

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By John J. Williams

Last year, I began my annual message by echoing the promises and hopes of year 2008. One such promise, or hope was that the Prince George's County Board of Education would approve a new replacement for the existing Fairmont Heights High School building, which is more than 50 years old on a 15 acre site. The county's minimum requirement for a high school is 30 acres.

The site and construction funds were approved for the new FHHS building at a cost of more than \$14 million. However, politics plus the present economic crisis start the year 2009 with budget cuts and school closures, six schools in the central area of the county. Nearly 900 school jobs may be cut in 2009.

Nevertheless, 2009 brings more hope about the future. We are all elated about the historic election of Barack Obama, as the first African American in nearly 233 years who made "hope" and "change" the bywords of his campaign and his historic inauguration. President Obama challenged all of us to "pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin to make America what it should be - one nation for all."

As Fairmont Heights High School faces it's 60th year in 2010, those who were students, teachers, staff, and family understand crisis and challenges of a segregated society. Thus, as President

Obama faces the challenges of an economic crisis, job cut, bank bailouts, foreclosures, etc. we, as alumni and friends of Fairmont Heights High School must help bring change that he has asked each of us to do. Here is an opportunity to give your time and energy to help your alma mater. Fairmont Heights High School needs you!

Fairmont Heights High School needs volunteers, mentors, tutors, hall monitors, office assistants, and other assistance as designated by the Principal, Mrs. Nicholson. Call the school at 301-925-1360 and find out how your service can help bring change to your alma mater and to Prince George's County Public Schools. **-Join the Fairmont Heights High School Service Campaign!!**

Notice!!! Volunteers Needed to help plan Fairmont Heights High School's 60th year celebration 2010. Please call 301-336-7913; or E-Mail John J. Williams - sirjaywms@hotmail.com

G. JAMES GHOLSON INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME

The legendary G. James Gholson was inducted into Prince George's County Hall of Fame on September 29, 2008.

At a ceremony held at G. James Gholson Middle School (named in his

honor), Mr. Gholson, first principal of Fairmont Heights High School in 1950,



First Principal G. James Gholson speaking at the 50th anniversary celebration for Fairmont Heights HS in November 2000.

was recognized for his role as an educator and in the desegregation of Prince George's County Public Schools. A portrait of Mr. Gholson was unveiled by artist Jim Masters during the ceremony. The portrait will hang in the middle school as a reminder to students and visitors of an educator who demanded excellence of his teachers and students.

Principal Jeff Parker, Delegate Joanne Benson (D.24), alumni of Fairmont Heights High School, and friend spoke of Mr. Gholson as "a role model" who wanted to see all county students, as well as teachers excel.

Mr. Gholson, who was the first Black Asst. Superintendent of the county schools was

called a "Teacher of Teachers". He died on December 03, 2006 and will be honored each year at the alumni memorial service in December.

2008 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thanks to all who attended our 19th Annual Reunion Dance in April of 2008, to our Life Members and faithful contributors, our Scholarship Fund was able to present \$4,000 to the following Graduates:

Terrell Fletcher	\$500
P.G. Community College	
Andrea Lewis	\$500
Art Institute of Washington	
Leon Gallop	\$1,000
Mercyhurst College - NY	
(John J. Williams Scholarship Fund)	
Vanessa Henry	\$600
University of MD- Eastern Shore	
Galen Kane	\$500
University of MD-Eastern Shore	
Trent Sullivan	\$500
Wesleyan College - Dover	
Melvette Melvin-Davis	\$400
PA State University	

*** DONATIONS .. TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER IRS 501 (C)(3) CODE!!**

SAM JORDAN HONORED AT MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Memorial committee of FHHSAA paid tribute to Sam Jordan, Sr. at the Annual memorial service held at the New Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, in Capitol Heights, MD on

December 03, 2008. Rev. Robert R. Johnson, Sr. is Pastor.

Mr. Jordan, former educator and sports assistant, died on October 25, 2008 in Dorchester, MA. He worked at the DC Post Office for 44 years and at FHHS 28 years. He received a B.S. Degree from Howard University and a M.A. Degree from American University in 1956. Mr. Jordan was loved and respected by all who knew him.

Program participants included Rev. Robert R. Johnson, Sr., '58; Guest Minister, Rev. Julius Johnson, '64 aka "peter Rabbit" (former University of MD. basketball star); Deacon Ralph Calhoun, '65, MC; Morris Graham, '09 and singers; Mary Ann Black, '65; Pierre Crutchfield, '65 Valerie Morrison, '69, Soloist; Thelma Battle, '51, Program Chair; and Denise Haskins, '71, Co-chair; also Michael Marshall, '63 - Program Designer; and the New Mt. Nebo Messengers of Zion Youth Choir.

Closing remarks were made by John Williams, with scholarship donations collected in memory of Sam Jordan, Sr. FHHSAA mourn the loss of Mrs. Bernice C. Crisp, former FHHS teacher, who died February 09, 2009 at 99 years old.

ENDOWMENT

The G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS continues to grow for the benefit of providing merit scholarships to Academically exemplary graduates of FHHS. Given the historic election of President Obama, we hope FHHS students

will follow his path in exceeding their academic goals as they prepare for the rigors of college life. The endowment will be looking for new ways to reaffirm our long standing commitment to moral leadership and scholarship for the public good. We need your help to achieve our goals and to continue celebrating the legacy of Mr. Gholson, in producing a new generation of leaders for the nation and the world.

Although we are proud of our achievements, we still face enormous challenges in widening the pathway to higher education. Today, there are more than one million African-American women in college and around 600,000 Black males. Although both groups are under represented, we must work aggressively to get more Black males engaged in higher education.....for the promise and prosperity of our families.

Given these challenges, we strongly encourage you to support the Fund through the Combined Federal Campaign, in co-operation with the Institute for Black Charities. Please designate your contribution to the G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS, CFC #64559. In addition to the CFC, we appreciate your tax deductible contribution to the fund. Please make checks payable to the G. James Gholson Endowment Fund for FHHS and Mail to:

Barbara Gainey
904 Cox Avenue
Hyattsville, MD 20783

FHHSAA

FHHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P.O. Box 2727
Landover Hills, MD 20784-0727



FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please make check or money order payable to FHHSAA and send to the above address

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zipcode: _____

Year Graduated: _____

Today's Date: _____

Phone Number: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Annual Membership Donation - \$10.00 _____

Lifetime Membership Donation - \$200.00 _____

Student: _____ Faculty: _____ Staff: _____

Donations for Scholarship Fund: \$ _____ Donations for the FHHS Band: \$ _____

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE!!!

Help us by joining and working with a committee

Budget: _____ Endowment: _____ Historical: _____

Membership: _____ Scholarship: _____ Ways And Means: _____

FHHSAA www.fhhsaa.com
FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

20th Annual **DANCE** reunion

FRIDAY, APRIL 24, 2009

10:00 PM UNTIL 2:00AM

AT THE

JAMES R. COUSINS JR. MUNICIPAL CENTER
IN THE GOLD ROOM
8600 GLENARDEN PARKWAY
GLENARDEN, MARYLAND 20706

Tickets \$25.00 - No Sales At The Door

Proceeds To Benefit:

**FAIRMONT HEIGHTS HIGH SCHOOL
SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Disco Music by: 1 LOVE PRODUCTION

B.Y.O.L. - Free Setups

Purchase tickets by mail: FHHS Alumni Association , P.O. Box 2727, Landover Hills , MD 20784-0727
or contact:

LORETTA LIGON.....301-249-2527
LAVATA WOOD.....301-390-2483
CHRISTINE TIGHMAN.....301-627-4867

MICHAEL MARSHALL.....301-773-8248
OTIS BROADWATER.....EBONY INN
JOHN WILLIAMS.....301-336-7913