



THE INFORMANT

THE VOICE OF THE HISTORIC FREDERICK DOUGLASS HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION, INC.

SUMMER 2021

www.hfdhsaainc.net

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



On behalf of the Executive Board of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc., it gives me pleasure to greet you, the Alumni. This school year 2020-2021 was another year that was

inundated by the fallout of the most horrific pandemic that the world and our nation has experienced. Illness, death, job loss, food lines, evictions of families from their homes and our schools closed, were just some of the problems that plagued our nation. In Addition, political and racial tension, increasing incidents of police brutalities, and an insurrection led against the United States Government threatened the very fiber of our nation. Every aspect of daily life in our nation, our state and our cities has been and continues to be affected.

Like the rest of our nation, our Association has had to adapt from in person meetings and activities to virtual meetings and activities. During this year we have developed and enhanced our website and a HFDHSAA Facebook page.

Thanks to the efforts and achievements of both the medical and scientific communities, we now have a vaccine that is giving us coverage. We still must follow all the precautions suggested to bring this pandemic under control. Each of us has a responsibility to our family and our nation. We urge you to get vaccinated and continue to protect yourself and others by wearing masks in places where you are in direct contact with individuals. We all want to return to the life of normalcy that we deserve. We want to safely return our children to school, attend services in our houses of worship and social events. Encourage your friends and family to adhere to the guidelines established by Federal, State, and Local authorities.

Johnnie Foreman, Jr.
President

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



As Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. I extend to each of you my genuine gratitude for your support, commitment, and dedication to the Association.

Like many groups and organizations in our nation since the spring of 2020, the HFDHSAA has been unable to meet with the membership and communicate to you as we have in precious years. You have continued to support us with monetary gifts that enabled us to continue to provide scholarships to deserving graduating seniors which will assist them in continuing their post high school studies. Additionally, your generosity and the sharing of your talents has assisted us in our continuing efforts to support the Administration of Frederick Douglass High School as it focuses on improving the instructional program and learning environment for our students. Your support has allowed representatives of the Alumni Association along with community leaders and other stakeholders to advocate for the students of FDHS by participating in the feasibility study of the 21st Century Building Program which is planning the renovation of our school.

We are asking for your continued support and participation in the above mentioned and future initiatives that will uplift our alma mater and better prepare our students for twenty-first century careers.

Walter G. Brooks, Sr.
Chairman



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COMMENCEMENT FDHS 2021

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The One Hundred Thirty-Eighth Commencement Exercises of the Frederick Douglass High School was held Wednesday, June 9, 2021, at Five O' Clock P.M. at the Brooks Robinson Baseball Field at Frederick Douglass High School. Graduates, parents, relatives, friends, students, community leaders, members of city and state legislatures, members of the clergy, instructional and support staff, administrators, and members of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association all attended this celebration of excellence for the one hundred eight graduates.

Mr. Craig Rivers, Principal of FDHS issued the Recommendation of the class and the Executive Director of Network Ten did the Presentation of the Class. The Officers of Baltimore City Schools Accepted the Class. The Diplomas were Conferred by Mr. Craig Rivers and the Valedictorian, Shamar Burrell, delivered the Address. Ms. Shirley A. Duncan, First Vice President of the Alumni Association Inducted the Class of 2021 into the Alumni Association.

“Hail, Douglass”



ALUMNI MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please take the time to pay your dues, support your alma mater, come to the meetings, and get involved to help our students succeed. Dues must be paid each year to be current. Dues are for the Fiscal Year- July 1- June 30. If you have not paid for 2021, we need you to do so now. A dated receipt will be issued and mailed to you upon us receiving your payment. Only current members are eligible to receive *the Informant*. Please pay your dues ASAP!!! It is never too late to become a current member. Applications for Alumni membership can be received online or by contacting Patricia Rhodes pwrhodes@comcast.net or (410) 444-8663

OPENING OF SCHOOLS 2021

Baltimore Public Schools will open on Monday, August 30th this year. Mr. Craig Rivers, Principal and his administrative team and staff will greet and welcome Frederick Douglass High School students back to school. In addition to the school's staff, members of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association well be present to lend *Helping Hands* in making the transition back to school a smooth one. The members of the Association look forward to future opportunities to serve the students of Our Alma Mater. *Hail to thee O' Douglass High!*

DOLLARS FOR SCHOLARS

Dollars for Scholar, the HFDHSAA's scholarship program, under the leadership of the Scholarship Committee, has continued to provide scholarships for college accepted qualified seniors. These financial awards are given to assist students with tuition, books, and other related college expenses for the 2021 - 2022 school year. Due to the irregular school schedule, restrictions on in-person instructions and meetings and a decrease in donations to Dollars for Scholars, the Scholarship Committee conducted virtual interviews with qualified candidates and this year the Alumni Association awarded only five (5) two-thousand-dollar scholarships.

HANNIBAL MICKENS A HFDHSAA ICON



The officers, members and alumni of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association, Inc. extends its deepest sympathy and condolences to the family and friends of President Emeritus Hannibal Mickens (1957).

After their 20th year reunion in 1977, the Class of 1957 contacted the school to explore specific ways of providing support. It was determined after discussion with the principal, counselors, and teachers that an Alumni Association should be established. Rev. Vernon Dobson (1941), minister of the Historic Union Baptist Church, volunteered his church for the first general meeting which was held on June 13, 1978.

Hannibal chaired meetings for the purpose of creating a charter, composing a constitution and by-laws, and for creating a nominating slate of officers and a board of directors.

On Sunday, September 17, 1978, at the Historic Union Baptist Church, the installation was held. Congressman Parren Mitchell (1941) was the keynote speaker. The following are some of the elected officers installed: President - Hannibal Mickens, Jr. (1957); 1st Vice President - Eleanor O. Hood (1946); 2nd Vice President - Alma Walker (1933); Financial Secretary - Penelope Taylor (1961); Corresponding Secretary - Patricia Rhodes (1970); Recording Secretary - Patelle Green Harris (1958); and Treasurer - William Holland (1957).

President Mickens, his leadership team and fellow alumni shared visions, some realized, and some not realized like continued support of the legacy of the school's rich history with the restoration of the auditorium at "*Old Douglass High School*" on Carey and Baker Streets.

During his tenure as President, Hannibal worked tirelessly as a leader, counselor, mentor, and friend who was always available to share an encouraging word and demonstrate dedicated support which serving as a guardian working toward restoration of the rich legacy of "*pride, dignity and excellence*" to the Historic Frederick Douglass High School and the Alumni Association.

MILTON M. HILLERY

The officers, members and alumni of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School Alumni Association extends its deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Milton M. Hillery 'June 1960. Mr. Hillery was a genuine former *Douglass Duck* who worked toward the restoration of pride, dignity, and excellence to Frederick Douglass High School. He was a member, mentor and friend who was available to share an encouraging word and demonstrated staunch support.

An example of his loyalty and concern for our alma mater was the role he played in interceding with the management of Osiris Therapeutics, Inc. (his employer) on behalf of the HFDHSAA to acquire all the much-needed furniture and equipment for the Alumni Office. Upon hearing that the Historic Frederick Douglass high school would be the total beneficiary of the furniture and office equipment, Osiris' top-level management and staff additionally donated furniture for the school's College Bound room, the third-floor conference room, the Technology Academy and supplies and furniture for the Science Department valued at an excess of over \$70,000.00. The impact of this gift is indescribable. The Alumni Association will forever be indebted to the benevolent, philanthropic spirit of Osiris and to Milton Hillery a committed and concerned alumnus of the Historic Frederick Douglass High School. **"HAIL O'DOUGLASS HIGH!"**

IN MEMORY OF ...

Binah Phillip Cane 'J 1957
Argentine Bell Cheatham
Elise Clarke '1937
Loretta Inez Dates '1956
John Green '1947
Milton M. Hillery 'J 1960
Florence Jenkins 'J 1960
Jean Vashti Julius Goldsmith '1943
Delores Beverly Mears 'J 1955
Hannibal Mickens 'J 1957
Charlotte Tensley Davenport '1942
Clarence Young



In Memory updates can be sent to Mary C. Radcliffe, Publication Chair. marvcrad@yahoo.com

THE HFDHSAA NEEDS YOU!!!

Calling all alumni! Associates and friends of Frederick Douglass High School to serve as torchbearers in honoring and preserving the history, values, traditions and legacy of our school. In today's society our youth and school needs are many and varied. We need you, your talents and your time. Please consider volunteering to work on one of the Association's Committees. The committees are listed on the back of the Membership Application. Just check your interest and we will contact you. **THANK YOU SO MUCH! WE NEED YOU!**

