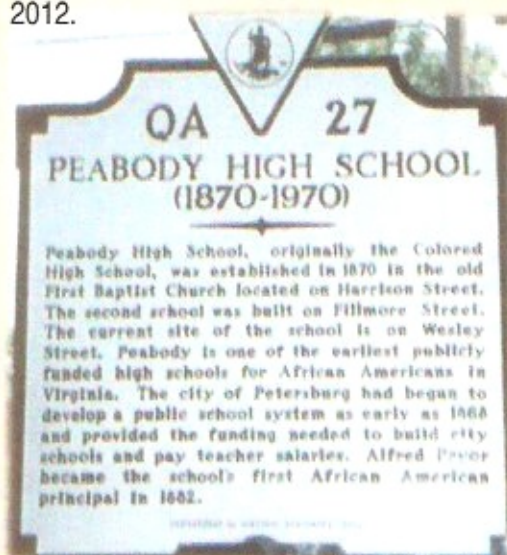




Peabody High School National Alumni Association, Inc.

Peabodians Unveil Historical Marker

A public dedication and unveiling ceremony for the Peabody High School Historical Highway Marker, honoring "the earliest publicly funded high school for African Americans in Virginia" was held on Saturday, May 26, 2012.



The unveiling took place on the corner of Harrison and Liberty Streets, only a few feet from the site of the Old African Church, which housed the first Peabody School in 1870. A large crowd filled the blocked-off section of Harrison Street to witness and help celebrate the significance and the honor of the school receiving a state historical marker, and the milestone accomplishment of the Peabody High School National Alumni Association.

The ceremony started on schedule with the Vice-President, R.J. Bragg (class of '59), serving as mistress of ceremonies. Elder James "Ray" Clarke (class of '64) blessed the occasion. Available to give greetings and congratulatory remarks were The Honorable Brian Moore (Petersburg's Mayor), Councilman Howard Myers, Councilwoman Treska Wilson-Smith, and City Manager, William Johnson. Delegate Rosalyn Dance (class of '66) was not able to attend, but she sent a letter of congratulations which was read to those assembled. Also available was Peter Luebke, Highway Marker Historian with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, who explained briefly the process by which highway markers are obtained.

To set the tone and remind persons of the rich heritage of Peabody High School and "why rejoicing the love and legacy should be something they should be doing today, tomorrow and many days to come" was Thelma Jefferson, President of PHSNAA (class of '67). Music for the occasion was provided by the Peabody Middle School Band, directed by Janice Mann (class of '70). A beautiful rendition of "My Tribute" was sung by the Rev. Vernon "Billy" Lee (class of '57). Before the benediction by Rev. Jeremiah Tillman, Pastor of First Baptist Church (Harrison Street), the crowd sang the Peabody Alma Mater. According to President Jefferson, "A lot of hard work went into deciding on the correct verbiage for the marker and receiving the proper approval. Requesting the highway marker did not start with my administration; it was 'a work in progress' prior to me taking over the presidency. However, through my persistence and the dedication and continuous hard work of the current administration, we were able to make the unveiling of the marker a reality." On hand to assist President Jefferson with unveiling the marker was Ms. Patricia Crocker, a faculty member from Peabody Middle School.



ASHLEY APODICA/PROGRESS INDEX PHOTO



Surveying
the spot
where the
marker was
to be placed.





Peabodian of The Quarter

Juanita Owens Wyatt was born in Petersburg, VA to Joseph and Gladys Wyatt Owens. Her first educational experience began on the campus of the then Virginia State College's (now University) Kindergarten. After graduating from Peabody High School in 1956, she matriculated at Bennett College, in Greensboro, NC. In 1960, she graduated with a degree in K-12 education and a minor in political science. Her post-graduate disciplines consisted of Industrial Psychology, Urban Planning, Curriculum Design, United States History, United States Economic History, World History, Ancient Civilization, World Economics, Campaign Management, Powers of Political Persuasion, the Continent of Africa, and Civics. These disciplines were held at various universities such as Virginia State

University, University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University, Bowie State University, Kent State University in Ohio, DC University (DC Teachers College), and the University of Richmond.

Her career has been as diverse as the schools she attended. She taught in the District of Columbia School System for nine years; she worked in the Department of Interior composing letters for the Director of Land Management and EEO Director for two years. During the summers, she trained in the Peace Corps on how to teach science in Sierra Leone, West Africa. She was Director of the YWCA-PINS Residential Project (Persons in Need of Supervision); Teacher in the Alexandria Public School System for two years, Member of the Virginia Water Project for two years, and Teacher in the Petersburg Public School System for 21 years.

Following in the footsteps of her father, Joseph Owens, who became the first Black City Councilman in Petersburg, Juanita was affiliated with many political and civic involvements: (1958) Met Martin Luther King, Jr. at Bennett College, which changed her view of self and the world; (1963) Charter member of Young Democrats of Washington, DC; (1970) Co-Director of the Urban League National Leadership Conference; (1985-89) First woman Chairperson of Petersburg's Democratic Committee; (2007) Vice Chair of the Petersburg Redevelopment and Housing Authority. Juanita is the widow of Steven Randolph Wyatt and the eldest of three siblings: Cornelia Owens Goode and Joseph H. Owens, Jr.

From Juanita's Pen



Along the journey of my life, I was instructed not to brag about yourself. Boasting was considered impolite. So here goes the grateful boast of my blessed and diverse journey. I have experienced many amazing moments, wonderful and health challenging. Three of many discoveries are: my first meeting with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. He was 28 and I was 18. This association remained through my work with SCLC. The second, 6 years ago, I collaborated with cousins ...one was Germaine Williams (class of '60) and my sister, Cornelia

Owens Goode (class of '62) on our family history. Our research grew back 6 generations. This means my great-great nephew, Marqon Mason has nine generations to be proud of. As a result of our efforts, a Souvenir Booklet entitled, "The House of Pauline" was printed. I have always been interested in the Humanities Archeology and now I am passionate about Genealogy. We all have a story to tell. Talk to your elders. Everyone's life is fascinating. The third is becoming President of the Alumni Association (2005-2008). With the membership's cooperation, several initiatives were instituted: (a) financial stability; (b) amending the constitution; (c) new officers-Financial Secretary; (d) voting process to include all members; (e) 501C3 - President Thelma Jefferson completed the process; (f) Historical Marker process—Thelma completed this mission.

If you were to summarize my life, remember these 5 phrases..... (1) hold on to your faith; (2) always seek knowledge; (3) make your life's work enjoyable; (4) revere your heritage; and (5) reach back to your people and community.

*Former Peabody Middle School Student Chosen
For All District III Band*



Alexis N. Smith was chosen for the All District III Band. She is also a member of the All-District Concert Band, which is directed by Mr. James Carver.

The All District Bands are made up of students selected by competitive auditions with the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors' District III Directors. District III is one of sixteen districts established by the Virginia Music Educators Association and stretches from the North Carolina border north through Greenville County to the James River, west to Goochland County and south to Mecklenburg County. Students earning positions in the groups rehearsed with the guest conductors. The purpose of the All District Band is to provide accomplished students the opportunity to meet and make music with other people and to provide a memorable and educational music experience. The top students of the All District Symphonic Band are eligible to audition for the All-Virginia Band later on.

Alexis is currently a sophomore at the Appomattox Regional Governor's School. Her parents, Gregory & Karen Smith and aunt/uncle, Willis & Iris Brown, send their congratulations.



We are very proud of Alexis!

SPECIAL THANKS TO YOU

Dear Peabody Family,



Merriam Webster's dictionary has every word in the English language; however, there are not enough words to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the beautiful cards, phone calls, flowers, words of encouragement and most of all your prayers during my recent illness. I could never tell you what it means to have so much love and caring shown to me. Please know that I love you all and will never forget your kindness.

With love always,

Oriette Walker Bellamy



Scholarship Awarded

The Scholarship Committee proudly reported they had several applications of students from Petersburg High School requesting consideration for the PHSNAA Scholarship. Based on the committee's decision, and additional funds in the Scholarship account, two students were selected to receive a \$500 and \$300 award. Thank you Chairperson, Oriette Bellamy and committee for your work during the selection process.

At the Petersburg High School Senior Class Awards and Recognition Day, held on Wednesday, May 9, 2012, a certificate and award letter were presented to Natasha N. Richardson and Isaiah Santos. Natasha, who received the \$500 award, maintained a GPA of 3.1. She was a Staff Sergeant in the ROTC. Her career plans are to become a Veterinarian/Animal Rescuer. She plans to attend Virginia State University and major in Biology (Animal Science). Isaiah, received the \$300 award. He maintained a GPA of 2.25. His goal is to become a Marine and later a teacher. He has applied to Winthrop University, Liberty University, and Virginia Union and plans to major in English/Early Childhood Education.



We Salute You Martha Short Dance

Mrs. Martha Short Dance was born January 15, 1923 in Warfield, VA (Brunswick County). She graduated from high school and two years of normal college from St. Paul's College, Lawrenceville, VA and received her A.B. degree from Virginia Union University, Richmond, VA. She earned her Master's degree at New York University and did further study at Virginia Commonwealth University, University of Virginia, Virginia State University and Tennessee A&I State University.

Her work experiences were varied in the field of education. She was an elementary school teacher in Japan, Brunswick County, Henry Williams Elementary and Virginia Avenue Elementary. She taught history and social studies at Peabody High School and was a visiting teacher and social worker for the Petersburg School System from which she retired in 1985. Mrs. Dance worked with many civic, educational and religious projects. She was a member of Zion Baptist Church, where she was co-founder of the L.R. Valentine Youth Group; and as a sponsor of this group, she was instrumental in getting a grant for the writing of the **"History and Legend of Pocahontas Island."** She also authored the book entitled, **"Peabody High School--A History of the First Negro Public High School in Virginia."**



Mrs. Martha S. Dance, Author



In Loving Memory Of Janice Stith Jones

Janice Stith Jones, 63, of 6507 Armfield Road, Richmond, departed this life on Saturday, May 5, 2012 at John Randolph Medical Center, Hopewell, VA. Janice's accident occurred when she was arriving at the PHSNAA Annual Spring Fling.

Janice was born to the late Henry A. Stith, Sr. and Grace Stith Archer on November 8, 1948. She was a 1967 graduate of Peabody High School. Janice also attended Virginia State University and received her Registered Nurses degree from John Tyler Community College, Chester. Janice has worked in Virginia State Hospitals for over 30 years to include Central State Mental Hospital, the Medical College of Virginia, Burkesville Medical Center and the Southside Virginia Training Center. She was also the former Vice President and President of the UE16 Union for employees at Central State Mental Hospital. Left to cherish her precious memory are: sons, Theodore E. Jones, Jr. of Newport News and Anthony R. Jones of Richmond; daughter, Sharon Jones Baker (Terrance) of Hampton; grandchildren, Kiara K. Jones and Desmond I. Pinder-Jones and one like a grandchild, Kenya Wynn; two aunts, Helen Sharpe (Robert) of Petersburg and Lillian Hill (Richard) of Petersburg; two uncles, George Smith of Petersburg and William Smith of Bronx, NY; godmother, Elsie Hobbs and family, Uplanda, Georgetown, Del. Gail and Ronnie of Hopewell and North Carolina; a host of cousins, nieces and nephews.

*A scholarship fund has been set up in honor
of Janice's life at Wells Fargo Bank.*

*Please make checks payable
to the*

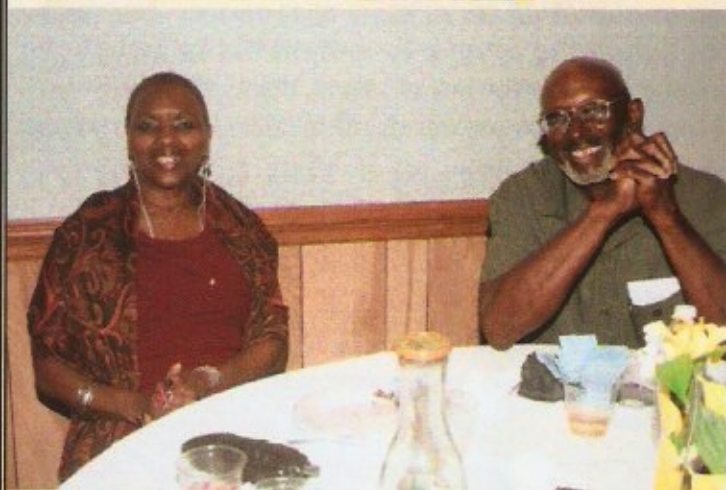
*"Janice Stith Jones Scholarship
Fund."*



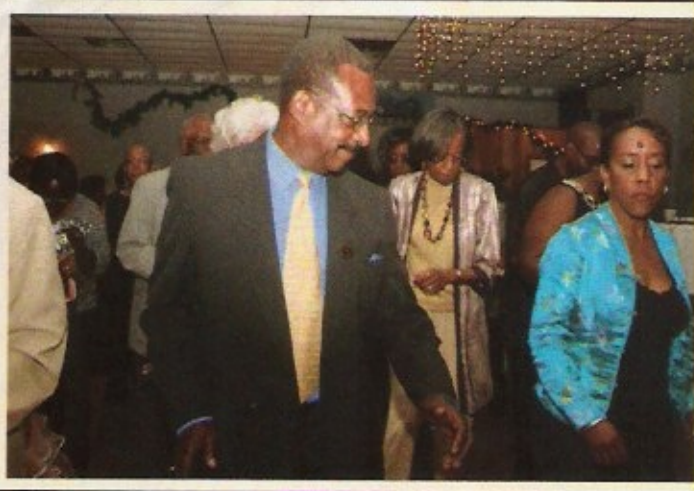
May Spring Fling

The Annual Spring Fling was held at the Sunlight Elks Lodge on May 5, 2012. Alumni and guests gathered to reminisce and fellowship. Each year you can expect an enjoyable affair and an evening socializing with in-state and out-of-state classmates and the many, many guests who also enjoy the spirit and comradery of their Peabody friends. As usual, the hors d'oeuvre table was full of delicious tid-bits that tantalized the pallets of each person. The music, which was furnished by "KJ from FM" (105.7), was just another element that added to the enjoyment of the evening. In addition, you can also look forward to the "door prize" give-a-way; just another way of saying "thank you for coming." The Spring Fling is planned to share fun and excitement among Peabodians and friends, while raising funds to add to the Restoration Project. We all look forward to this annual affair. There's nothing like it! **You can tell by the big smiles on the faces that everyone enjoyed the affair.**





Dancing can really bring on some serious faces! BM7, still having fun





Please join us as we celebrate our "55th"
Graduation Anniversary!

Date: October 13, 2012 (Saturday)

Time: 7:00PM-10:30PM

Place: Holiday Inn North Ft. Lee

401 East Roslyn Road

Colonial Heights, VA 23834

Ticket: \$40.00

Attire: "South of the Border" (optional)

There will be Dinner, Entertainment, Dancing, Games,
Prizes and Margaritas.



Please Purchase your ticket(s) by **August 15, 2012**

Make Checks/Money Orders Payable To:

Peabody Class of 1957

Mail Payments To: **Peabody Class of 1957**

9003 Fox Lair Drive

Burke, Va. 22015

For Additional Information Call 804-861-9526

The Script Committee

Thelma Jefferson

(804) 862-1192

thelma2033@comcast.net

Gloria Brown: (804) 861-0945

Lula Lawson: (804) 526-3097

Virginia Mann: (804) 733-0059



We Need Your News Articles!

*"**Believe** in your dreams and they may come true;
believe in yourself and they will come true."*

Peabody High School
National Alumni Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 972
Petersburg, VA 23804-0972

PLACE
STAMP
HERE

The Mighty Lions

"Reuniting/Renewing/Restoring/Rejoicing Peabody's Legacy"