, he hosted an Eid al-Fitr event to mark the end of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, and on Tuesday he visited the Lockheed Martin Facility in Troy, Ala., which manufactures the Javelin anti-tank missile. On Thursday, the President hosted a Cinco de Mayo event at the White House.

3. **LATEST ECONOMIC INDICATORS.** Last Friday, the Commerce Department announced that U.S. inflation-adjusted consumer spending unexpectedly rose 0.2% in March (following a 0.1% gain in February) despite a 0.3% increase in core inflation in March for an annual rate of 5.2% (a slight tick down from February's 5.3%), which has some economists speculating that the U.S. may have reached peak inflation.

Also on Friday, the Labor Department announced that

worker compensation rose to an annual rate of 4.5% in the 1st quarter of 2022, the largest such increase in records back to 2001 and a half-percentage-point jump over the previous quarter. Last Thursday, the Commerce Department announced that U.S. gross domestic product, adjusted for inflation, fell 0.4% in the 1st quarter, which was the first decline since the 2nd quarter of 2020 and a marked decline from the 1.7% growth in the final three months of 2021.

4. **FEDERAL RESERVE MEETING.** On Tuesday and Wednesday, the Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee met and were expected to raise its benchmark interest rate by 0.5% (50 basis points) with another 0.5% raise likely at its June meeting. According to Bloomberg, the Fed will also start to reduce its \$9 trillion balance sheet this month.

5. **E15 FUEL WAIVER.** Last Friday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced an emergency fuel waiver to allow E15 gasoline—gasoline that uses a 15 percent ethanol blend—to be sold during the summer driving season, in an effort to increase the fuel supply and provide consumers with more choices at the pump. Currently, in 2/3rds of the country, E15 cannot be sold from terminals starting on May 1 and at retail stations starting on June 1.

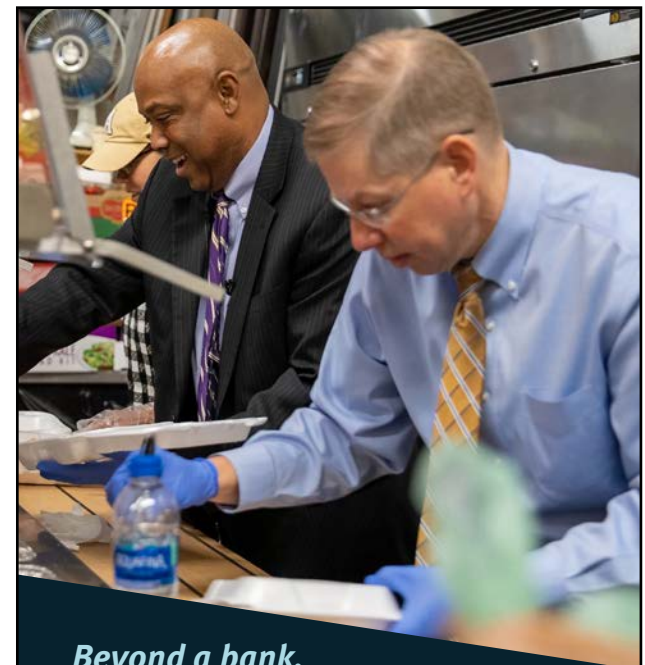
6. **COVID VACCINE FOR KIDS.** Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced that it will convene meetings with outside advisers starting on June 8 to consider an emergency use authorization (EUA) for pediatric coronavirus shots. Last Thursday, vaccine maker Moderna requested an EUA for children 6 months to 5 years. Pfizer/BioNTech currently has an authorization for children 5 and older and, according to The Washington Post, is expected to submit full data on a vaccine regimen for children 6 months to 4 years in the coming weeks.

7. **JANUARY 6 COMMIT-**

TEE. Last Thursday, House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol Chair Bennie Thompson (D-MS) announced plans to hold 8 hearings in June 2022, including some in television primetime, with the first hearing scheduled for Thursday, June 9. The committee also announced that as of April 7 it has conducted more than 830 interviews and depositions.

Ron Hamm

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS



NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME

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Graveside service for MR. THOMAS L. HAWKINS (b. 1966) will be Friday, May 6, at 1 p.m. at Liberty Cemetery with Minister Patricia Strong officiant.

Graveside service for MRS. AVIS GARNER will be held Thursday, May 5, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace with Brother James Green officiating.

Funeral service for MOTHER GENEVA SLEDGE (b. 1941) was held Sunday, May 1, at the Indian Creek Primitive Baptist Association Tabernacle with Pastor Mario Ford officiating.

Funeral service for MR. LEO STEGER (b. 1947) was held Tuesday, April 26, at Little Flock Primitive Baptist Church with Pastor Brandon Nance officiating.

ROYAL FUNERAL HOME

4315 Oakwood Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Funeral service for MR. LEON ALFONSO GERMAN, JR. (b. 1946) will be held Thursday, May 5, at the Union Hill Primitive Baptist Church (2115 Winchester Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Oscar L. Montgomery officiating.

Graveside service for MS. SHERNETTE TAMMISHA RAGLAND (b. 1978) will be held Thursday, May 5, at the Valley View Memorial Gardens (139 Meridianville Bottom Rd Meridianville, Ala.) with Pastor Bobby Battle officiating.

Funeral service for MR. GEORGE WITCHARD, JR. (b. 1947) was held Wednesday, May 4, at the Hurricane Chapel Missionary Baptist Church (155 Teague Road Brownsboro, Ala.) with Pastor Gary Battles officiating.

Funeral service for DR. GEORGE E. JONES, JR. (b. 1933) was held Monday, May 2, at the First Missionary Baptist Church (3509 Blue Spring Road NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. Julius Scruggs as the eulogist and Dr. Don Darius Butler officiating.

Funeral service for MR. JAMES LEE, SR., (b. 1924) was held Sunday, May 1, at the First Seventh-Day Adventist Church (1303 Evangel Drive Huntsville, Ala.) with Dr. William Lee officiating.

SERENITY FUNERAL HOME

2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral service for MR. BROMLEY MICHAEL TROTMAN (b. 1961) was held Sunday, May 1, at New Life Seventh-day Adventist Church, 3912 Pulaski Pike NW, Huntsville, Ala.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE!

May 6

Spring Commencement  
Alabama A&M University  
Speaker: Honorable Randall Woodfin  
Mayor, City of Birmingham, Ala.  
Louis Crews Stadium  
12 p.m. (New Time)

“Peppa Pig Live”  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall  
Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
6 p.m.

May 22

The Temptations & The

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

“AFTER THE STORM”

In Mark 4:39 it says, “Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, Quiet! Be still! Then the wind died down and was completely calm.”

No one really “crosses over” to the promise that God has for your life without going through some kind of storm. No one really grows spiritually or matures spiritually without some kind of conflict. It seems that the closest you get to your break through, the more the devil tries to throw your way. It may come in the form of a tragedy. It may come in the form of discouragement, especially

if you feel like you have done everything that you can do.


In Mark 4:35, Jesus said to his disciples, “Let us go to the other side.” So, if Jesus says for us to go, it doesn’t matter what storm you are going through, we should have the blessed assurance that we are going to make it.

So, for the believer it’s not when we make it, but why we made it. You see, it’s the “why” we made it that makes us important.

It’s the size of our storm that makes us important. Because the size of your storm can be directly related to the size of your assignment that God has planned for your life.

PRESTON BROWN

A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE




Four Tops  
Mark C. Smith Concert  
Hall - Von Braun Center  
Huntsville, Ala.  
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June 3-4

“Lift Every Voice”  
Regional Choral Festival  
hsvmasterchorale.org

June 6

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Huntsville Bible College  
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reg@hbc1.edu



You see, we are important because of what lies ahead of us on the other side of the storm.

But my question is “what assignment has God given you after your storm?” After your storm, you have a testimony that can change lives, as well as save lives and provide the spiritual healing that a person may need.

So, there is no need to be afraid when you are in a storm. We just need to remember the one who can calm the storms of life ... Stay encouraged, my brothers and sisters ... and, make sure you purchase your copy of my book, “A Champion Game Plan for Life” on amazon.com.

COVID-19 Assistance

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disastercustomerservice@sba.gov  
(800) 659-2955

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Alabama Department of Labor  
(866) 234-5382  
labor.alabama.gov

MADISON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
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Alabama Department of Public Health  
www.alabamapublichealth.gov  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
cdc.gov

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https://hsvchamber.org/restaurant-deliveries-take-out-food-service-providers/



## PowerShot

"It is more often in our darkness that we find our light..."

J. T. Moore



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"There are years that ask questions and years that answer."

- Zora Neale Hurston

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## THE VALLEY WEEKLY ALL FOR THE FAMILY Mother's Day Quotes

On May 8, 2022, many people throughout the world will celebrate their mothers. Sadly, my four younger siblings and I were devastated when our 30-year-old mother transitioned to her heavenly home four days after my 11th birthday.

Praise almighty God for blessing us with maternal and paternal grandparents who took us in and lovingly raised us.

Following are some of my favorite mother's day quotes:

· "Mother's day honors the greatest mother who ever lived ... YOUR MOTHER."

· "Of all the gifts that God gave me, I am so grateful that He



Dr. Margaret J. Kelly

gave me my MOTHER."

· "One of the best gifts a father can give his children is to love their mother."

· "There is no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a loving mother."

· "MOM turned upside down

spells WOW!

· "To the world you are my mother, to me, you are my world."

· "Some women are mothers because they courageously stepped up and stepped in to do whatever needed to be done to show love for a child."

· "A mother is one who takes the place of others, but whose place no one else can take."

· "Thank God for a praying mother."

· "Say not in grief that your mother is no more, but rather rejoice with gratitude that she was your mother while on her journey called life."

· "To my children ... If I had to choose between loving you and breathing, I would use my last breath to say,

I Love You!

### Sources:

goodhousekeeping.com  
idlehearts.com  
lovingthispic.com  
pinterest.com



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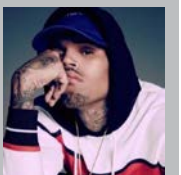
### JAZZ IN THE GARDEN DIAMOND

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Bryant Bank  
Nola VanPeursem Architects  
Redstone Federal Credit Union  
Truist Bank  
AUM Foundation  
Trav-Ad Signs

### JAZZ IN THE GARDEN BLUE EAGLE

Mazda Toyota Manufacturing

**MAY 5 - CHRIS BROWN** - Brown has sold over 100 million records worldwide, making him one of the world's best-selling music artists. Throughout his career, Brown has won several awards, including a Grammy Award, 15 BET Awards, 4 Billboard Music Awards, and 6 Soul Train Music Awards. According to Billboard, Brown has the seventh most Hot 100 entries on the chart with 91 - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com



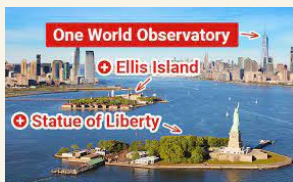




## Graduating from your “Ellis Island” to your “Statue of Liberty”

And He said, “Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed” Genesis 32:28.

After Jacob wrestled all night with both God and against his past self-ishness, God renamed him “Israel”; his descendants and country still bear this name.



Jacob prevailed because he moved from failing self-confidence to embracing his new “God-confidence.”

Immigrants “graduating” from Ellis Island to the Statue of Liberty illustrate this transition.

National Ellis Island Family History Day commemorates April 17, 1907, when a record 11,747 immigrants were processed through that New York Harbor port of disembarkation, located near the Statue of Liberty.

From 1892 to 1924, Ellis Island became the first step for some 12 million immigrants to become U.S. citizens; yet, Lady Liberty represented their ultimate goal of American freedom.

Similarly, your and my quests for true freedom begin by pursuing self-confidence, but that first step must soon elevate to acquiring total dependence on God, “God-confidence.”

Again, back to New York Harbor, . . .

For these new U.S. arrivals, Ellis Island was just their first milepost en route to more permanent American destinations.

Ellis Island was not where for example they could plant gardens, hang curtains, or family mementos. Why? This was simply their first step in pursuing their ultimate goal of freedom, symbolized by Lady Liberty.

Likewise, when you and I pursue anything beginning with “self” - e.g., self-esteem, self-worth, or self-confidence - it represents a necessary first step. Unfortunately, too many of us get comfortable and are stuck indefinitely as its hostages.

Ellis Island “alumni” such as comedian Bob Hope, Albert Einstein, and Harlem Renaissance writer Claude McKay didn’t get stuck there; instead, they used that first step as their springboard to American freedom and success.

Neither you nor I need to remain on dead-end streets beginning with the word “self.”

Yes, let’s begin now at our “Ellis Island of self,” but then let’s graduate to our Lady Liberty of God-confidence.

Officials at Alabama A&M University proudly announce the outstanding individual selected for the distinction of “Alumna of the Year.”

Henrika Buchanan is a fourth-generation AAMU “Bulldog” and a 1997 and 1999 graduate. Buchanan is an active member of the Washington DC Metro Chapter of the Alabama A&M Alumni Association, Inc. Her chapter engagement involves focusing on fundraising and scholarship activities to ensure a pipeline of young, talented prospective AAMU students from the District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia. On a broader level, Buchanan is also a member of the national fundraising committee for the Alabama A&M Alumni Association, Inc., and was newly elected member-at-large. She most recently has been appointed to the University’s Alumni Advisory Council by AAMU President Daniel K. Wims.

She currently serves as a National Practice Consultant and Vice President for HNTB Corporation, one of the leading transportation infrastructure design firms in the country. Buchanan is a former Senior Executive at the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) with over 20 years of experience, including administering the federal transit funding program at the Regional and Headquarters levels, and directing the transit safety, major capital project oversight and program oversight compliance programs.

The Normalite has also served in the FTA as Associate Administrator for Transit Safety and Oversight, as well as Chief Safety Officer of FTA, where she was responsible for establishing and implementing the federal safety regulatory framework. Buchanan also served as the Associate Administrator of Program Management at FTA and was responsible for an annual \$12 billion funding program and

the federal oversight of more than \$117 billion in capital investment grants with transit agencies across the nation.

Buchanan is a native of Hillsboro, Ala., and currently resides in Alexandria, Va. She is the daughter of Gloria Buchanan (c/o ‘67) and Henry Buchanan (c/o



Alabama A&M University. She received her law degree from Georgetown University

‘70), and a member of the Historic Alfred Street Baptist Church. Buchanan received a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and the Master of Urban and Regional Planning degree from

Law Center.

Buchanan will be honored at the Founder’s Day Convocation on the AAMU campus on Friday, May 6, at 4 p.m. in the T.M. Elmore Building. She will be honored again at the AAMU Alumni Association’s awards and scholarship luncheon on Saturday, May 7, at 11 a.m.

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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## Commitment to Purpose

Mark 14:32-42

*This is a lesson that every child of God needs to learn well and what better Teacher than Jesus.*

The classroom is The Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus is there with three of His disciples and He had them to wait for Him in an



assigned spot while "He went a little further." By this act Jesus is teaching us that in order to fulfill one's purpose in life, there must be *separation* of some kind. Whether it is from family, friends or familiar surroundings, there has to be separation because purpose is always progressive and at some point those who are with you will have to fall behind, but it must be done by the one who is making the journey. As Jesus knelt to pray, He called on the One who had called Him for the purpose for which He was born. Therefore, the second lesson is that in order to fulfill one's purpose, not only will there have to be a *separation*, but also a



seeking of the will of God. Three times Jesus asked to be relieved from drinking from the cup. Each time He added, "Nevertheless, not My will but Thy will be

done." The final lesson after separation and seeking is *submission*. Jesus emerged from the Garden with an understanding of human fragility, no longer depen-

dent on perfect human faithfulness, and no longer disappointed in human failure. This is what it takes to start and stay *committed to purpose*.

## This Sunday's Lectionary



Sunday, May 1, 2022  
Third Sunday of Easter

(Track 2 - Year C)  
Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)  
Revelation 5:11-14  
John 21:1-19  
Psalm 30

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Rosetta James Foundation "Spotlight on Our Elders" ... Featuring

## Mr. Freeman Holifield

Freeman Holifield, Sr., retired in 1998 from the U.S. Missile Munitions Center and School, Redstone Arsenal, as supervisory instructional/educational systems specialist (Emeritus). He received the Commander's Award (1983) for his outstanding managerial and supervisory accomplishments.

One of six children born in Bessemer, Ala., to the late Fred B. Holifield, Sr., and Essie L. Holifield, he attended Dunbar High School and then joined the U.S. Army, where he proudly served as an administrative specialist, both stateside and in Korea. Upon receiving his Honorable Discharge in 1962, he pursued and earned a B.S. degree in secondary education at Alabama A&M University (AAMU) in 1966 and completed his master's degree in education administration and supervision in 1972 while working full-time.

During the early 1960s, the modern Civil Rights Movement was bringing about great social change in the U.S. and change was coming to Huntsville, Ala., as well. In late 1964, Holifield became the first African American police officer to be promoted to the position of traffic officer in the elite traffic division. Within a few months he trained and was promoted as the first black motorcycle officer.

After leaving the Huntsville Police Department in 1966, he began a new career

with the U.S. Ordnance Missile & Munitions Center and School (USAOMMCS) at Redstone Arsenal, Ala., as an electronics instructor. The Civil Rights Movement had extended to Redstone Arsenal, and minorities were employed to work in many of the different agencies. Desegregation was difficult, but over the years many minorities who faced the hardship of working in a hostile environment became outstanding employees.

During his 33 years of employment with the federal government, Holifield held numerous positions at USAOMMCS, where he served as a training instructor/developer in missile electronics. He was the first developer to complete a course of instructions under the new guidelines of Systems Engineering. Throughout his career with USAOMMCS, he also served two tours overseas in West Germany. Upon his return from the second tour to USAOMMCS in 1983, he was assigned as a Senior Evaluator, and later promoted as the first black Supervisor as Chief of Internal Evaluation Division at USAOMMCS, served as Acting Director, Directorate of Evaluation and Standardization and Chief of Staff and Faculty Development Division at USAOMMCS.

Holifield has been affiliated with numerous organizations in the communities. Over the years, he has been recognized for his job related



duties as well as for his volunteer work. He and the late Charles Winslow were the host and co-host of "Talkfest," a community affairs talk show that aired on WAFF-TV 48 (NBC) for 14 years.

He has headed the AAMU Alumni Association, Inc.; the Alabama A&M University Community Resource Group; Omega Psi Phi Fraternity (#292), Past Basileus (3 times) of Xi Omicron Chapter; Nobles of Mystic Shrine (AE-ANOMS); Honorary Past Imperial Potentate; Past Imperial Deputy of Desert Alabama; Past Imperial Deputy of Oasis Huntsville; Past Potentate Al Azhar Temple 195; Past President of Deep South Shriners; and many others.

He was married to the late Janie Adams of Sheffield, Ala., and is the father of two: Dr. Quintaniay Holifield of Baltimore, Md., and Lt. Colonel Freeman Holifield, Jr. He is also the proud grandfather of Freeman Holifield, III.

"Spotlight on Our Elders" is a weekly feature sponsored by the Rosetta James Foundation to promote volunteerism and activism in our community among those who are 70-plus. The Foundation also provides scholarships. Learn more about us at [www.rosettajamesfoundation.org](http://www.rosettajamesfoundation.org). Know an outstanding elder (70+) that you would like to see featured? Send us a photo and 250-word write-up to [info@valley-weeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valley-weeklyllc.com).

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Alabama A&amp;M University



# The Investiture of the 12th President of Alabama A&M University

## DR. DANIEL K. WIMS

Friday, April 29, 2022 - T. M. Elmore Building

*Photos by Jerome Saintjones*

