We Remember...
Before and Beyond
1907-2007

AN OKLAHOMA AFRICAN AMERICAN COLORING BOOK
Mrs. Wadkins was a Registered Nurse. She was the first African American nurse to work in a large hospital in Oklahoma City. In 1945, University Hospital opened a special area to treat African American patients. It was called south ward. It was the first time that African Americans could be admitted as patients. She also started the first school to train other African Americans to be nurses.
Mr. Pickett was a famous cowboy. He and his brother had a business called Pickett Brothers Bronco Busters and Rough Riders. They trained wild horses and caught wild cattle. He also performed at rodeos. He was one of the first black silent movie stars. He was a star performer at the 101 Ranch and Wild West show. His special rodeo trick is now called steer wrestling and is performed at most rodeos.
Mr. Edwards was among the most important businessmen in the Oklahoma City African American community. He owned the American Iron and Metal Company and many other businesses. He built Edwards Addition and Edwards hospital. Mr. Edwards donated the land for Edwards Park and Edwards Elementary School. In 1949, Ebony Magazine listed him as one of the ten wealthiest African Americans in the nation.
Mrs. Hannah Atkins is a very important woman. She was a teacher, librarian, State Representative, Ambassador, Secretary of State, and much more. In 1968, she was the first African American woman elected to the state legislature. President Jimmy Carter appointed her as a delegate to the United Nations in 1980. Governor Henry Bellmon named her Oklahoma Secretary of State in 1987.
Mrs. Breaux was a very good music teacher and business woman. She started the music department at Douglass High School in Oklahoma City. Her high school band classes were always very good. In 1933, they played on national radio at the Chicago World's Fair. In 1936, her band class played at the Texas Centennial celebration in Dallas, Texas. She also owned the Aldridge Theater where famous shows were held.
Mr. Moon helped thousands of students through school. He taught or served as principal at schools in Crescent, Wewoka and Oklahoma City for forty years. He promoted building Douglass High School in 1954. It was the first new high school for African Americans in Oklahoma City. In 1974, Mr. Moon was the first African American to serve as president of the Oklahoma City Board of Education.
Dr. Mason was born in Tulsa, Oklahoma. In 1992, Dr. Mason was the first African American and first woman to serve as the Oklahoma City Schools superintendent. The district then had over 38,000 students. Dr. Mason was voted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame in 1994. Her picture is displayed at the State Department of Education at the State Capitol. In 2003 she published a book, *Closed Chapter*, about her life.
Mr. Gautt was a very good football player. He graduated from Douglass High School in Oklahoma City in 1956. Mr. Gautt was the first African American to play football at the University of Oklahoma. He was the most valuable player in 1959. Mr. Gautt played in the National Football League for seven years. The OU Prentice Gautt Academic Center is the finest student-athlete academic facility in the nation.
Mr. Dunjee was called a civil rights leader. Civil rights are the things that we as Americans can do and enjoy. He owned a newspaper called The Black Dispatch. He wrote many stories to help African Americans. He was a leader in the NAACP. Many times he asked the United States Supreme Court to help with education, voting rights and housing to make life better for African Americans in Oklahoma.
Mr. Hamlin was the first and only African American to serve in the state legislature from 1908 until 1910. No other African Americans would serve in the legislature until 1965. He helped start a school in Taft, OK, for disabled children. The school was named Industrial Institute for the Deaf, Blind, and Orphans of the Colored Race. His portrait is displayed at the state capitol.
Dr. Holloway is a very important leader in education. He was president of Langston University for 25 years. He has helped people all over the world to get an education. The State Legislature thanked him for his many achievements. Dr. Holloway has received over 200 awards and is in the Higher Education Hall of Fame and many others. He grew up in a historically all-black town called Boley.
Mr. McCabe was a man with a dream. He wanted to make Oklahoma a safe place for African Americans to live. He and a friend, Charles Robbins, created the town of Langston, OK. He also helped start a college that African Americans could attend. It was first called the Oklahoma Colored Agricultural and Normal College. It is now called Langston University. He started a newspaper named the *Langston City Herald*. 
Dr. Atkins was a family doctor. He was born in Trinidad, West Indies. He moved to Oklahoma City in 1951. For over three decades he cared for his patients. His peers voted him Doctor of the Year. He organized American State Bank to help his community. He led job training, employment and civil rights organizations. In 1966, he became the first African American to serve on the Oklahoma City Council.
On November 12, 1986, Mrs. Horner became the first African American woman to take the oath as Senator for Oklahoma. Senator Horner established the Oklahoma Jazz Hall of Fame in Tulsa. She also helped create a law to research the Tulsa Race Riot of 1921. This research provided proof of this sad event that occurred in the city of Tulsa. A memorial and park was built in memory of this tragedy.
Mr. Russell was born in Mississippi. He moved to Oklahoma and started a newspaper in Kingfisher. It was called the Constitution. Later he moved to Langston and started a paper called the Western Age. The motto of his newspaper was “Justice and Equality.” Mr. Russell was very brave. He wrote stories encouraging African Americans to vote and demanding fairness in state government.
Mr. Noble came to Oklahoma from Camden, Arkansas. He is remembered for doing something special in history. On June 12, 1910, he helped make Oklahoma City the State Capitol. He helped to carry the State Seal to Oklahoma City. Some people did not want the State Seal to leave Guthrie so soon. Mr. Noble took great risk to get this accomplished. State flags were lowered to honor him following his death.
Mr. Simmons was one of the most important African Americans in the world. His friends in Muskogee, Oklahoma, called him “Jake.” When he was 10 years old he told his father, “I want to be an oil man.” Jake was the first African American to be appointed to the National Petroleum Council. He partnered with oil barons like Mr. William Skelly and Mr. Frank Phillips to purchase oil from the African countries of Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, and Kenya.
Mrs. Luper was a teacher who led by example. Before 1958, many businesses would not serve food to African Americans. In August of 1958, she and her students started a “sit-in” at a restaurant in Oklahoma City. The students just sat in seats knowing that they would not be served any food. Soon the business owners agreed to serve African American customers. It was the first time that African Americans could eat in downtown restaurants. She and her students would “sit-in” at many more businesses.
Mr. Banning and Mr. Allen were the first African American aviators to fly across the United States. They flew from Los Angeles to New York. Mr. Banning and Mr. Allen faced many dangers such as wind, hail, sleet, rain, thunder and lightning. They stopped many times along the way and people would help them and cheer them on. The flight took 21 days and covered a distance of 3,300 miles. Mr. Banning and Mr. Allen are from Oklahoma.
In 1988, Judge Stout became the first African American woman in the United States to serve on a state Supreme Court. It was the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Earlier in 1960, Judge Stout was the first African American woman to be elected to a municipal court. She graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in Wewoka, Oklahoma. Mrs. Stout was a music teacher in Seminole and Sand Springs, Oklahoma, before she attended Indiana University law school.
ADA SIPUEL FISHER (1924-1995)

Mrs. Ada Sipuel Fisher made it possible for African Americans to attend the University of Oklahoma. She wanted to be a lawyer, but African Americans could not attend the law school at the University of Oklahoma. On January 12, 1948, the United States Supreme Court stated that she had a right to study law as much as anyone else. Soon, the laws were changed and African American students were admitted to the University of Oklahoma. Mrs. Fisher became a lawyer in 1951.
Mrs. Stephens was a very successful business woman. She said, “If you make a dollar save a dime.” She taught school for 30 years before starting her first business in 1956. She started taking care of two elder women from her church. As more people came to her for help she moved to bigger buildings. On July 23, 1970, Mrs. Stephens opened Watkins Skyview Nursing Home in Oklahoma City. The 13,644 sq. ft. new building had 68 beds and was the largest African American business owned by a woman in Oklahoma.