

UNITY


 EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER

JANUARY 19, 2026



32ND ANNUAL UNITY BREAKFAST
EMBRACING
LOVE, PEACE AND
RESPECT

ABLFUNDATIONKY.COM



If you can't
fly then
run, if you
can't run then
walk,
if you can't
walk then
crawl, but
whatever
you do
you have
to keep moving
forward.

Martin Luther King Jr.

COMMEMORATION

The purpose of the Unity Breakfast is to honor and commemorate the life, leadership, and lasting legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to reaffirm his ideals of peace and unity. Serving as the opening event of the King Day commemoration, the breakfast elevates community awareness by educating and inspiring attendees about Dr. King's work, his dream, and the enduring impact of his message.

Through meaningful reflection and shared fellowship, the Unity Breakfast reinforces the belief that our community can live, work, learn, and

grow together in harmony. The program welcomes participation from individuals of all backgrounds and includes guest speakers and contributors representing a broad range of experiences and perspectives. Open to the full diversity of our community, the breakfast also supports the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter Education Foundation's community outreach initiatives and provides an opportunity to recognize the individuals and organizations who actively promote unity and positive change.

"The time is always right to do what is right"



EDUCATION FOUNDATION

The Education Foundation of Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes, including for such purposes, the making of distributions to organizations under section 501c3 of the Internal Revenue Code (or the corresponding section of any future Federal tax code). Generally, the corporation's purposes are to provide academic scholarships through the foundation's Academic Scholarship Program and to provide other contributions through the Foundation's Community Outreach Programs.

The Education Foundation is very grateful for your financial support to help further its mission.



PROGRAM

Ms. Anissa Franklin, Mistress of Ceremonies

PRELUDE _____ MR. CHARLES F. LITTLE, JR.

BREAKFAST IS SERVED
7:30 AM TO 8:30 AM

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST EMCEE _____ MR. MARIO J. RADFORD

INVOCATION _____ REVEREND DR. BRIAN CHENOWETH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

CALL FOR THE OCCASION _____ "UNITY LIGHTING CEREMONY" _____ MS. TRINITY CARDELL
MISS BLACK AND GOLD ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
EPSILON CHI CHAPTER UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY

MUSIC _____ "LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING" _____ MS. RAE'SHAWNA CAMPBELL
DIRECTOR OF WORSHIP FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, BRACKTOWN

SPOKEN WORD _____ "REMEMBER" _____ MS. TACA HOLLIS
POET

MUSIC _____ "GOODNESS OF GOD" _____ REV. DR. STEPHANIE RAGLIN
WRITTEN BY JENN JOHNSON PASTOR/VOCALIST PAYNE CHAPEL AME

GREETINGS _____ THE HONORABLE LINDA GORTON, MAYOR
LEXINGTON FAYETTE URBAN COUNTY GOVERNMENT

THE HONORABLE JACQUELINE COLEMAN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

UNITY AWARDS PRESENTATIONS _____ DR. CHARLES HOLLOWAY, CHAIRMAN
ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

ESSAY PRESENTATION _____ READING BY ESSAY WINNER

PRESENTATIONS of the REFLECTIONS _____ DR. KING'S INFLUENCE AS:
AN EDUCATOR MRS. SHARON PRICE
A SPIRITUAL LEADER DR. JOSEPH OWENS
A CIVIL RIGHTS ADVOCATE DR. LAUREL MARTIN
A HUMANITARIAN MR. BARRY STUMBO

MUSIC _____ "RAISE ME UP LET FREEDOM RING"
MUSIC BY ROLF LOVLAND AND DENNIS JERNIGAN _____ MR. WHIT WHITAKER
VOCALIST

REMARKS / ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS _____ MR. MARIO J. RADFORD, CHAIRMAN
UNITY COMMITTEE

CLOSING SONG _____ "WE SHALL OVERCOME" _____ AUDIENCE

HOSTS _____ EPSILON CHI CHAPTER -- ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC. -- UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
IOTA SIGMA CHAPTER -- ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

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ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER EDUCATION FOUNDATION

LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING

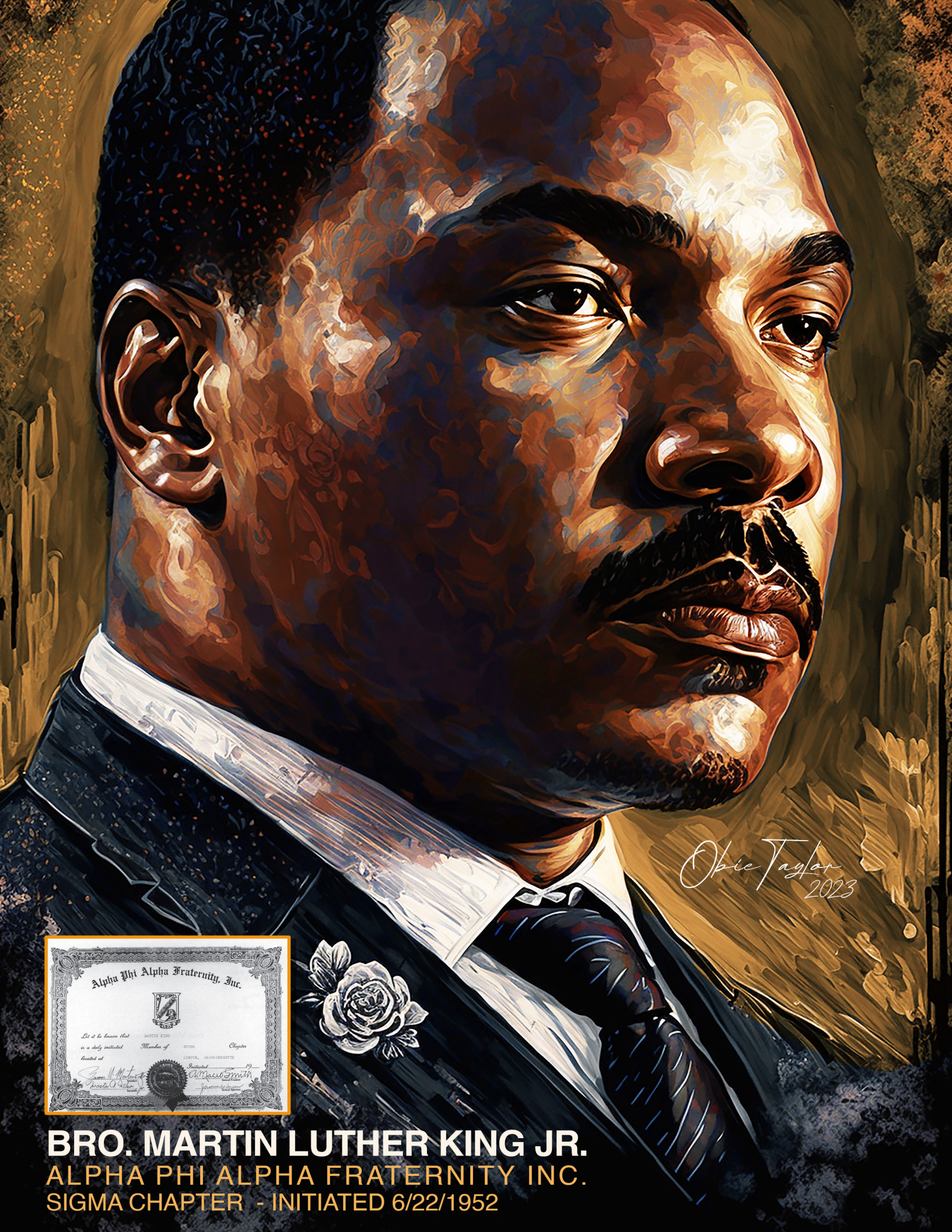
By: James Weldon Johnson

Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
let our rejoicing rise,
high as the listening skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea
sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

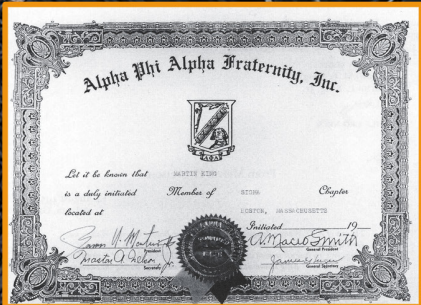
Stony the road we trod,
bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the day that hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat,
have not our weary feet,
come to the place on with our fathers sighed?
we have come over a way that with tears has been watered,
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
thou who has brought us thus far on the way;
thou who has by thy might,
led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray
lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,
lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee,
shadowed beneath the hand,
may we forever stand,
true to our God,
True to our native land.





Opie Taylor
2023



BRO. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INC.
SIGMA CHAPTER - INITIATED 6/22/1952

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ΑΦΑ
ALPHA SALUTES
Jill Chenault Wilson
“Inspiring Generations Through Service and Sport”



Jill Chenault Wilson’s life and career reflect a powerful commitment to service, excellence, and the belief that community-centered leadership can change lives. A proud Lexington native, she graduated from Henry Clay High School in 1979 and earned a full track scholarship to the University of Louisville. Competing as a collegiate student-athlete while pursuing academic success, she graduated in 1985, carrying forward the discipline, resilience, and teamwork that would later define her professional journey.

Since 2008, Jill has served as a driving force in youth development and wellness as a leader of youth programming and adult wellness at the William Wells Brown Community Center. In that role, she has created safe, supportive, and empowering spaces where young people and families can grow physically, mentally, and socially. Recognizing the

transformative power of athletics, she founded the Dunbar Blazin’ Bearcats AAU Track Club, which she led for more than a decade. Through her coaching and mentorship, she positively impacted the lives of over 1,000 young athletes, instilling confidence, discipline, and a belief in their own potential—both on and off the track.

Jill’s dedication to service extends beyond sports. She served in the YMCA Black Achievers program, where she helped prepare youth for leadership and professional success, and later became the Urban Outreach Development Director, expanding access to opportunities and resources for underserved communities. Her work consistently reflects a servant-leadership philosophy centered on empowerment, equity, and accountability.

Her contributions have earned

meaningful recognition, including the One Lexington Community Game Changers Award in 2023, the University of Kentucky College of Social Work Unsung Hero Award, and induction into the Lexington African American Sports Hall of Fame. These honors acknowledge not only her achievements, but her enduring impact on lives shaped through mentorship and compassion.

Jill is the proud mother of Dr. Maria Wilson and Oba Wilson, and a devoted grandmother to Oba Xander Wilson and Brooklyn Maria Bowman. She is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Beta Gamma Omega Chapter. Through faith, service, and unwavering dedication, Jill Chenault Wilson continues to inspire generations, proving that leadership grounded in love and purpose creates lasting change.





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ΑΦΑ
ALPHA SALUTES
Luther Deaton

“Leading with Integrity. Serving with Purpose ”



Deaton’s career demonstrates what long-term commitment, disciplined learning, and service-minded leadership can accomplish. He has served as President and Chief Executive Officer of Central Bank & Trust Co. since 1996 and, in 2003, became Chairman, President and CEO of Central Bancshares. Those roles reflect trusted stewardship, but his path started in the most hands-on way possible—helping customers one transaction at a time and learning the business from the ground up.

Deaton joined Central Bank in 1978 as a teller. With consistency, integrity, and a strong work ethic, he advanced through lending and other leadership assignments, building the practical expertise that strong community banking requires. In 1991, he was appointed Executive Vice President and Head of Commercial and Retail

Banking, guiding teams that support entrepreneurs, families, and community organizations across the region. He strengthened his foundation through professional development as a graduate of the Graduate School of Banking of the South at Louisiana State University and the National Commercial Lending School at the University of Oklahoma.

His influence reaches far beyond the bank. Deaton has served as Treasurer of the American Bankers Association and as President of the Kentucky Bankers Association, helping elevate professional standards and promote responsible financial practices. In Lexington, he has chaired Commerce Lexington and continues to serve on its Executive Board, contributing to regional growth and collaboration. He currently serves on boards including IOLTA, the Kentucky State Police Trooper Foundation, Transylvania

University, the University of Kentucky’s Gatton College of Business and Economics, UK Hospital, the American Heart Association, and SECAT. He has also served on several statewide and university boards, including as an advisory board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland.

A native of Jackson, Kentucky, Deaton now resides in Nicholasville. His leadership reflects a belief that strong institutions exist to serve people, create opportunity, and earn trust daily for everyone. His journey—from teller to chief executive—reminds us that leadership is built through daily discipline, steady relationships, and a clear commitment to serve. By pairing financial stewardship with community purpose, he has helped strengthen institutions, expand opportunity, and model a standard of character others can follow.





SAVE THE DATE FOR GIVE 8/28!

The Lexington Black Prosperity Initiative at Blue Grass Community Foundation was created to strengthen, support and make a meaningful impact in Black communities.

Each August, LBPI hosts Give 8/28 Lex, part of a national day of giving during Black Philanthropy Month that honors the legacy of Black generosity. In 2025, the campaign raised \$234,956 for 40 Black-serving nonprofits in Fayette County.

Learn how your Black-serving nonprofit can join the 2026 campaign at bgcf.org/give828lex.

**BLUE GRASS
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**
WE'RE IN IT FOR GOOD.

**LEXINGTON
BLACK PROSPERITY
INITIATIVE.**





ΑΦΑ
ALPHA SALUTES
CHESTER & ANN GRUNDY
“Cultural Guardians of the Bluegrass”



For over four decades, the cultural landscape of Lexington, Kentucky, has been profoundly shaped by the shared vision and tireless labor of one power couple: Chester and Ann Grundy. Married since 1974, their union has been described as a destiny “to join for a higher purpose,” one that has irrevocably altered the educational and artistic fabric of the Commonwealth. As individuals, they are trailblazers who broke barriers in the segregated South; together, they are the “Cultural Guardians of Kentucky,” dedicating their lives to empowering African Americans through history, arts, and activism.

Ann Beard Grundy: From Confrontation to Inspiration

Ann Beard Grundy’s life has been inextricably linked to the American Civil Rights movement from birth. Born in Birmingham, Alabama, she is the daughter of the Reverend Beard, who pastored the historic 16th Street Baptist Church for 16 years. She grew up as the “Baby” of the church, which served as a central organizing site for civil rights activities and hosted frequent speeches by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Her proximity to the movement meant she was also near its tragedies. The 16th Street Baptist Church was the site of the horrific 1963 bombing by white supremacists that claimed the lives of four young girls. Ann, who was 18 at the time, recalls

the house shaking a mile away when the bomb detonated.

She carried this history with her to Berea College, where she graduated in 1968. As a student activist, she helped found the Black Student Union and was one of 58 Berea students to join Dr. King for the final leg of the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965. On that historic road, she used her musical talent to lead marchers in songs of hope. Ann’s career has been defined by a transition “from anger to artistry, from confrontation to inspiration”. She served as the director of the Bluegrass-Aspendale Teen Center for the Fayette County Public Health Department and founded the NIA Study/Travel Program,

which exposed hundreds of students to the depth of African American history. A talented vocalist and member of the American Spiritual Ensemble, she received the Milner Award in 2016 for her contributions to the arts.

Chester Grundy: The Architect of Institutional Change

While Ann was breaking barriers at Berea, Chester Grundy was doing the same at the University of Kentucky (UK). Born in Louisville in 1947, Chester arrived at UK with intentions of joining a monastery but instead became a pivotal figure in campus activism, helping to establish the university’s Black Student Union before graduating in 1969.

Despite facing a “racially hostile environment” as a student, Chester returned to UK, dedicating 45 years of service to the institution before retiring in 2017. He understood early on that academic access was insufficient without cultural affirmation. This belief led him to found the Martin Luther King, Jr. Cultural Center at UK in 1987.

As the center’s director and the Director of Multicultural Student Programming, Chester transformed the campus into a hub for diverse artistic expression. He established the Spotlight Jazz Series, the nation’s longest-running collegiate jazz series, and brought cultural giants to Lexington, including Muhammad Ali, Maya Angelou, Spike Lee, and Bishop Desmond Tutu. His work provided a platform for African American voices in a space where they had previously been lacking.

A Joint Legacy: Building Community Through Culture

While their individual résumés are formidable, the Grundy’s impact is perhaps most visible in the programs they built together. They are the co-founders of Lexington’s Roots & Heritage Festival, a premier celebration of African American culture that has been recognized as one of the top festivals in Kentucky. For 16 years, Chester served as the coordinator of the festival’s Stage 1, while Ann has been a fierce advocate for shared cultural experiences.

Furthermore, the couple has been the driving force behind Lexington’s annual Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday commemoration. For 50 years, Chester has provided the artistic vision and leadership for this event, which is widely recognized as the longest-running MLK observance in the nation. Ann serves alongside him as a program organizer, ensuring the city-wide celebration remains an uplifting tribute to Dr. King’s legacy.

Colleagues describe the Grundys as a “husband and wife team that’s so mission focused,” determined to ensure that all Kentuckians appreciate the contributions of African Americans. Their work has moved beyond the university campus to reshape the wider community, blooming where they were planted and spreading that influence throughout the state.

Today, Ann and Chester are the proud parents of two daughters and grandparents to two grandsons. Their lives stand as a testament to the belief that true leadership is measured by impact. Through their unselfish use of their talents, Chester and Ann Grundy have opened “doors of enlightenment for others,” ensuring that the history and culture they fight to preserve will be cherished for generations to come.



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*Alpha Beta Lambda
Education Foundation
Unity Breakfast*

We power programs in the areas of:

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- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DEI)
- Environmental Stewardship
- STEM Education & Economic Development

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AΦA ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER HISTORY

FOUNDED JUNE 9, 1928 - LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY



M. Reid, N. J. Ridley, A. W. Wade, T. T. Wendell, and H. A. Merchant.

From the beginning, these brothers demonstrated a strong commitment to civic leadership and community involvement. They were active in organizations such as the Greenwood Cemetery Company, served as trustees and officers within local churches, and contributed to public affairs—including representation as a delegate to the National Republican Convention.

Since its founding, Alpha Beta Lambda and its Education Foundation have remained dedicated to educational, charitable, civic, and mentoring initiatives that uplift young African American males and strengthen Central Kentucky. Building on national programs such as “A Voteless People is a Hopeless People” (voter registration and education) and “Go to High School, Go to College” (scholarship and academic support), the chapter has consistently advanced meaningful community service efforts aimed at making Lexington and the surrounding region a better place to live, learn, and thrive.

The formation of the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter began in March 1927, when four of our founders traveled to Louisville, Kentucky and affiliated with the Alpha Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Upon returning to Lexington, these brothers laid the groundwork for a new chapter—an effort that culminated in the official chartering of Alpha Beta Lambda on June 9, 1928.

Prior to the spring of 1927, several informal meetings had already taken place to explore the establishment of a chapter in Lexington. Brother T. M. Berry, then Third Vice President, formally recognized and distinguished the chapter in the name of the General Organization.

At the time of chartering in June 1928, the founding membership included Brothers W. H. Ballard, Jr., J. E. Hunter, Jr., J. M. McInham, A. A. McPheeters, F.



100 BLOCK OF EAST MAIN ST -- 1930s



Of the chapter's nine founders, their professional and civic influence was extraordinary. One was a pastor, two were pharmacists, one was a dentist, two were educators, and four were physicians. Among their many distinctions: one founder's father opened Lexington's first African American-owned pharmacy; one was the first African American physician granted hospital privileges in Lexington; one had a building named in his honor at Clark College; and at least three founders' homes still stand in Lexington today. One served as Chaplain of the national fraternity, another had a building named for him at Eastern State Hospital, and one represented his community as a delegate to the National Republican Convention. Remarkably, one founder—along with his son and grandson—represents the only known instance of three consecutive generations elected as Bishops in the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

Brother William Henry Ballard, Jr.

(1893–1963) – Pharmacist

Howard University graduate who worked with his father in Lexington and later opened a pharmacy in Chicago. Also a teacher, historian, President of Greenwood Cemetery Company, and a delegate to the National Republican Convention. His father founded Kentucky's first African American-owned pharmacy in 1893.

Brother John Edward Hunter, Sr.

(1859–1956) – Physician

Western Reserve University graduate who established a Lexington practice in 1890. First African American physician granted hospital privileges and served as the first Black surgeon at the former St. Joseph Hospital (East Second Street). His office and home on North Upper Street still stand; he helped organize key medical and civic institutions.

Brother James Monroe McInham

(1875–1933) – Dentist

Meharry Medical College graduate licensed in 1903, with an office on South Broadway. A long-time trustee and treasurer at St. Paul AME Church and active in local realty organizations. Lived on North Upper Street near Dr. Hunter.

Brother Alphonso A. McPheeters

(1900–1963) – Educator

Lexington native who taught at old Dunbar High School before becoming a professor and dean at Clark College in Atlanta. Earned a doctorate from the University of Cincinnati and later served as a U.S. Information Officer in Accra (Gold Coast/Ghana). A campus building bears his name at Clark Atlanta University.

Brother Henry Alpheus Merchant

(1887–1950) – Physician

University of Illinois Medical School graduate licensed in Lexington in 1927. Practiced from the family home on DeWeese Street, which still stands. Buried in Cove Haven Cemetery.

Brother F. M. Reid

Pastor / AME Bishop

Pastor of St. Paul AME Church who became the 61st Bishop of the AME Church in 1940. His family represents a rare legacy: his son and grandson also became AME Bishops—three generations of Bishops in one family.

Brother Nathaniel John Ridley

(1876–1940) – Physician

Meharry Medical College graduate licensed in 1900 who practiced medicine in Lexington, including at a South Upper Street address. Provided conventional medical care and service to the community.

Brother A. W. Wade

Educator / Coach

Educator and athletic coach at Dunbar High School (1922–1929), leading both boys' and girls' sports. Also served as Chaplain of the national fraternity, reflecting strong spiritual leadership.

Brother Thomas Tyler Wendell

(1871–1953) – Physician / Pharmacist

Meharry honor graduate with degrees in pharmacy and medicine who established a Lexington practice and later served as staff physician at Eastern State Hospital (1929–1953). Advocated for better treatment of African American patients and held major civic leadership roles; his East Third Street home still stands.





ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER

2025 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Advocacy for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Street Naming Initiative, supporting the recognition of Dr. King’s legacy through public spaces that reflect shared history and values.

March of Dimes – March for Babies, raising funds to combat premature birth and prevent birth defects, improving outcomes for mothers and infants.

Project Alpha, a mentoring and educational initiative for middle and high school students focused on personal responsibility, health awareness, and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

Voter Registration Drives, conducted under the theme “A Voteless People Is a Hopeless People,” promoting civic participation and empowering citizens through the right to vote.

Adopt-A-Family Program (Thanksgiving and Christmas), providing food, clothing, and toys to families in need during the holiday season.

Historical Highway Marker for Mr. Verner Woodson Tandy, honoring one of the organization’s founders with a marker placed at the site of his childhood home.

“Go to High School, Go to College” Initiative, encouraging academic achievement and promoting pathways to higher education.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Mall Project (Washington, DC), contributing approximately \$25,000 toward the \$120 million campaign to construct the national memorial honoring Dr. King.

Annual Unity Breakfast, a signature event promoting harmony and understanding through music and reflective speakers, with average attendance of approximately 1,500 community members.

Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter Educational Scholarship Program, providing annual financial support to qualifying male students within the Lexington public school system.

William Wells Brown “Reading, Writing, and Rewards” Program, mentoring middle school students in literacy while providing school supplies to elementary students.

Big Brothers Big Sisters, offering financial support to strengthen youth mentoring services.

Boy Scouts of America – Bluegrass Council, providing financial assistance to support leadership and character development programs.

YMCA Black Achievers Program, contributing financial support toward scholarship and youth achievement efforts.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. – Coretta Scott King “Spirit of the Ivy” Awards Program, supporting and recognizing the accomplishments of women across Kentucky.

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Lexington Alumni Chapter, providing financial support for scholarship and debutante initiatives.

God’s Pantry Food Bank, offering financial support to help provide food to individuals and families experiencing food insecurity.





The "Jewels"

HISTORY ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.

Since its founding on December 4, 1906, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has provided voice, vision, and leadership in the ongoing struggle for justice and opportunity for African Americans and people of color around the world. As the first intercollegiate Greek-letter fraternity established for African Americans, Alpha Phi Alpha was founded at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York by seven college men who recognized the need for a strong, lasting bond of brotherhood among men of African descent in the United States.

The Fraternity's visionary founders—revered as the "Jewels"—are: Henry Arthur Callis, MD; Charles Henry Chapman; Eugene Kinckle Jones; George Biddle Kelley; Nathaniel Allison Murray; Robert Harold Ogle; and Vertner Woodson Tandy. In its earliest days, Alpha Phi Alpha served as a study and support organization for minority students who faced racial prejudice both academically and socially at Cornell. Through determination and disciplined leadership, the Jewels and early members established a firm foundation rooted in scholarship, fellowship, good character, and the uplifting of humanity.

As Alpha Phi Alpha grew, chapters were formed at other colleges and universities across the nation, including many historically Black

institutions. While continuing to emphasize academic excellence, the Fraternity also recognized the urgent need to confront the educational, economic, political, and social injustices that affected African Americans. From its first General Convention to the present, the Fraternity has consistently called upon its chapters and members to uphold



its guiding ideals: "manly deeds, scholarship, and love for all mankind."

Alpha Phi Alpha's commitment to service is reflected in its long history of national programs. In 1919, the Fraternity launched its first major initiative, the "Go-To-High School, Go-to-College" campaign, designed to promote academic achievement and expand opportunity within the African American community. In later years, Alpha Phi Alpha became a leader in the fight for voting rights and popularized the enduring phrase, "A Voteless

People is a Hopeless People." That message remains a powerful call to civic engagement and continues to inspire Alpha's voter registration and participation efforts today.

Throughout the twentieth century and beyond, Alpha Phi Alpha has stood at the forefront of the civil rights movement through the influence and service of notable members, including W.E.B. Du Bois, Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., Edward Brooke, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall, Andrew Young, Paul Robeson, Maynard Jackson, David Dinkins, and many others. The Fraternity's emphasis on leadership development and community service has helped shape generations of principled men and strengthened communities across the nation.

Today, Alpha Phi Alpha remains a diverse and international organization, with more than 175,000 men initiated since 1906 and chapters throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, the Caribbean, Europe, Asia, and Africa. Through initiatives focused on economic development, education, and building foundations, the Fraternity continues to promote entrepreneurship, provide scholarships for outstanding students, support underserved families, and mentor youth to ensure the success of future generations.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER

2025-2026

OFFICERS

ABLFOUNDATIONKY.COM

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. develops leaders, promotes brotherhood and academic excellence, while providing service and advocacy for our communities.

- Chairman _____ **Charles Holloway, Ed.D.**
- Vice Chairman _____ **Randall C. Vaughn, FAIA**
- Secretary _____ **Rodney Jackson, DMD**
- Treasurer _____ **Peter Doyle**
- Parliamentarian _____ **Roy Woods**
- At-Large _____ **Christian Adair**
- At-Large _____ **Joshua Newkirk**
- Ex-Officio _____ **D. Anthony Everett, DMin**

AΦA

ALPHA SALUTES

AΦA

Each year as part of the Unity Breakfast, Alpha Beta Lambda Education Foundation of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. recognizes two individuals/organizations that we feel have exemplified the true legacy of Dr. King. We look for recipients who have gone beyond the call of duty, have made a difference in our community and who have worked toward unifying our community.

- | | | | | | |
|------|--|------|---|------|--|
| 2025 | Ginny Ramsey
Emmett "Buzz" Burnam | 2017 | Frank X. Walker | 2009 | Donald R. Herren
Joanna Kimbel Offutt Childress |
| 2024 | Brereton C. Jones
Lamin Swann | 2016 | Mayor Pam Miller | 2008 | Wayne L. Smith
Edythe Jones Hayes |
| 2023 | Ollie Christine Harris
Dr. Richard Milich | 2015 | Uneeda Katrice Bryant, DVM
Melanie Trowel | 2007 | Robert Jefferson |
| 2022 | Gentry C. LaRue
Emmanuel (Manny) Caulk | 2014 | Jack E. Burch
Louis Stout | 2006 | Dr. Thomas D. Clark
Harry N. Sykes |
| 2021 | Front Line Health Responders | 2013 | Audrey Louis Ross Grievous
Dr. Roy Phillip Peterson | 2005 | Julius S. Berry
S.T. Roach |
| 2020 | Wilbert W. James Jr.
One Parent Scholar House | 2012 | Isabel Yates
Lucy Cornelia Harth Smith | 2004 | Lyman T. Johnson |
| 2019 | Rebecca DiLoreto
Flora Davis Mitchell | 2011 | Sam Barnes
Dr. Robert F. Sexton | | |
| 2018 | Dr. Gus T. Ridgel
Lillian "Lil" Press
O. Leonard "Len" Press | 2010 | Joe Graves
Rossalyn Delorna Smith
Warren Taylor Seals | | |



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EDUCATION FOUNDATION **ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER**

A Word of Thanks

On behalf of the members of the Education Foundation of the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., we extend our heartfelt gratitude as we commemorate the enduring dream of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., over 60 years later. This moment of reflection serves as an opportunity to fortify our commitment to unifying our efforts in the realms of Education, Spirituality, Civil Rights, and Humanitarianism – the very pillars Dr. King envisioned as the foundation for a brighter future.

Over the past 30-plus years, our community has demonstrated remarkable unity in pursuing these shared goals, and we anticipate that this 31st celebration will be equally remarkable. In a world filled with various challenges, we remain resolute in our pursuit of justice, equality, and global harmony. While Education remains the primary focus of our Foundation, we also embrace and champion the principles of Spirituality, Civil Rights, and Humanitarianism.

As you navigate through this day, this month, and this year, we encourage you to consider and take action in at least one of these essential areas of personal and collective growth. Whether engaging in meaningful conversations with your family members, students, or friends, let your words be purposeful, recognizing their profound impact on the future. The timeless words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. continue to move mountains, reminding us of the enduring power of transformative dialogue and action.

Once again, we express our sincere appreciation. We recognize the daily sacrifices you make, and we acknowledge that you could have chosen various ways to spend this day. Your presence on this special day of Unity: A Challenge in These Troubled Times, dedicated to honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., reaffirms our shared commitment to progress and positive change. Thank you for being an integral part of this meaningful celebration.

Dr. Charles Holloway
Board Chair

Mario J. Radford
Unity Chair



ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC.
ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER

2025-2026 CHAPTER OFFICERS

ALPHABETALAMBDA.COM

President _____ **Rev. Dr. Anthony Everett, D. Min.**
Vice President _____ **Mario J. Radford**
Recording Secretary _____ **Daniel Murphy, Esq.**
Corresponding Secretary _____ **Rev. Marvin King**
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Historian _____ **Joshua Newkirk**
Intake Coordinator _____ **Rodney Jackson, DMD**
Associate Editor to "The Sphinx" _____ **Dr. Brandon Erby**
Director of Educational Activities _____ **Rubin Jones**
Sergeant-At-Arms _____ **Michael Ghant**
Parliamentarian _____ **Dr. Matthew Crutcher, Jr.**

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Christian Adair | Dr. Michael Crutcher | Dr. Charles Holloway | Brandon Mccray | Jarress Turner |
| J. H. Atkins | Peter Doyle | Lee A. Jackson | Rev. Rodney | Randall Vaughn |
| Bobby Bell | Demetrius Edwards | Tyrone Johnson, Sr. | McFarland, Jr. | Kenneth Vereen |
| Israel Benbow | Andre Fomby | Dr. Kenneth Jones | Leslie E. Moore | Kevin Wagner |
| Myron Biddle | William H. French, III | Michael Jones | Dr. Deverin Muff | Ervy "Whit" Whitaker |
| Dr. Joseph Benitez | Michael Ghant | Richard E. Jones, Jr. | Abdul Muhammad | Dr. Derrich White |
| Jade Bunch | Wrensey C. Gill, Jr. | James E. Lee, Jr. | Dr. Dawn Perry | William H. Wilson |
| Croswell Chambers | Dr. Jai Gilliam | Dr. Demetrus Liggins | Daniel Pierre | Glenn M. Wilson, Jr. |
| Vincent Clark | Edward Givens | Daryl K. Love | Mark Pressley | Roy H. Woods |
| Coy Conner | Gerry Harris, Esq. | Ronald W. Mack | Obie Taylor, Sr. | |
| Talbert Cox | Keith Hill | Richard A. Marshall, Sr. | Kevin Thomas | |



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER



ΑΦΑ

Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter

2025 BROTHER OF THE YEAR
Dr. Charles Holloway, Ed.D.



Charles Holloway has consistently demonstrated the kind of leadership, service, and vision that strengthens a chapter and uplifts an entire community. His selection as Brother of the Year is a meaningful recognition of his steady commitment to Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter, and the educational mission that defines the Fraternity's work.

Within the chapter, Brother Holloway serves as the Dean of Intake, a role that requires integrity, mentorship, and a deep respect for the standards and traditions of Alpha Phi Alpha. In this position, he helps guide and develop men who seek to join the Brotherhood, emphasizing scholarship, good character, and service. His leadership is not limited to internal chapter responsibilities—he also gives his time directly to youth and families through his volunteer work with the Reading, Writing, & Rewards Program, supporting academic growth and helping students build confidence in foundational skills.

Brother Holloway's impact is especially evident through his leadership of the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter Education

Foundation, Inc. As chair of this separate 501(c)(3) organization, he helps advance a focused mission: supporting the educational activities and initiatives connected to Alpha Beta Lambda. His work with the Foundation reflects careful stewardship, long-term thinking, and a strong belief that educational support—whether through programming, partnerships, or resources—creates lasting change for young people and the broader community.

In addition to local service, Brother Holloway has represented Alpha Beta Lambda beyond Lexington by serving as a delegate at District and Midwestern Regional Conventions. Through this involvement, he has helped ensure the chapter's voice is present in the wider work of the Fraternity, while also bringing back insights and strategies that strengthen local efforts.

One of Brother Holloway's most notable contributions came at a pivotal moment for inclusion at the University of Kentucky. When the university decided to eliminate diversity graduation programming for graduating seniors, Brother Holloway recognized that

the moment called for action and collaboration. This effort ensured students were seen, valued, and honored—especially during an important milestone in their lives.

Because of his leadership and ability to speak with clarity and purpose, the brothers of Epsilon Chi Chapter selected Brother Holloway as the keynote speaker for the event. The program's significance extended far beyond campus, drawing national attention through coverage by the Associated Press—a clear reminder that strong community-centered leadership can shape conversations far outside the room where the work begins.

Brother Charles Holloway's Brother of the Year honor reflects more than a title. It recognizes a pattern of service: mentoring future brothers, supporting youth literacy, strengthening educational infrastructure through the Foundation, representing the chapter at regional levels, and leading with courage when inclusion needed a champion. His example embodies the Fraternity's ideals and demonstrates what it means to serve with purpose.



- 1995 "Nonviolence: Empowering to Make a Difference"
- 1996 "Unity In Time of Challenge and Controversy"
- 1997 "Experiencing Unity Through Community Involvement"
- 1998 "Unity: The Cornerstone For a Community"
- 1999 "Unity: Our Strength During Adversity"
- 2000 "Unity: His Dream, Our Commitment"
- 2001 "Unity: His Dream For a Diverse Society"
- 2002 "Unity: Diversity In Action"
- 2003 "Unity: A Call for Celebration"
- 2004 "Unity: A Time for Reflection"
- 2005 "Unity: A Community's Opportunity, A Community's Challenge"
- 2006 "Unity: Let's Build The Dream Together"

- 2007 "Unity: Not Uniformity"
- 2008 "Unity: A Community Focus"
- 2009 "Unity: A Journey Towards The Dream"
- 2010 "Unity: Our Local Challenge, A Global Vision"
- 2011 "Unity: More Than a Concept, A Community Commitment"
- 2012 "Unity: Moving from Concept to Reality"
- 2013 "Unity: A Continuous March Towards Equality"
- 2014 "Unity: Commemorating 20 Years of Advancing The Dream"
- 2015 "Unity: Striving For Justice, Equality and World Peace"
- 2016 "Unity: From Rhetoric to Reality"
- 2017 "Unity: Make It Your Lifestyle"
- 2018 "Unity: Peace Through Non-Violence"
- 2019 "Unity: The Promise of Hope"
- 2020 "Unity: Strengthened Through Diversity"
- 2021 "Unity: In an Age of Uncertainty"

UNITY BREAKFAST THEMES 1995 to PRESENT

- 2022 "Unity: A Necessity For Life's Challenges"
- 2023 "Unity: Together Again: A Breakfast with Purpose "
- 2024 "Unity: Still A Dream 60 Years Later "
- 2025 "Unity: A Challenge in these Troubled Times "



UNITY AWARDS

Each year, as part of the Unity Breakfast, The Education Foundation of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. recognizes individuals and/or organizations that we feel have exemplified the true legacy of Dr. King. We look for recipients who have gone beyond the call of duty, have made a difference in our community and who have worked toward unifying our community.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2025 Laurel Martin Junior Achievement
Black Soil Ashley C. Smith 2024 Devine Carama 2024 1st Presbyterian Church 2022 Commerce Lexington 2021 Make-A-Wish Ohio, Kentucky & Indiana 2020 Fayette County Public Schools 2019 Lexington-Fayette Branch NAACP
Ronald McDonald House Charities of the Bluegrass 2018 William "Butch" Emerson III
The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence 2017 Jesse Crenshaw
On The Move Art Studio 2016 Mildred Bailey Dream Factory 2015 Lyric Theatre Common Good 2014 March of Dimes
Dr. Marlene Helm 2013 William Wells Brown Community Center
Rotary Club of Lexington 2012 Big Brothers/Big Sisters of the Bluegrass
Jim Embry 2011 The Bluegrass Community Foundation
The Feeding Ministry of Main Street Baptist Church 2010 BMW Program
Catholic Action Center 2009 Dorothy Coleman
Lexington Public Library | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2008 LexLinc
Lexington Housing Authority 2007 Carnegie Center for Literacy
Black Church Coalition 2006 Urban League Young Professionals
Faith Based Housing Foundation 2005 Chrysalis House
YMCA Black Achievers 2004 Gov. Edward T. "Ned" Breathitt
Catherine Warner 2003 The Junior League of Lexington
Volunteers of America 2002 Lexington-Fayette Police Department
Lexington-Fayette Fire Department 2001 United Way of the Bluegrass
Hope Center 2000 African American Forum, Inc.
God's Pantry 1999 Roots & Heritage Festival Committee
Habitat for Humanity-Lexington 1998 Bank One Community Development Office
YMCA of Central Kentucky 1997 Lexington-Fayette County Urban League
Community Action Council of Lexington 1996 Lexington-Herald Leader
National Conference 1995 Central Christian Church
Office of Minority Affairs, University of Kentucky |
|--|--|

NO PLACE



Like *This Place*

Dr. King reminds us that progress isn't about how fast you move - it's about continuing forward. At the Y, we meet people where they are, bring communities together, and create space for everyone to belong. There's truly no place like *this place*.



WILLIAM
WELLS BROWN
Elementary



EDUCATIONAL Programs & Activities

Reading, Writing, and Rewards: A Commitment to Early Literacy and Excellence WILLIAM WELLS BROWN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Since 2012, the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has remained steadfast in its commitment to early childhood education through the Reading, Writing, and Rewards Program. Established through a collaborative partnership with the University of Kentucky and Fayette County Public Schools, this initiative was launched at William Wells Brown Elementary School and continues to positively impact students today in 2026.

Building a Foundation for Lifelong Learning



The Reading, Writing, and Rewards Program was designed to support students who need additional encouragement and assistance in developing strong reading comprehension and writing skills. By providing access to age-appropriate books, structured writing activities, and meaningful incentives, the program motivates students to engage more deeply with learning while building confidence in their academic abilities.

Students participating in the program are empowered to select books that spark their interest, fostering a sense of ownership in their learning. After completing each book, students write a summary that is reviewed and graded, reinforcing comprehension, critical thinking, and written communication skills. Rewards are earned based on both the number of books read and the quality of the written

work, reinforcing the value of effort, excellence, and consistency.

Mentorship That Makes a Difference



A distinguishing feature of the program is its emphasis on mentorship. Members of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. meet weekly with students at William Wells Brown Elementary to serve as positive role models and mentors. These consistent interactions provide encouragement, accountability, and motivation—reminding students that they are supported and capable of success.

This mentorship component aligns seamlessly with William Wells Brown Elementary's Promise Academy model, which emphasizes extended learning time, specialized support, and strong community partnerships. The presence of engaged male mentors helps students develop confidence, resilience, and a positive self-image while navigating academic and personal challenges.

Investing Early, Impacting the Future



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. has long believed that setting high standards at an early age is essential to long-term success. Through programs like Reading, Writing, and Rewards, the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter extends its commitment to scholastic achievement beyond secondary



education and into elementary classrooms—meeting students where they are and helping them grow.



Under the leadership of Principal Ms. Ebony Hutchinson, William Wells Brown Elementary serves students in Pre-K through fifth grade and continues to thrive through strong partnerships that prioritize

student success. Together, educators, community partners, and fraternity members work collectively to ensure students have the resources, encouragement, and support needed to excel.

A Lasting Partnership

Now in its second decade, the Reading, Writing, and Rewards Program stands as a testament to the power of sustained community engagement. What began in 2012 has evolved into a lasting partnership rooted in service, literacy, mentorship, and belief in the potential of every child.

By investing in reading, writing, and positive reinforcement, the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. continues to help shape confident learners, strong readers, and future leaders—one book, one essay, and one student at a time.



MARCH OF DIMES MARCH FOR BABIES

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. is deeply committed to the health and well-being of all children. Our long-standing partnership with the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation reflects our belief that while it truly takes a village to raise a child, that village must also work together to ensure every child has a strong and equitable start in life.

We are proud to be an active part of that village. Each year, Alpha Phi Alpha chapters across the nation raise critical funds in support of the March of Dimes' mission to help mothers achieve healthy pregnancies and reduce conditions and diseases that threaten the lives of newborns. In addition to financial support, our members generously contribute their time and service through volunteer participation in the annual March for Babies, reinforcing our commitment to strengthening families and communities.



ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

Alpha Phi Alpha prides itself on being a “school for the better making of men.” No population is in more need of enlightenment than African American males. The Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and the Alpha Beta Lambda Education Foundation work collectively to raise money that supports the educational endeavors of those young men aspiring to pursue higher education. Having supported students since 1998, we strive to see out those who have demonstrated their potential, letting them know that it is our goal to support them financially and personally.

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter Education Foundation offers three scholarships to deserving young men.



1. A Four-Year Renewable Scholarship.
2. An Educational Enrichment Scholarship.
3. Gap Scholarship.
4. The Henry A. Tandy Scholarship

Beginning in August 2017, at the end of each academic year, the Education Foundation of the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. presents a four year, renewable \$2,000 academic scholarship to a deserving student. The recipient of the scholarship receives \$1,000 per semester while enrolled at the university of the student’s choice. The award is renewable each year based on the student’s academic performance.

In order to qualify for the scholarship, the applicant must be an African American male with minimum grade point average of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale. The award is based on the qualities, community involvement and character. In addition,

the Education Foundation of the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. awards Educational Enrichment scholarships. These scholarships are based on need, with consideration given to merit and the moral character of the candidates.

These scholarships funds are to be used by a currently enrolled student pursuing opportunities such as: a study abroad experience, funds to attend a professional development conference, participating in a student leadership training etc. The candidates should be African American college males from Fayette, Bourbon, Clark, Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Scott, Woodford County or a student enrolled in an accredited four-year Kentucky college/ university. Students must have a GPA of 3.0 or better.

Also, the Education

- 2025 Tyren Harris
- 2024 Cole Wicker
- 2023 Nathan Hocker
- 2022 Carter James
- 2021 Otreylvien Taylor
- 2020 Jarvis Byrd
- 2019 Griffin Weathers
- 2018 Zion Walker
- 2017 Anthony Graham
- 2016 Isaiah Cordrey
- 2015 Isaiah Cloud
- 2014 Marcus Tyler, Jr.
- 2013 Landon Love
- 2012 Taylor Robinson
- 2011 Dominique Dishman
- 2010 Dana Smith
- 2009 Willard Beatty, III
- 2008 Daniel Moore
- 2007 William French, IV
- 2006 Stephen Morton
- 2005 Tony Koby Balfour Titus Mayhorn, II
- 2004 Derrick J. Morton Anthony Lewis
- 2003 Dra'Mon V. Barbary Christopher Lawson
- 2002 Aaron W. Stephenson Roland Lee, IV.
- 2001 Christopher Phillips

2000 Donte' L. Tichenor
Jarvis Chenault

1999 Robert A. Jones
Victor Sarpong

1998 Christopher Gatewood
Charles A. Ross

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



Foundation of the Alpha Beta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. awards a Gap Scholarships. The Gap scholarship is based on need, with consideration given to merit and the moral character of the candidates. The funds are to be used to assist students in offsetting the cost of educational expenses such as tuition, books, fees, housing, course supplies and other resources.

The applicants must be African American undergraduate students from Fayette, Bourbon, Clark,

Franklin, Jessamine, Madison, Scott, Woodford County or a student enrolled in an accredited four-year Kentucky college/university. Applicants must have a GPA of 3.0 or better.



EDUCATION FOUNDATION
ALPHA BETA LAMBDA CHAPTER



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Junior Achievement programs empower children to solve problems, think critically, and become engaged members of their community so they are excited for the future.

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JA prepares students for **Work & Careers**



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**WORK
READINESS**



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Join us in shaping the future!

Volunteers are vital in teaching young people, offering mentorship and inspiration. JA provides training that is simple and relatable; programs that are engaging and fun; and a classroom full of eager kids ready to learn from you!

Get involved today and help create a world where young people have the skillset and mindset to build thriving communities.





PROJECT ALPHA



Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., in partnership with the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, began implementing Project Alpha in 1980. This collaborative initiative is designed to provide education, motivation, and skill-building opportunities for young males ages 12–15, with a focus on personal responsibility, healthy relationships, teen pregnancy prevention, and the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

PROGRAM Highlights

Project Alpha: My Voice, My Choices, My Future

Project Alpha gave me more than information—it gave me understanding, confidence, and direction. Through this program, I learned that my choices today shape the man I become tomorrow.

Created through a partnership between Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. and the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation, Project Alpha is designed to help young men like me gain the knowledge, skills, and mindset needed to

make responsible decisions and build a strong future.

Learning What Matters

Before Project Alpha, there were a lot of things I didn't fully understand about relationships, health, and responsibility. Project Alpha gave me real, honest information—without judgment—about topics that affect my life, such as sexual health, teen pregnancy, and respect in relationships. Having access to accurate information helped me feel prepared instead of confused or pressured.

Understanding these topics matters because the choices we make as young men don't just affect us—they affect our families, our goals, and our futures. Project Alpha helped me realize that being informed is a form of strength.

Taking Responsibility for My Actions

One of the biggest lessons I learned is that being a man means being responsible and accountable. Project Alpha challenged me to think about who I want to be, how I treat others, and the example I set through my actions. We talked openly about respect, relationships,



fatherhood, and making decisions that align with our values.

The mentors didn't just tell us what to do—they showed us what responsibility looks like. Seeing positive male role models who care about our success made a lasting impact on me.

Gaining Confidence and Life Skills

Project Alpha helped me build confidence by teaching me skills I can actually use. Through discussions, role-playing, and interactive activities, I learned how

to communicate better, stand by my decisions, and handle real-life situations. These experiences helped me believe in myself and my ability to make good choices, even when faced with pressure.

Knowing that I have the tools to handle challenges makes me feel empowered and ready for the future.

A Program That Invests in Me

Project Alpha showed me that my life has value and that people are willing to invest time and effort into my success.

The program didn't just talk about staying on the right path—it helped me see that I have options, goals, and a purpose.

Because of Project Alpha, I understand that my choices matter, my voice matters, and my future matters. I am more confident, more informed, and more prepared to become the man I am meant to be.

- 2025 Former Participant -



ALPHA CURRICULUM

The Project Alpha curriculum focuses on five key topics:

“You are not only responsible for what you say, but also for what you do not say.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



RESPONSIBILITY, RESPECT AND THE ROLE OF MALES IN RELATIONSHIPS



ADOLESCENT PREGNANCY AND FATHERHOOD



PROTECTING YOURSELF AND YOUR PARTNER



SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES



INTIMATE VIOLENCE IN RELATIONSHIPS



PROJECT ALPHA

Project Alpha is a workshop that provides middle and high school males an opportunity to have a safe environment to dialogue about manhood, sexual responsibility and relationship issues.



– *United States of* –
AMERICA



A VOTELESS PEOPLE IS A HOPELESS PEOPLE



The “A Voteless People is a Hopeless People” initiative was created during a time of open and intentional voter disenfranchisement. While the methods have changed, the need for strong civic participation remains. In 2026, barriers often appear in more complex forms, including misinformation, digital manipulation, restrictive legislation, and administrative hurdles that can discourage or block participation. In response, our commitment remains firm: to strengthen the political voice of the African American community through voter education, voter registration, and consistent voter turnout.

Voting is not only a right—it is one of the most effective tools for community protection,

“A Voteless People is a Hopeless People” was initiated as a National Program of Alpha during the 1930s when many African Americans had the right to vote but were prevented from voting because of poll taxes, threats of reprisal, and lack of education about the voting process.”

representation, and progress. When citizens understand the voting process, know their rights, and have access to accurate information, they are better prepared to participate with confidence. For this reason, voter education and registration have remained a central focus in the Fraternity’s planning and service work.

In the 1990s, the Fraternity expanded its approach by promoting political awareness through town hall meetings and candidate forums, providing spaces for informed community dialogue. Alpha members are expected to be registered voters and to participate in national voter registration efforts, helping ensure every eligible voice is heard.





Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. taught that the ballot is foundational to dignity, representation, and justice. In 2026, as hard-won progress faces renewed tests, our responsibility is clear: we must strengthen our democracy through voter education, voter registration, and consistent voter participation. Honoring the sacrifices of Dr. King—and the legacy of Alpha Phi Alpha’s “Jewels”—requires more than reflection. It requires action at the polls. When eligible citizens do not vote, our communities lose influence in decisions that shape schools, public safety, health care, jobs, and civil rights.

The Alpha Beta Lambda (alumni) Chapter and the Epsilon Chi (University of Kentucky) Chapter have a strong record of civic engagement in Fayette County. Through door-to-door outreach and registration booths, the chapters have

helped more than 500 individuals register to vote and secure access to absentee ballot options when needed. In recent years, the chapters have also supported Operation Turnout by participating in voter education forums that gave candidates in major races an opportunity to share their positions on key issues—helping voters make informed decisions.

In addition, Alpha brothers maintain ongoing advocacy through annual visits to the Kentucky State Capitol, where they engage policymakers on matters affecting the local community. With continued support, our chapters will expand efforts to educate residents on voting rights, increase registration, and encourage full participation in every election. Vote. Register others. Stay informed. Our collective future depends on it.

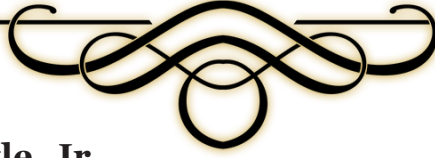
The MLK Legacy: “Give Us the Ballot”

“Give us the ballot and we will quietly and nonviolently, without rancor or bitterness, implement the Supreme Court’s decision of May 17, 1954.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



UNITY BREAKFAST PARTICIPANTS



Mr. Charles F. Little, Jr.
Retired Teacher
Fayette County Public Schools

Ms. Annessa Franklin, Emcee
Vice President • Urban League of Lexington

Ms. Trinity Cardell
Miss Black and Gold
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Epsilon Chi Chapter
University of Kentucky

Reverend Dr. Brian Chenoweth
Unitarian Universalist Church

Ms. Taca Hollis
Spoken Word Artist

Honorable Linda Gorton
Mayor
Lexington Fayette Urban County Government

Ms. Rae'Shawna Campbell
Director of Worship
First Baptist Church, Bracktown

Mr. Whit Whitaker
NAACP President / Vocalist

Dr. Stephanie M. Raglin
Vocalist

Honorable Jacqueline Coleman
Lieutenant Governor

Mrs. Sharon Price
Executive Director Community Action

Dr. Laurel Martin
Junior Achievement of the Bluegrass, Inc.

Dr. Joseph Owens
Retired Pastor Shiloh Baptist Church

Mr. Barry Stumbo
Retired Chief Development Officer at Shaker Village
of Pleasant Hill



WE SHALL OVERCOME



We shall overcome, we shall overcome
We shall overcome some day
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We shall overcome some day

We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand,
We'll walk hand in hand some day
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe
We'll walk hand in hand some day

God is on our side,
God is on our side,
God is on our side today;
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe,
God is on our side today.



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Toyota Motor North America
Delta Dental Foundation of Kentucky

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SILVER

Columbia Gas
Gray AES, PSC
The Lexington School
Junior Achievement of the
Bluegrass
Bluegrass Care Navigators

BRONZE

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BSK Theological Seminary
PNC Bank
CHI Saint Joseph Health
Lexington Fire Department
AllTech
Episcopal Diocese of Lexington
Commerce Lexington

2026 COMMEMORATIVE
UNITY BREAKFAST PROGRAM
Designed by Obie Taylor Sr.

PATRONS

2026 Unity Breakfast

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UFCW Local 227
Lexington Human Rights Commission
Urban League of Lexington -Fayette County
Lexington Housing Authority
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Tate Hills Jacobs Architects
University of Kentucky Alumni Association
Fayette Commonwealth Attorney Office
Edward Jones Office of LeTicia Precely
Sullivan University
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Toyota African American Collaborative
Valvoline
James Palumbo
Community Action Council
Sturgill, Turner, Barker & Moloney PLLC
Jewish Federation of Lexington
Fayette County Sheriff's Office

Hello humankindness®



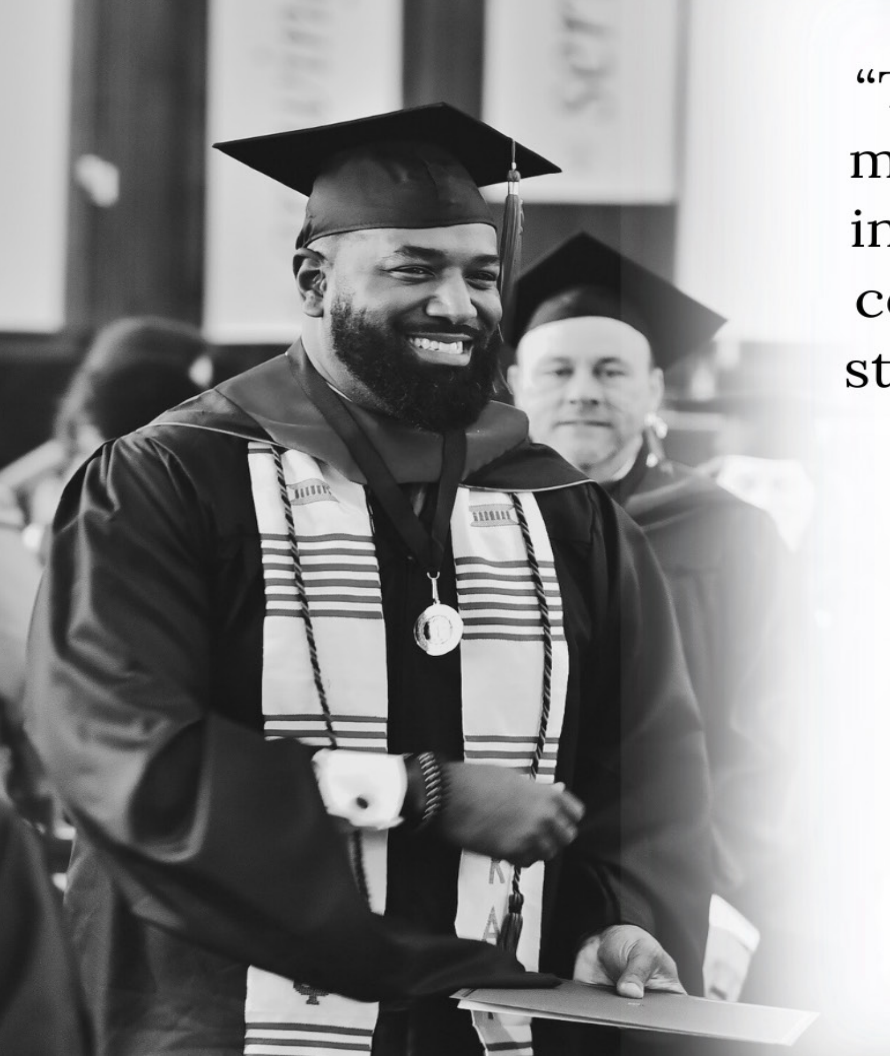
“Whatever your life’s work is, do it well.”

- Martin Luther King, Jr.



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“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



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BE THE CHURCH BE THE CHANGE

THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF LEXINGTON

A Prayer for Social Justice

Grant, O God, that your holy and life giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, p. 823



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Faith

is taking the first step even when you can't see the whole staircase.”

— Martin Luther King Jr.

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LEXINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Power of a Shared Table

On this day of remembrance and unity, we reflect on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s powerful message of love, peace, and respect. It's about building bridges, listening to understand, and working together toward a common goal.

For us, that means being more than just a bank. It means being a neighbor and a partner. We believe the best relationships are built on trust and mutual respect. **Let's continue to build a community where everyone has a seat at the table.**



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Dr. King's Vision in the Lexington Community

As we draw the curtains on this 2026 Commemorative Program, we find ourselves standing at a unique precipice in history. Six decades have passed since Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. raised his voice against the “giant triplets” of racism, materialism, and militarism. Today, the resonance of his words vibrations with a renewed frequency against the specific challenges of our modern landscape—from the halls of Fayette County Public Schools to the legislative chambers of our Commonwealth. To remember Dr. King in 2026 is not an act of nostalgia; it is a strategic necessity for our progress.

The challenges we face today are as sophisticated as they are daunting. We navigate a digital age where misinformation threatens the bedrock of truth, and legislative hurdles aim to quiet the very voices Dr. King fought to amplify. In this climate, his legacy serves as more than a moral compass—it is a blueprint for the resilient civic engagement seen in our “A Voteless People is a Hopeless People” initiatives.

Dr. King’s “Beloved Community” is not a distant dream but a living reality found within the Alpha Beta Lambda Education Foundation. In 2026, building this community requires the collective empowerment we see in our Academic Scholarship recipients and the life-changing mentorship of Project Alpha. These are not mere line items in a program; they are investments in the next generation of “Jewels” who will carry the torch of leadership into an increasingly complex world.

The trials of this year demand that we move past “tranquilizing drugs of gradualism.” We are reminded that progress is never inevitable; it is bought with the persistent effort of our Education Foundation Officers and the enduring support of our Corporate Sponsors and Patrons. Whether we are addressing economic gaps or fostering spiritual leadership, we are actively weaving the fabric of King’s dream into the reality of 21st-century Lexington.

As you leave this Unity Breakfast, carry with you the understanding that the “Stone of Hope” is still being carved. In 2026, your ballot is your voice, your mentorship is your legacy, and your unity is your greatest strength. We shall overcome the challenges of today by remembering that the arc of the moral universe only bends toward justice when we put our hands on the curve and pull.

Let us march forward, not in fear, but in the certain hope that a people united in purpose can never be defeated. Get out, advocate, and VOTE—for the future is not something we wait for; it is something we create.





**“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands
in moments of comfort and convenience but where he
stands at times of challenge and controversy.”**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

