

POSITIVE-INSPIRATIONAL-EDUCATIONAL

# Happy Father's Day!

## Whatever the Father Does," p. 6

Friday

June 18, 2021

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ValleyWeeklyllc.com

# FREE

**SALUTE!**

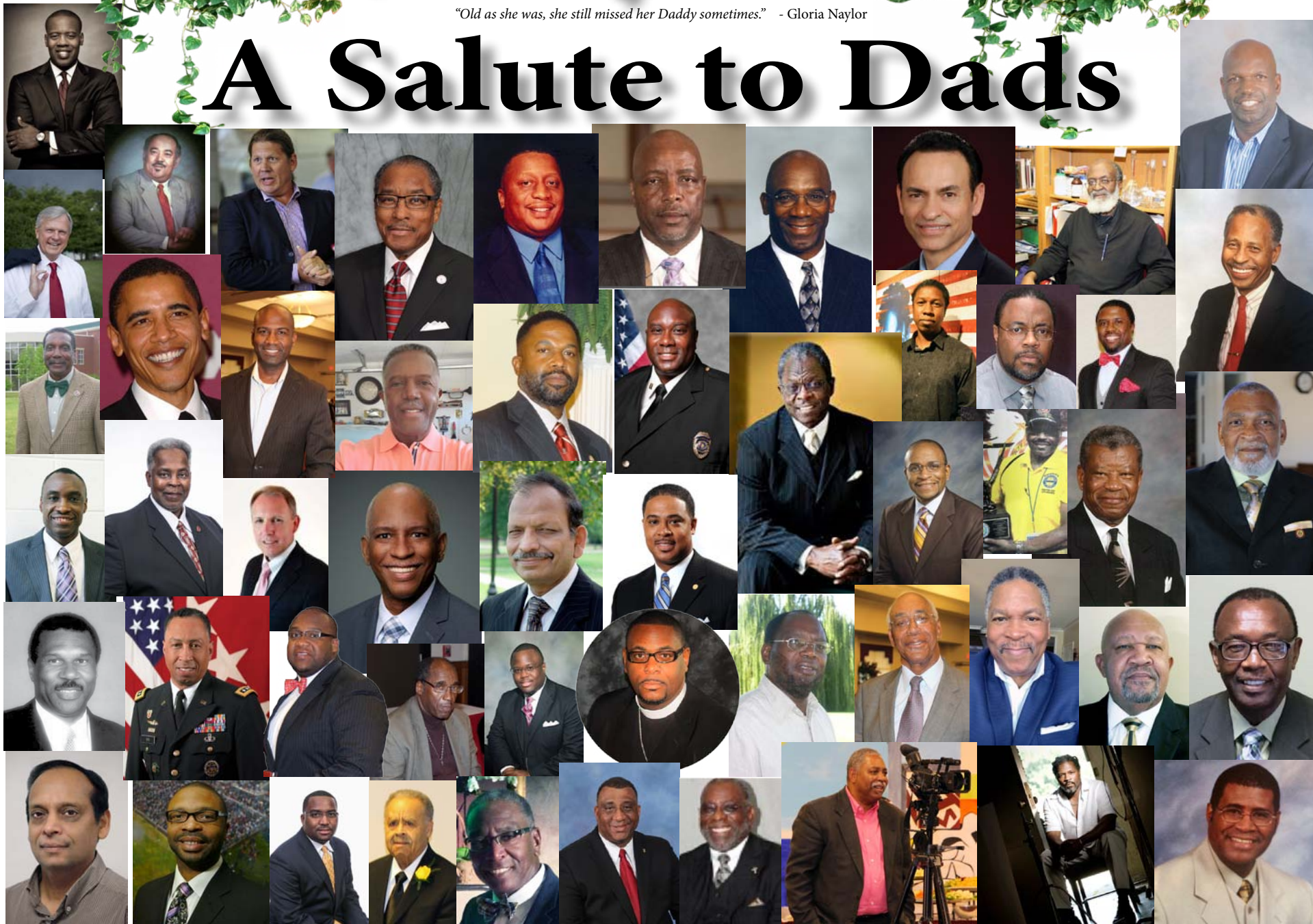
Rosetta James Foundation  
ELDER OF THE WEEK

Dr. Richard Showers, Sr.



"Old as she was, she still missed her Daddy sometimes." - Gloria Naylor

# A Salute to Dads





# UAH Alum Becomes Ms. Black Alabama USA 2021

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Brittnie Granville, an alumna of The University of Alabama in Huntsville (UAH) has been named Ms. Black Alabama USA 2021 and is using her platform to advocate for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) awareness.

Granville earned her B.S. in Acquisition Management from UAH in 2011. After a stint with the federal government as an Operations Research Analyst, the alumna turned entrepreneur, partnering with her daughter, Brailynn Camille, who is autistic, to create a Mommy and Me brand called 'My RICH Little Best Friend' to encourage parents to create passive streams of income as sources to build wealth for their children.

She is also the COO of her daughter's company, Brailynn Camille Enterprises LLC, which is the parent company of the brand and a non-profit organization, 'The Ausome Kid'. The purpose of the organization is to spread Autism awareness, promote acceptance and encourage inclusion of children and families who are impacted by Autism and other special needs.

In April, Brailynn's first book in her series "Adventures of the Ausome Kid," "Brailynn goes to Paris, France," was published. The series focuses on encouraging children to let their imagination take them on educational adventures around the world.

Granville is a member of multiple service organizations that give back to the community, including the UAH Omicron Zeta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Greater Huntsville Chapter, and the Black Girl



Social Club. Her passion for helping others has expanded internationally to support the Kliptown Youth Program in Soweto, South Africa, with money and school supplies, as well as contributing efforts to the Clean Water Initiative with the KMJ Foundation to

provide clean water for developing villages in Accra, Ghana, Africa.

Granville has also used her title to encourage literacy in children by reading and donating over 150 books to local elementary schools, helping dancers at performing arts studio, speaking to groups of young girls and supporting national causes during their respective months, such as

Women's History Month, Autism Acceptance Month, Endometriosis Awareness Month, Mental Health Awareness Month and others.

Born and raised in Florence, Alabama, the UAH alumna has been involved with pageants for much of her life, depending on her inner strength to lift her above the day-to-day challenges she was facing.

- Russ Nelson, UAH.edu



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THE VALLEY WEEKLY

VALLEY DEATHS

**NELMS MEMORIAL FUNERAL HOME**  
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Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-8189

Graveside service for MR. SEAN MARTINEZ FRIEND (b. 1993) will be Saturday, June 12, at 12 p.m. at New Hope CPCA #2 Cemetery with Minister Marcus Friend officiating.

Public viewing for MR. JAMES WRIGHT (b. 1953) was held Thursday, June 10, at Nelms Memorial Funeral Home.

Graveside service for MR. SAM MOORE, III (b. 1977) was held Thursday, June 10, at Valley View Memorial Gardens.

**ROYAL FUNERAL HOME**  
4315 Oakwood Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35810 - (256) 534-8481

Graveside service for MRS. WILLIE ALINE NORVEL HAMMONDS (b. 1944) will be 12:00 noon, Wednesday, June 16, at the Valhalla Memory Gardens (698 Winchester Road NE, Huntsville, Ala.) with Pastor Endia J. Scruggs officiating.

Graveside service for MRS. NAOMI LILLIAN SHELTON CLARK (b. 1919) will be 11 a.m., Sunday, June 13, at Meadowlawn Garden of Peace (450 Mount Lebanon Road, Toney, Ala.) with Pastor Toussaint Williams officiating.

Funeral service for MR. KYREON TYRIQUE BONE (b. 2003) will be 2 p.m., Saturday, June 12, at Hopewell Missionary Baptist Church (292 Cemetery Road, New Market, Ala.).

Funeral service for MR. MARVIN LEON ROBINSON (b. 1954) will be 12:30 p.m., Saturday, June 12, at Royal Chapel of Memories (4315 Oakwood Avenue NW, Huntsville, Ala.) with Elder Sandy Kinslow officiating.

Committal service for MRS. SADIE MAE BURKS (b. 1920) was held Thursday, June 10, at Burks Cemetery (768 Pettus Road, Madison, Ala.).

Funeral service for MS. ADRIANE WILSON (b. 1978) was Tuesday, June 8, at James and Virginia Davis Chapel, 725 Beech Street, Louisville, Ga.

**SERENITY FUNERAL HOME**  
2505 University Drive NW  
Huntsville, AL 35816 - (256) 539-9693

Funeral Service for MR. HERMAN COSTOS CANCEL (b. 1928), MR. ALEX WEST (b. 1990), MR. MACK GRIZZARD, JR., MRS. PATRICIA ANN GRAY, MR. NATHAN DEAN and MS. SHELIA HOWARD will be announced at a later date.

The Valley Weekly

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

CHAMPION GAME PLAN

PRESTON BROWN

**A FATHER'S LOVE THROUGH DISCIPLINE**

Hebrews 12:11 says, "No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it".

When I read this scripture, I thought back to my own life when my father, the late Pastor John M. Brown, disciplined me but most importantly when I disciplined my own children as a father. You see, my father and mother believed in discipline and so did I. I'm sure that I can speak for both of my parents when I say that they disciplined me because they loved me. I bring this up to say that today we are living in a time where many parents are "sparing the rod", as it pertains to discipline. Now I am not suggesting that we spank our children all the time,

however, sometimes "time out" is just not enough. Like the writer of Hebrews says, it's okay for discipline to "not be" pleasant.

Now, the word discipline means the practice of training people to obey rules using punishment to correct disobedience. Now I know that it doesn't always have to be physical, however it should get a child's attention. You see, I can still remember the times when my father disciplined me. And just for the record, most of the time it was not pleasant. However, looking back on those times I realized that he loved me and cared enough about me, to see that I wouldn't do anything to harm myself or anyone else. This is the reason why any kind of discipline is necessary, and we need to share with our children the reason for discipline. Because it is designed to produce a generation of people that will make



good choices.

That's why God disciplines His children as well, and it is designed to produce a harvest of righteousness and peace so that we can make good choices in our lives, just like my Father taught me, our heavenly father teaches us to choose this day whom you will serve, will it be God or man. Then He teaches us to seek first the kingdom of heaven and it's righteousness and all other things will be added unto you. And just like my father shared with me, our Heavenly Father instructs us on how to live a righteous life when he says in His word, "I set before you life and death, choose life so that you and your children will live.



You see, a good father will love you through his discipline. Just like when our heavenly father disciplines us. That's why we need to realize that discipline is for our good, to bring out a good purpose for our lives. Jeremiah 29:11 says, for I know the plans that I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

You see, my fathers discipline was to benefit me, not to harm me. Just like our Heavenly Fathers' discipline is to benefit us. So let us not lose heart when our earthly Fathers or our heavenly Father is disciplining us, but let us celebrate the fact that God loves us and cares enough about us to see that we do well in all that we do.

Happy Heavenly Fathers Day, Dad, and thank you for loving me even when I needed discipline ... stay encouragedm my brothers and sister.

Make sure you purchase a copy of my book, A CHAMPION GAME PLAN FOR LIFE, at amazon.com

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TVW Columnist Robert Drake

## Perspectives from a Former Governor

For decades, Don Siegelman was a dominating figure in Alabama politics, holding the offices of secretary of state, attorney general, lieutenant governor and governor. He served as Alabama's governor from 1999 to 2003, the last Democrat to hold the position in the conservative state.

Siegelman was released from prison in 2017 after serving a six-year sentence for his conviction on charges of bribery and obstruction of justice. Siegelman maintained his innocence and unsuccessfully waged a lengthy battle in court, and in the media, to try to overturn his conviction.

How was the staunch Democrat able to rise through the ranks in what many argue is the "reddest" of states in America? And, how has time shaped his perspectives?

"My experience in prison, and the death of George Floyd brought back several things to me," commented Siegelman. "One should find a purpose in every situation. God put us here ... Why are we here? I concluded that God was saying to me, 'Look, governor, you see what's wrong ... Go fix it.'"

Like millions, Siegelman, too, has watched the injustices against African-Americans, seeing Michael Brown and George Floyd murdered, with no justice brought for their deaths at the hands of police. "The simple solution to holding police accountable is to have a lawyer in the grand jury when the prosecutor is supposed to present ALL the evidence regarding the police misuse of force," Siegelman said. "Prosecutors get 99 percent of the indictments they want, yet when it comes to holding police accountable for the death of a black man or woman, the percentage drops precipitously."

He linked this to the fact that there is no lawyer or judge in the grand jury. He

noted that prosecutors have been given carte blanche by the court to hold false evidence or false testimony and to withhold exculpatory evidence.

"U.S. citizens do not have a constitutional right NOT to be framed," added Siegelman. He went on to reference two black men who spent 25 years in prison for a crime they did not commit. He emphasized that Congress must act and that immunity must be eliminated. The former governor is even urging President Biden to consider an executive order instructing the U.S. Attorney General that in a case where there is an allegation of the abuse of power by law enforcement against people of color, the family member of the victim should be allowed to have a lawyer present in the grand jury.

"Benjamin Crump should have been allowed to be in the grand jury," said Siegelman. "Had that happened in the Trayvon Martin case, charges likely would have been brought. Having a lawyer in the grand jury for the family is a 'check on truth.'"

He said another positive for having a lawyer present would be "to assure that the grand jurors are racially balanced and unbiased. It would also be of comfort to the public when police have no charges brought against them when there is an appearance of excessive use of force. Siegelman believes his proposal would help instill more faith in the criminal justice system.

Further, on another note, Siegelman believes a pivotal moment is rising when President Biden must make a decision regarding the Democratic Senator Joe Manchin from West Virginia.

"It's time for Manchin to choose a side," Siegelman said. "He's either on the side of protecting the right the vote, or he will be on the side of those

looking to suppress that right." He added that West Virginia's dependency on the tax dollar is significant—even much more so than Alabama. "He (Manchin) can't support blocking the African American vote, and still look to accept the government assistance his state so desperately needs."

When asked what his own state needs to do to move forward, Siegelman replied: "There is much that we need to do and can do. But, keeping in mind the way to improve the lives of working families is, in my judgement, assuring that our children are able to reach their God-given talents, then making sure that kids are able to succeed through the educational process is key. Finally, if they graduate high school, they are guaranteed education. Do their work, stay out of trouble, make their grades ... then there is something in it for them."

He further stressed the importance of focusing on early learning and providing inroads to free college/higher education. He said international leaders such as Toyota, Hyundai, Mercedes, Honda have justified their coming to Alabama because they saw the state was "turning a corner" and leaving its past behind. "We must take the right position on questions that reflect our past," reflected Siegelman. "We must not allow people to think that we are tied to our racist past. We've moved on, and folks should see us through other eyes. Finally, how we treat the least of these—the handicapped, homeless, etc. No one should go to bed homeless, hungry and without healthcare. There is a great need to focus on those issues."

Siegelman's #1 book, "Stealing our Democracy," is available at Amazon.com.



## PowerShot

"Fathering is not something perfect men do, but something that perfects the man."

Frank Pittman



"Somebody, your father or mine, should have told us that not many people have ever died of love. But multitudes have perished ... for the lack of it."

- James Baldwin

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[labor.alabama.gov](http://labor.alabama.gov)

### MADISON COUNTY

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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### LATEST

### COVID-19

### INFORMATION

Alabama Department of Public Health

Health

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov](http://www.alabamapublichealth.gov)

Centers for Disease Control  
and Prevention  
[cdc.gov](http://cdc.gov)

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



## Thanks, Dad, for My Life's Alley-oop!

*"Teach a child to choose the right path, and when he is older, he will remain upon it." - Proverbs 22:6.*

According to Solomon, when you role-model for children first by example, as they mature they'll follow that example.

My Dad and namesake, Thomas Gray Allston (1917-2004), served as my role model against the odds.

### No More "Papa Was a Rollin' Stone" Here

Dad never knew his father, as characterized by The Temptations' 1972 hit song. He instead supplemented that lack with an ironclad faith in his heavenly Father, an unquenchable passion for lifelong learning, and being a below-the-radar servant leader. Those early values and practices paid off.

### The Potential 1972 Seismic Shift

After 21 years of marriage and raising us children in the greater Boston area, in 1972 my parents accepted administrative staff positions at Mom's alma mater Oakwood College. Because of her degree, she received a job that outranked Dad's. She then became the family's primary breadwinner.

Dr. Emerson Miller in his book, *Why Black Men Don't*

Attend Church, recounted that in the 1970s the doors of employment opportunity opened but mostly for college-educated Black women. The income gap widened, creating rivalry and tension often in marriages. But not so with Dad.



Not only did Dad never complain, but he served as Mom's biggest cheerleader. Consequently, Mom taught across eight consecutive decades. In retirement, she became an educational consultant in Russia, Hatchechubbee, Alabama and Pensacola, Florida, the Cayman Islands, and finally in northern China. All this happened with Dad's support for Mom and his role modeling for us kids.

### "What They See is What They'll Be"

Before he headed to work nightly as a Massachusetts General Hospital nurse's aide, I watched Dad routinely reading his Bible and its study quarterly, and Prevention and Time magazines; that birthed my passion-turned-profession of pairing news events with Bible study.

Dad influenced my younger sister Tonya's Crestwood Hospital nursing career. Additionally, my older sister Dawn's playing piano and clarinet - and my playing piano and saxophone - also came directly from Dad's example.

While Mom as an educator read vocationally, Dad's reading avocationally became my lifelong standard.

Thanks, "namesake Dad," for giving me your name, your standards, and your mantle of silver-mettle leadership.

You can hear my sermonic tribute to Dad, by clicking on <https://bit.ly/3v4HBVe> and be blessed. Thank you.

Thomas Gray ("tim allston") Allston, III is the author of *U.S. Politics The Rise of Silver-Mettle Leaders* (now on Amazon), and the author-narrator of *The U.S. Coronavirus Crisis and the Rise of the "Silver-Mettle" Leaders* audiobook, with a free sample chapter, when you click on <https://bit.ly/3xiZhP9>.

## Drake Friends of the Library Hold Tea

Supporters of Drake State Community & Technical College gathered on Saturday, June 12, for the Friends of the Library Afternoon Tea. The event was one of several planned to help the college celebrate its 60th anniversary.

The S.C. O'Neal Library and Technology Center, named for Drake State's first president, is a hub of information for students, faculty and the community. The Friends of the Library program is one way the community can support



the college through the Drake State Foundation.

Guests at the event were treated to a special menu prepared by Drake State culinary instructor Darvin McDaniel and were provided information about the Friends of the Library program. The event was

made especially meaningful by the attendance of Dr. Mary Stanley and Mrs. Nell Bradford, two long-standing supporters of Drake State.

To learn more about the Friends of the Library Program or other ways to support Drake State, contact the Drake State Foundation Development Office at (256) 551-3289 or email [dev@drakestate.edu](mailto:dev@drakestate.edu).

### Captions:

**Photo 1:** Front row (l-r) Dr. Mary Stanley, Nell Bradford, Laura Clift; Back row (l-r) Karen Stanley, Dr. Deloris Smothers, Dr. Carolyn Henderson, Dr. Patricia Sims

**Photo 2:** Drake State Library Staff Carla Clift and Dennis Borden

**Photo 3:** Drake State Student Ambassadors J'Marcus Dobbins, Tarrylon Toney, Jaimie Spray, Michelle Dees





# CALLLED 2 PREACH

REV. MICHAEL RICE

## Whatever the Father Does

**Matthew 3:17; John 5:19**

Whatever mystery surrounded the duality and blending of the human and divine natures of Jesus when He walked on

this earth, what is not a mystery is the honor He brought to the sacred duty of Fatherhood. Without being disrespectful, dismissive or divisive, I believe



Jesus would have trouble with the uneven way that Mother's Day and Father's

Day are looked upon in our society. Not as many Hallmarks get sold on Father's Day as on Mother's Day. That is also due to a misunderstanding on the part of fathers as to the gravitas of that role. Jesus helps us with that because He paints a portrait of the roles and responsibilities

of fathers and children in these words; *So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, (visible example) that the Son does likewise (viable and verifiable emulation) (ESV).*

In Matthew 3:17 we hear the voice from heaven saying, *This is My Beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.* That is *verbal encouragement.* That is one of the most powerful things a father can do for his children. As fathers, we cannot adopt the 'do as I say and not as I do' mantra.' That



is both irresponsible and irreconcilable behavior. Jesus has shown the way; walk therein. This will make Father's Day happy and holy.

THE VALLEY WEEKLY

# VALLEY EVENTS

HAPPENINGS, ACTIVITIES & MORE



**Thru July 4**

Exhibit  
"Tell Their Story: Remembering the Scottsboro Boys"

Sponsors:

Burritt on the Mountain, Francis Tate with CEOTA, John Allison and the Morgan County Archives, and The Scottsboro Boys Museum Scottsboro, Ala. The Burritt Museum

**June 17-18**

2021 Entrepreneurs & In-

novators Conference  
"Overcoming F.E.A.R."  
(False Evidence Appearing Real)  
[www.alblackcc.org](http://www.alblackcc.org)

**June 18**

Alabama A&M University Board of Trustees Ernest L. Knight Reception Center, 10 a.m.

**June 19**

Greater Huntsville June-teenth Drive-In Freedom Festival (Free Admission)

Lakeside United Methodist Church  
3738 Meridian Street, N. Huntsville, Ala.  
10 a.m.-5p.m.

**July 9**

Reba McEntire Propst Arena Von Braun Center 8 p.m.

**September 30**

Kenny G Concert Hall Von Braun Center

**JUNE 18 - TRIPPIE REDD (Michael Lamar White IV) in July 2018 announced his debut album, Life's a Trip, which debuted at number four on the Billboard 200 Album Chart selling 72,000 album-equivalent units. White earned his highest Billboard 200 charting in November 2018 with A Love Letter to You 3, debuting at number three. - BlackCelebrityBirthdays.com**



*"I cannot think of any need in childhood as strong as the need for a father's protection."*

- Sigmund Freud

*"Every parent is at some point the father of the unreturned prodigal, with nothing to do but keep his house open to hope."*

- John Ciardi

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

## Dr. Richard Showers, Sr.

Dr. Richard Showers, Sr., earned the B.S. degree in agribusiness education from Alabama A&M University. He went on to pursue the M.S. degree in trade and industrial education, also from AAMU.

Dr. Showers, representing District 1, was first elected to the Huntsville City Council in 1988. Dr. Showers retired on July 1, 2005, from the Huntsville City School System, where he was a career technical education teacher. He is currently employed by the Huntsville Center for Technology as a basic career education teacher.

Dr. Showers has served on numerous planning commissions and boards that are instrumental to the successful growth and development of Huntsville. These boards include: Planning Commission, Metropolitan Planning Committee, Clean Community Committee, Historical Preservation Authority, Zoning Subcommittee, and the Local Emergency Planning Committee and the Top of Alabama Regional Council of Governments.

He is currently a member of the National Education Association, Alabama Education Association,



Huntsville Education Association, Community Action Agency Trustee Board, Alabama A&M University Trustee Board. Dr. Showers is a deacon at the Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church.

Showers is the president of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Laymen's Movement, first vice president of the National Baptist Layman's Movement, and a trustee at Selma University, Selma, Alabama. He also is a life member of the NAACP, life member of the Alabama A&M Alumni

Association, Inc.; and life member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

He has been honored by Alabama A&M University for his continuous support of his Alma Mater and its initiatives, as well as by the Greater Huntsville Interdenominational Ministerial Fellowship, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (Martin Luther King, Jr., Unity Award); the NAACP Award for Excellence; and others.

He and his wife, Bettye Ann, are the proud parents of 5 children.

"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@valleyweeklyllc.com](mailto:info@valleyweeklyllc.com).



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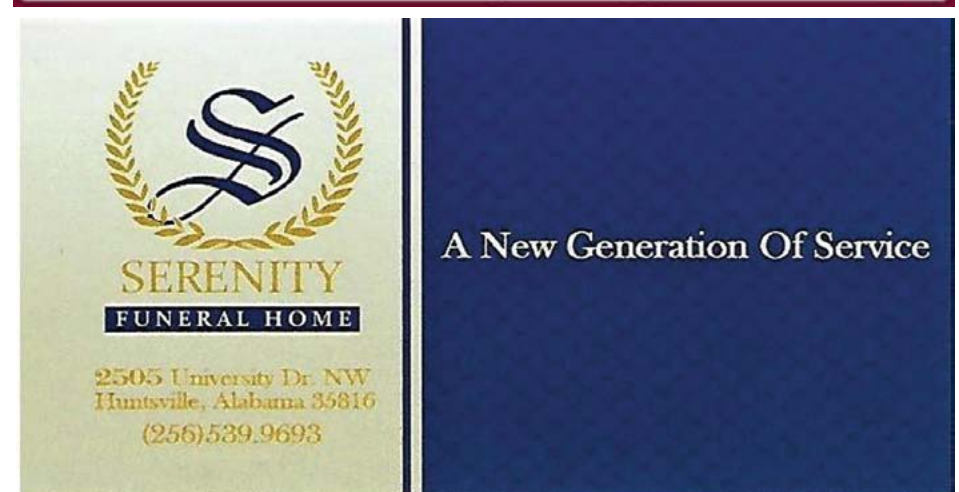
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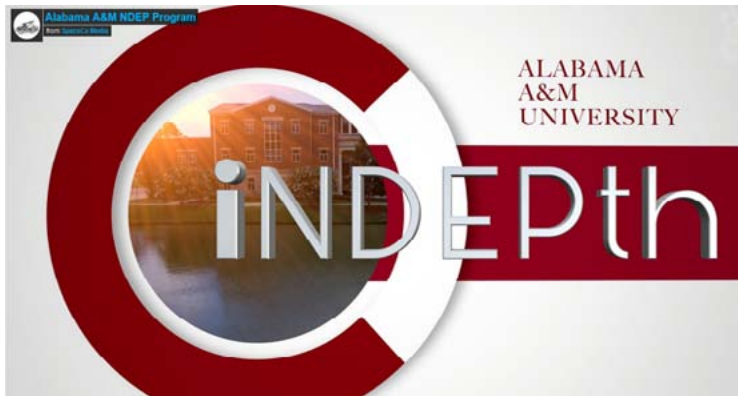
# A&M Program Creating Pipeline for Minority STEM Workforce

Nearly a year ago, a team of science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) professionals from Alabama A&M University received a \$3 million grant from Department of Defense's National Defense Education Program (NDEP).

The aim of the three-year project is to develop a multidisciplinary support system that will nurture tomorrow's STEM pipeline from a growing minority workforce.

Guided by AAMU alumnus, physicist and retired U.S. Army Senior Research Scientist Dr. Paul Ruffin, the team's NDEP proposal was among a dozen selected for \$31 million in funding out of almost 200 submissions. Ruffin, in addition to being the principal investigator (PI), is AAMU RISE chief scientist and a current adjunct professor.

Rounding out the A&M group are Dr. Andrew Scott, co-PI and interim director of AAMU-RISE and professor of electrical engineering; Yvette Clayton, co-PI and director of AAMU's Career Development Services; and Dr. Jonathan Lassiter, program manager and AAMU-RISE research associate. The AAMU



team's proposal was titled "A 3-Step Approach Providing a Pipeline of Skilled Minority STEM Professionals for the DoD Future Workforce."

"The NDEP program was one of the most advantageous programs that I have ever been able to participate in during my collegiate experience," said James Sampson, a physics graduate student. "The amount of exposure, excitement and ability to learn firsthand from experienced professionals that was provided by the NDEP program is something that should be recreated for any student interested in a STEM field."

The AAMU initiative aligns with the goals of the DoD to increase awareness of DoD science and technology priority areas to prepare students for technical careers in national security and defense.

Here, the primary public benefit of this effort is to broaden DoD exposure and employability of participants with secondary benefits to enhance the retention and knowledge base of minority STEM students attending AAMU and its sister MSI institutions, University of Houston-Victoria (UHV) and Navajo Technical University (NTU). This aim will be met at each of these locations and surrounding areas by supplementing the traditional STEM classroom environment with multi-step, year-round programs.

"In NDEP, I learned more about other scientific disciplines and tools," said Kiah Warner, a participant from New Century Technology High School. "I learned more about building my resume, and job interviewing skills. I definitely recommend this program to anyone wanting to learn more about cybersecurity and technological advances."

"I am honored to be on a team that puts equal emphasis on students' technical and professional skill development," explained Career Development Services Director and co-PI Yvette Clayton. "The students that participate in

the NDEP program will gain invaluable hands-on experience, make informed decisions when launching their careers, and be prepared to successfully navigate and advance within the DoD. This is a win-win situation."

"We have awarded certificates of completion of Year 1 to almost 40 students," commented Dr. Lassiter, stressing that participants met virtually twice a week in the 14-week STEM initiative, which started out primarily comprised of university students. The initiative then expanded to include exceptional high schoolers and extended even further to graduate students and

students at two-year institutions of higher learning.

Dr. Ruffin stated that the local footprint of Step 1 of the three-step, three-venue project has heavily depended upon students attracted from Randolph School, New Century School of Technology, Drake State Community and Technical College, Calhoun Community College and Alabama A&M University. However, the program also pulled mentors from Huntsville's businesses, local government sector and industry.

Now, the program is preparing to phase two of the three-step process, noted Lassiter. When all is said and done, AAMU will have played a role in contributing significantly to the preparation of students in



Ruffin

technical careers within the areas of national security and defense.

For additional information, contact Dr. Lassiter at [jonathan.lassiter@aamu.edu](mailto:jonathan.lassiter@aamu.edu). For an informative overview, see a VIDEO about the NDEP program.





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