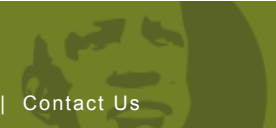




DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

Home | About Us | Exhibits & Events | Membership | Support | Resource Center | Contact Us



LEGENDS

Resource Center

Legends

Local Highlights

Join Our Mailing List

Legends 2008

The Inaugural Legends Ball was a celebration of success, commitment and community – to benefit the wonderful legacy of the Carter G. Woodson African-American History Museum. The evening served as a tribute to the lifetime achievements of thirty-two giants. They represent countless foot soldiers that have fought and persevered so that others could enjoy freedoms that TODAY allow children to dream.

Law Enforcement

The Courageous Twelve

Black police officers who challenged the city of St. Petersburg for the right to patrol all of St. Petersburg.



Law Enforcement

[The Courageous Twelve](#)

[Goliath J. Davis, Ph.D.](#)

Medical

[Dr. Fred Alsup](#)

[Dr. Paul McRae](#)

Education

[George Perkins](#)

[Vyrle Davis](#)

Judicial

[Judge James Sanderlin](#)

[Jeanine Williams, Esq.](#)

Journalism

[Peggy Peterman](#)

[Dr. Karen Dunlap](#)

Entrepreneur

[Cleveland Johnson](#)

[Gene Danzey/PJ Benton](#)

Faith Base

[Rev. Enoch Davis](#)

[Pastor Wayne Thompson](#)

Sports

[Nathaniel Love Brown](#)

[Glen Edwards](#)

Social Justice

[Perkins Shelton](#)

[Sevell Brown](#)

Shakespeare spoke of a "Band of Brothers". St. Petersburg's "Band of Brothers" are known as the "The Courageous Twelve" – Adam Baker, Freddie L. Crawford, Raymond L. DeLoach, Charles Holland, Leon Jackson, Robert V. Keys, Primus Killen, James King, Johnnie B. Lewis, Horace Nero, Jerry Styles and Nathaniel L. Wooten – St. Petersburg's finest who fought for equality. Forty-three years ago, 12 African-American police officers did a stunning thing. They sued their employer, the city of St. Petersburg, in an effort to break the barriers of segregation in the city's police department with a challenge to the city for the right to patrol all of St. Petersburg.

Community Activist

[Iveta Martin Barry](#)

[Pastor Louis Murphy](#)

Radio

[Goldie Thompson](#)

[Diane Hughes](#)

Goliath J. Davis, Ph.D.

St. Petersburg's first Black Police Chief.



Dr. Goliath Davis III – a legend who's example inspires more people than he'll ever know. Davis is St. Petersburg's *first and only* African-American to hold the title of Police Chief. Davis, the eldest son of Beatrice and Goliath Davis – big brother to nine, he has been calling the shots for much of his life. Dr. Goliath Davis – keeper of knowledge gained from studies at some of our nation's finest institutions of higher learning – now sharing what he learned as student with the students lucky enough to call him teacher. Dr. Goliath Davis, III. Father. Husband. Brother. Son. Friend. Leader – LEGEND.

Medical

Dr. Fred Alsup

First Black Doctor to be accepted in Pinellas County Medical Society.



Dr. Fred W. Alsup was the first black doctor to receive full membership in the Pinellas County Medical Society. And, on February 25, 1961, he was also the first physician to admit a black patient to Mound Park Hospital – now Bayfront Medical Center. At the height of our city's divide, Dr. Alsup found himself at the forefront of the city's civil rights movement. He, alongside other legendary leaders: Dr. Ralph Wimbish; Willet Williams; Naomi Williams, Chester James, Jr. and Harold Davis filed a lawsuit to open the city's public swimming areas to their community. In 1957, the Supreme Court ruled in their favor and history was made.

Dr. Paul McRae

First Black Chief of Staff at Bayfront Medical Center.



Our country's black history has been forged with the fierce tenacity of leaders who rise among us to pave the way to promise, purpose and possibility. Nowhere is this more true than in St. Petersburg's medical community where, for generations, outstanding men and women like Dr. Paul McRae, have lived an example of inspiration and altruism, outshone only by their wishes for our community's future.

The first African-American to hold the title of Chief-of-Staff at Bayfront Medical Center in its century of service, Dr. McRae is redefining the boundaries of achievement in the medical community and using his leadership to elevate the offerings of Bayfront Medical Center, making this a healthier community for each of us.

Education

George Perkins

Fought to achieve equal pay.



One of Pinellas County's School system's finest elementary schools bear his name – and with good reason. Born in Gainesville, he began teaching at the age of 16 in a one-room school house and moved to St. Petersburg in 1925 to become the principal of Jordan Elementary School. He also served as principal of Gibbs High School. When Gibbs opened during the depression, it was overcrowded and under supplied. The county was unable to fund the school, so Mr. Perkins organized a program in which people bought a brick for \$10 to build a combined gym, auditorium and cafeteria.

Vyrle Davis

First Black School Board Administrator for all school employees.



To know even one life has breathed easier because you have

lived – this is to have succeeded. Vyrle Davis, a longtime teacher and school administrator served as the principal at St. Petersburg High from 1973 to 1983 before taking an administrative job with the Pinellas County School District. He retired in 1995, but not before leaving behind a legacy of giving. In 1984, he founded the Ebony Scholars Program, which provides institutional and economic support to high-achieving African-American students. He is also credited with helping black political causes through his creation of the African American Voter Research and Education Committee. He pushed for single-member political districts for both the Pinellas County School Board and County Commission, and helped elect Mary Brown, the county's first black elected School Board member. Mr. Davis, for all of us whose lives you've touched – breathe easier.

Judicial

Judge James Sanderlin

First Black elected to a countywide office/Judge.



Aristotle said: In justice is all virtues, found in sum. Virtuous was our next legend, The Honorable James B. Sanderlin. A lawyer who defended the sanitation workers strike for higher wages in the 1960s, Judge Sanderlin succeeded in suing Pinellas County schools so they would desegregate. That also resulted in the desegregation of schools in Sarasota and Hillsborough counties and the St. Petersburg Police Department. He was appointed the first African-American county judge in 1972 and the first of his race to be named circuit judge in 1976.

Jeanine Williams, Esq.

Distinguished Judicial Award Recipient.



The Great philosopher Aristotle also said of justice: "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts." Jeanine Williams is a veteran of such acts. At 33 she became one of the youngest people to be elected president of the St. Petersburg Bar Association. She will start her term in summer 2008, and is already working to set an agenda for the 1,100-member organization. Her priorities include elevating the perception of attorneys and their contributions to society and the reopening of the association's diversity exhibit, "A Legacy of Courage, Vision & Hope."

Journalism

Peggy Peterman

Noted Black journalist at the St. Pete Times.



For more than three decades Peggy Peterman's compelling insights and commentary brought the voice of her community to the pages of the *St. Petersburg Times*. Her courage to tell those stories and touch readers' collective conscience helped shape a distinguished career marked by many triumphs. Today aspiring journalists spend summer months learning the tools of the trade at the *St. Petersburg Times* under an internship/scholarship in her name.

Dr. Karen Dunlap

First Black appointed to the Times Editorial Board/Dean of Poynter.



Dr. Karen Brown Dunlap is president of the Poynter Institute for Media Studies. She was the first African-American member of the Times Publishing Company's board of directors. The Poynter Institute owns the *St. Petersburg Times*. A former reporter and university professor, she was the 2005 recipient of the Gerald Sass Award for Distinguished Service to

Journalism and Mass Communication. Dunlap joined the Poynter Institute's writing faculty in 1989 and was appointed president in 2003. Dunlap, who earned a doctorate degree from the University of Tennessee, co-authored *The Effective Editor* and *The Editorial Eye*.

Entrepreneur

Cleveland Johnson

Owner of the legendary Weekly Challenger.



Cleveland Johnson Sr. was the publisher of the Weekly Challenger and the first African-American real estate agent in Pinellas County. Besides St. Petersburg, it is circulated in Clearwater, Largo, Tampa, Palmetto, Tarpon Springs, Plant City, Lakeland, Winter Haven, Gainesville, Ocala and Bartow. When our community's coverage was limited to the "Colored Only" sections of mainstream media, Mr. Johnson made way for our news giving it the prominence and attention it deserved.

Gene Danzey / PJ Benton

Black Franchise Owners.



Eugene Danzey, owner and general manager of WRXB 1590-

AM was a rarity in modern radio. Not only was the station independent, it was also one of the few black-owned and operated stations in the U.S. His wife, **P.J. Benton** opened her first McDonald's restaurant in Gulfport in 1984. On June 29, 1987, Benton opened her second restaurant in St. Petersburg. In 1992, Benton relocated to Charlotte, N.C. She's currently chief executive officer of PJJJ Enterprises Inc. in Charlotte, N.C. The organization has interests in airports in Charlotte, N.C., Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Fort Myers, Jacksonville and Tampa, Florida. In addition, she has joint ownership with Outback Steakhouse and limited partnerships with the Tampa Bay Rays Major League Baseball team and the Charlotte Bobcats NBA team. Reinventing our understanding of what's possible to achieve when we aspire and believe.

Faith Base

Rev. Enoch Davis

Noted Black Minister/Civil Rights Leader.



"If anybody asked you who he was, Rev. Enoch Davis would have told you, "Tell them I'm a Child of God." His actions

spoke so loudly, it mattered not what he said as The Rev. Enoch Davis, minister of Bethel Community Church, fought for civil rights in St. Petersburg. Known for his peaceful but firm leadership in gaining equal rights through methods such as sit-ins, he championed voter registration drives and forced city officials to open their green benches to African Americans. He was also the first African-American to run for City Council.

Pastor Wayne Thompson

Noted Black Minister/Leader in Social Justice.

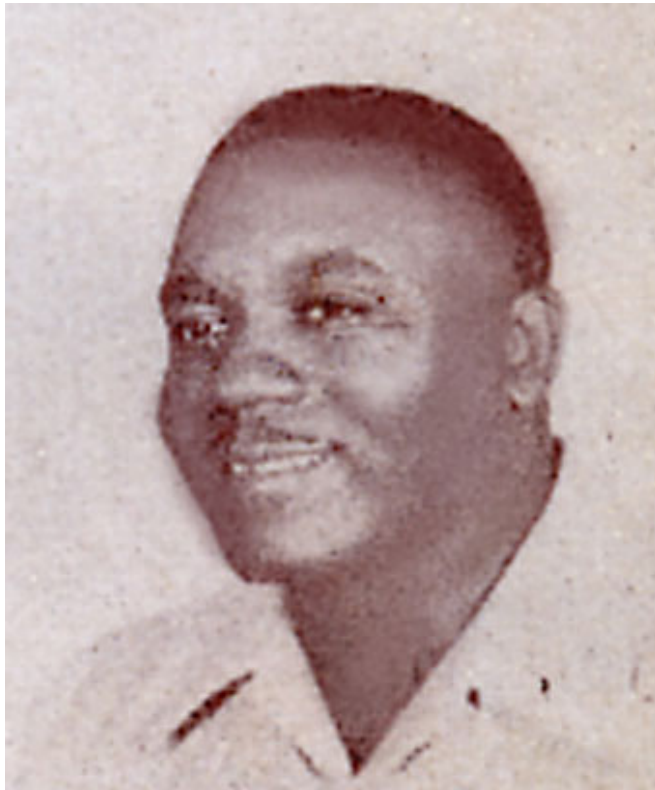


And we know...all things work together for the good that love God. Rev. Dr. Wayne Thompson is the pastor of First Baptist Institutional Church in St. Petersburg and he will tell you. He loves God. Rev. Dr. Thompson has been at the forefront of youth initiatives in the state of Florida and the nation. He was national president of One Church, One Child, which is a national recruiting advocate for African American children to be adopted. He started in the ministry in 1975. He became pastor of First Baptist in 1984 after being an interim for a year. He attended seminary at Florida Memorial Seminary and the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, Ga. His unbridled passion, coupled with his exceptional gift for communication have afforded him numerous notable gubernatorial appointments and has made him a much sought after preacher and lecturer, both locally and nationally.

Sports

Nathaniel Love Brown

Legendary High School Basketball Coach.



A longtime coach at Gibbs High School, Mr. Brown is the second most winningst coach in Pinellas County history. In 1956 he led the Gibbs Gladiators football team to an undefeated season and was named coach of the year by the Florida Interscholastic Association. His teams compiled an overall record of 183-76-17.

Glen Edwards

Four-time NFL Super Bowl champion with the Pittsburgh Steelers.



Glen Edwards, a former safety who helped the Pittsburgh Steelers win two Super Bowls, was a standout at Gibbs High School in St. Petersburg and at Florida A&M University. He played for the Steelers from 1971 until 1977. In the era of

defensive stars like Jack Lambert, Jack Ham, L. C. Greenwood and Mean Joe Greene, he was mainly a supporting member of the cast. Along with an end-zone interception in Super Bowl X, he is best remembered for two hard hits - a clothesline tackle of quarterback Ken Anderson in Cincinnati (Edwards was thrown out of the game), and a collision that forced Minnesota wide receiver John Gilliam to fumble the football in Super Bowl IX. He was traded in 1978 to San Diego, where he played until 1982. He played in 1983 for the USFL's Tampa Bay Bandits.

Social Justice

Perkins Shelton

Branch manager for the local Writer for The Battle Ground, the NAACP Newsletter.



Perkins Shelton's unparalleled work in civil rights paved the way for prosperity and progress for everyone who calls St. Petersburg home. He, and countless others like him, led with valiant courage, a crusade against all that hid under the unjust cloak of the sin called segregation. He made life better for you. for me – and for our children.

Sevell Brown

Founder and director of the SCLC Dr. MLK.



We are called to hope. Hope in the face of difficulty. Hope in the face of uncertainty. Seville Brown believes in that hope. He took hold of the torch of social justice, passed down from Perkins Shelton and his revered counterparts and has kept it burning brightly to ensure social justice is a reality in our community. Even after many of us exhaled... even as we focused our priorities on modern-day malfeasance that shadows the stinging memories of segregation and its associated societal ills...Seville Brown has kept the torch of social justice burning...and for your legendary insistence on integrity – at every level of our community’s opportunity, for your audacity of hope, we honor you.

Community Activist

Iveta Martin Barry

A noted community activist and Founder of BADD, Blacks Against Dangerous Drugs.



... Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise
Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,
I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

Iveta Martin-Berry still rises. As a sentinel on watch for the community's common good, her work as an activist spoke for itself in the way it has given a voice to so many others. Iveta Martin-Berry, for your tireless efforts and legendary commitment to the common good, we honor you.

Pastor Louis Murphy

Pastor of Mt. Zion Progressive Missionary Baptist Church.



Rev. Louis M. Murphy, Sr. is a soldier – a soldier with a mission to reclaim his community by transforming all those who share it into prideful soldiers of justice, empowerment, pride and self-love. He is a pastor who has gained prominence for his unwavering insistence on excellence in faith.

Radio

Goldie Thompson

Host of a legendary gospel radio show.



Goldie Thompson brought to Tampa Bay the gift of song. His pioneering work introduced black radio to the Tampa Bay community. He opened the airwaves to reflect our culture, our contributions and our identities. A gentle soul with a giant voice, his trademark advertising slogan: "Tell 'em Goldie sent ya!" opened doors that our community found closed, otherwise. Rev. Thompson bridged the gap between the power of song and the empowerment of our people to define our own destinies.

Diane Hughes



Rev. Goldie Thompson symbolically passed his brightly burning torch to a sage servant, Mrs. Diane Hughes. For decades she faithfully brought the word and the music of the

Gospel to the listeners of WRXB. She is a good and faithful servant whom we should all call friend. Everything she has learned – she has made known unto each of us who lend an ear.



DR. CARTER G. WOODSON
**AFRICAN
AMERICAN
MUSEUM**

Location: 2240 Ninth Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33712 / [Map & Directions >](#)

Museum Hours: Tuesday-Friday 12-5pm or call for appointment

Phone: 727-323-1104 **Facebook**

Accessibility

The museum's galleries and gardens are wheelchair accessible. There are designated accessible parking spaces located in the front of the building immediately adjacent to the museum's entrance.

The museum's building was designed and constructed according to current ADA standards. In the course of planning for future expansions and renovations, the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American History Museum is committed to providing full access to all.