



A Publication of the Carter-Parramore High Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc.
3415 W. Lake Mary Blvd., Unit 952528, Lake Mary, FL 32795
www.Carter-ParramoreScholarshipFund.com

Eight 2023 Gadsden County High Graduates Receive a Total of \$25,000 in Scholarship Awards

James Milton and Franklin Hamilton



Brian Ward, Chloe' Lee, Juanita Forehand, Aalaya McKinnon, JaLia Randolph (counselor), Christian Alexander, Micah Ward, Ja'Myla Stanley pictured after receiving scholarship awards from the Cartr-Parramore High Alumni Association on Class Night. (Khanye Robinson not pictured.) Photo by Jerome Maple

The Carter-Parramore High Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc. awarded scholarships to eight graduates in the Gadsden County High Class of 2023. The presentations were made on Wednesday, May 24 during Class Night at the High School Gymnasium. The students who received the awards and the amount, as pictured above are (from L to R): Brian Ward (\$2500), Chole' Lee (\$5,000), Juanita Forehand (\$2500), Aaliya McKinnon (\$2500), High School Counselor JaLia Randolph, Christian Alexander (\$2500), Micah Ward (\$5,000), Ja'Myla Stanley (\$2500) (The picture for Khanye Robinson {\$2500} was not available). Each of the recipients will attend a 4-year university in the Fall. The list of schools includes Alabama A&M, Bethune Cookman, Florida A&M and Florida State. Detailed information about each recipient is available on the organization's website.

The Carter-Parramore High Alumni Scholarship Fund, Inc. is a 501(c) organization registered in the State of Florida. Information about the organization is available on its website (www.carter-parramorescholarshipfund.com). The first class of three award recipients, made in 2022, has completed its first year of study at Florida State University.

The application period for awards to members of the graduating class of 2024 will open on January 24, 2024.

(This article was first printed in the Gadsden County Times, June, 2023)

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Carter-Parramore High School Class of 1966 57th Class Reunion

Greetings from the Lions and Lionesses of Carter-Parramore High School Class of 1966 (The Class). This awesome Class celebrated its 57th High School Class Reunion on Thursday through Saturday, May 18-20, 2023, in Quincy, Florida. The Class theme "We've Come This Far by Faith" is a testimony to our desire and faith that we will continue to reunite and fellowship in future class reunion settings. Those in attendance were excited about the opportunity to return to our roots again, to commemorate the classmates, administrators and educators who have passed on and to celebrate the present. More importantly, to reminisce and recall our high school experiences through words, music, and expressions of humor where it all began -- within the classrooms, the hallways, and the entire campus of Carter-Parramore High School (CPHS).



Photo taken at the entrance to the National Infantry Museum, Columbus, GA (classmates, spouses and guests).

Day 1: Thursday, May 18, 2023 - National Infantry Museum (Columbus, GA)

We traveled to Columbus, GA to tour the National Infantry Museum. This trip was primarily to view the exhibit of classmate Isiah (Ike) McMillan and to listen to his voice recording as he described his five-year experience as a former POW in Vietnam. A great deal of comradery was displayed during the entire trip. It was obvious that this Class was overjoyed to be together again.

In Columbus, we toured the National Infantry Museum. We listened to Isiah's voice and were disheartened by his experiences. This was evident by everyone's silence and facial expressions. We were, however, overjoyed, and thankful that "Ike" returned home to his family and to the CPHS Class of 1966.

The experience at the Museum was a bit overwhelming for many of us. The reality of the audio and visual reenactments of the Vietnam conflict was unnerving. The Vietnam Wall lists the names of the casualties of war. We identified a classmate who was our class' first casualty as well as other graduates of CPHS. As we continued the tour, the veterans in our class were reminded of their military journey as they shared their respective experiences. So many lives were lost during the Vietnam conflict. However, we are grateful for



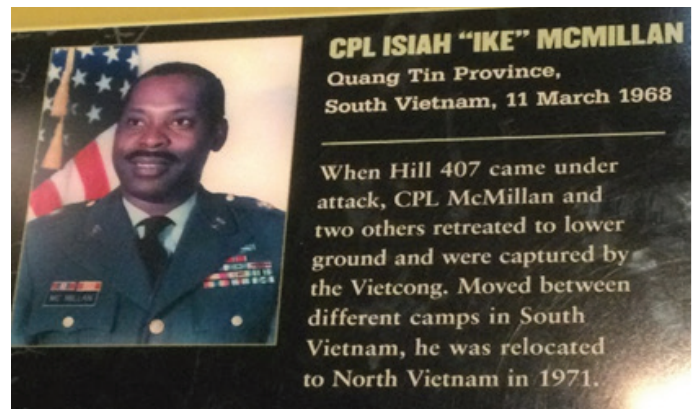
(L-R) Richard Taylor, Ida Lawson Thompson, Jerome Campbell, Mae Copeland Butler, Paul Johnson, Martha Akins Koonce, Rosetta Zanders Haywood, Leonard Nealy, Harold Kelly, Marilyn Gunn Smith, James Smith, Henry Sailor, Isiah McMillan, Chester Davis, Benjamin Roberts, Barbara Murray Swann, Linda Grubbs Mack, Emma Burns Wynn, Priscilla Moore Thornton, Jimmy Butler. Back row (R-L) Ella Ponder, George Cox, Eugene Lamb, Jr. (Not shown) Renell Watson Albritton, Kelly C. Bryant, Shirley Bryant, Carolyn Colston, James Davis, Isadora Moye Dean, Alice Dupont, Charles Jackson Edward McMillan, Le'Theria Smith Peters, Leon Sapp, John B. Smith, King D. Wright and former teacher, Mrs. Inez Holt.

the ultimate sacrifice of all of those who lost their lives to protect this country and thankful for all who returned home. Our first day together ended with a long return drive to Quincy.

Day 2: Friday, May 19, 2023 - Class Fish Fry (Carter-Parramore Academy Cafeteria)

The feeling of nostalgia was heightened as we arrived on campus. As we entered the cafeteria, classmates remembered where they sat, who sat with them and recalled their favorite meals. Lunch period was also a time to socialize. One of the most exciting and memorable occasions occurred when we toured our beloved Carter-Parramore High School (CPHS). As we walked toward the building, you could imagine the sounds of the yellow school buses arriving and departing the school around the circle, the chatter among the students as they hurried to their respective homerooms and their teachers standing outside the door awaiting their arrivals.

We entered the building, and you could immediately feel the presence of our teachers and hear the echoes of their voices. Especially, the unmistakably voice of the greatest high school principal of all times, Mr. Verdell D. Hamilton. When Mr. Hamilton spoke, you listened. He genuinely cared about his student body. Amazingly, my classmates remembered the location of their homerooms and the classrooms of all our teachers. It was these teachers who prepared us for the unforeseeable future and instilled in us the importance of not only completing a high school education, but to also seek education at a higher-level institution. They planted within us seeds of wisdom which was instrumental in our growth and maturity as we embarked on the next phases of our lives. The Class of 1966 will be forever grateful to our principals, staff, and teachers of Carter-Parramore High School. Their love and care were immeasurable. Before exiting the building, we paused to sing our Alma Mater.



We continued in fellowship with delicious food, recognition of classmates, music, and dance. To our surprise one of our former teachers, Mrs. Inez Holt, arrived. We welcomed her with resounding applause and numerous hugs. This was indeed an exciting moment. Mrs. Holt expressed how proud she was of the Class of 66 and was extremely excited to join us at our 57th reunion. Many of the classmates shared their journeys after leaving high school and lessons learned which contributed to their accomplishments and successes. Before leaving, Mrs. Holt expressed her love for us and imparted inspirational wisdom, not only to those present, but for future generations. As a great teacher of CPHS, this was a teachable moment.

Day 3: Saturday, May 20, 2023 - Memorial Service & Banquet (Simon Lamar Scott Senior Citizens Center)

The 57th Reunion of the Carter-Parramore High School Class of 1966 culminated with a memorial service and banquet. Emma Burns Wynn served as presider and convened the program with opening remarks. Jimmy Butler's opening prayer was filled with thanks, uplifting and inspirational. Ida Lawson Thompson delivered a heartwarming welcome and *(continued on page 5)*

CONGRATULATIONS TO CARTER- PARRAMORE HIGH ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP 2023 RECIPIENTS

Christian Alexander
Quincy, FL
Florida A&M University

Khanye Robinson
Havana, FL
Florida State University

Juanita Forehand
Quincy, FL
Florida State University

Ja'Myla Stanley
Quincy, FL
Florida State University

Chloe Lee
Quincy, FL
Alabama A&M University

Brian Ward
Quincy, FL
Florida A&M University

Aaliyah Mckinnon
Midway, FL
Bethune-Cookman University

Micah Ward
Quincy, FL
Florida State University

(continued from page 3) recognition of visitors. Renell Watson Albritton gave the occasion followed by a tribute to classmates in which King D. Wright and Eugene Lamb, Jr. highlighted unforgettable high school memories.

Special recognition was given to the 14 retired veterans of the Class of 66 by retired veterans Mae Copeland Butler and Henry Sailor, Jr. Each veteran stated their branch of service and years served, which represented all branches of the military. Of the 14 veterans, 13 were males and one female (the only female to serve from the Class of 66). Heartfelt references and comments were made related to all Class of 66 veterans, both past and present, who served in various branches of military.

Class Reunion President Richard Taylor, along with Benjamin Roberts and Isiah McMillian, summarized the history of and provided an update related to our class scholarship fund. In 2018, the CPHS Class of 1966 implemented the Isiah McMillan Scholarship Fund. The fund was named to honor classmate and retired Master Sergeant Isiah McMillan, a former POW of the Vietnam War. To date, 10 scholarships have been awarded to students seeking higher education. The recipients are family members of the Class of 66. Our first recipient graduated in 2022. Those recipients and/or family members expressed their thanks for the scholarship awards and provided an update on the status of their education. Afterwards, Martha Akins Koonce entertained the audience with a spirit-filled song that was quite emotional.

As with many class reunions, our tradition is to commemorate classmates who have completed their earthly journey. Marilyn Gunn Smith, Barbara Murray Swann and Linda Grubbs Mack presented a Candle Lighting Ceremony to commemorate 17 classmates who departed since our last reunion in 2018. As each name was called, a candle was lit to commemorate their passing. We also remembered those classmates who departed prior to 2019 and who had been memorialized at past reunions. The service continued to include words of inspiration by classmate Pastor Charles Jackson, closing remarks, singing the Alma Mater, and closing prayer. The Class of 66 acknowledged and thanked the spouses and other guests for supporting our reunion. In addition, the musician, caterer, and photographer for their service which contributed to the overall success of the class reunion activities.

It has been 57 years since the Class of 1966 departed our beloved Carter-Parramore High School. And yes, Carter-Parramore High, we still love you. To reiterate our class theme, "We've Come This Far by Faith." With faith, love, and God's grace, we will again reunite in future class reunions.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Class of 1966 for their trust in me to author this article. I hope I have fully encapsulated the experience and memories of our 57th High School Class Reunion.

This article was written by Marilyn Gunn Smith. Marilyn is a graduate of CPHS Class of 1966 and a Board Member of the CPH Alumni Scholarship Fund. Inc.

From the Desk of the President

Our organization has completed three cycles of competition for college scholarship awards. From year two to year three, the number of applications to the program increased three-fold. Following recent discussions with the Gadsden County High School counselor, we anticipate a heightened interest in the scholarship program among members of this year's senior class. As a result, the number of applications for the 2024 program awards could increase again. We make every effort to provide support to each qualifying student, to the extent our funds allow.

We have received reasonable support from our target audience in our attempt to solicit dollars for scholarship awards. However, given the potential increase in the number of applications for the 2024 award cycle, it is imperative that we secure a greater response

rate from our solicitation efforts. Accordingly, I urge each of our readers to make a contribution to the scholarship program, if you have not already contributed. Any amount is welcomed. In particular, we would greatly benefit from contributions from the Gadsden County business community. Remember, our younger generation is our future. Support for them is support for our community, for our State and for our Country.

Please give today.

Thank you,
Franklin Hamilton

Carter-Parramore High
Alumni Scholarship Fund
3415 W. Lake Mary Blvd.
Unit 952528
Lake Mary, FL 32795

Applications Open January 24, 2024



Carter-Parramore High Alumni Scholarship Fund

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Yes No Please send the newsletter to me by email

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