NAACP of West Virginia
2018 State Conference of Branches

Celebrating
Black Excellence & Achievement

Freedom Fund Banquet Awards Dinner
West Virginia State University Center

August 25, 2018
Keynote Speaker
Delegate Sean Hornbuckle
**Honorees**

- **Taylor J. Perry, Ed.D.**
  Champion for Educational Excellence for African American — Developed and Implemented the ACT-SAT Tutoring and Mentoring for Martinsburg High School Students — Developed the Advanced Placement (AP) Challenge Program for Minority Students

- **Sylvia C. Ridgeway**
  Champion for Education and Social Justice — Over Forty-three (43) Years as Full-time and Part-time Teacher in Cabell County School System — Numerous Honors for Community Service

- **William "Chip" Ferrell**
  Champion of Youth Development
  Thirty-six (36) Years Coach Capitol City Striders of Which He Started in 1982

- **Dallas Staples**
  Champion for Community Policing and Public Service — Twenty-five (25) Year Career as Charleston Police Officer — First and Only African American to Serve as Chief of Police — One of Eight Black Police Officer and One of Five Black Fire Fighters Who Successfully sued the City of Charleston in U.S. District Court for Discrimination in Hiring and Promoting Practices

- **Anthony L. Kinzer, Sr.**
  Champion of African American History and Culture
  Initiated the Effort to Bring the Nationally Recognized Exhibit, A Slave Ship Speaker: "The Wreck of the Henrietta Marie to the WV Cultural Center for 1998 — Lead the Establishment of the West Virginia Center for African American Art and Culture in 2001 — In 2001, the Center Obtained the Designation of Black History District for an Area of Four Square Blocks in Charleston

- **Robert "Bob" Hardy**
  Champion of Housing and Community Development — Co-Founder of the Charleston Economic and Community Development Corporation (CECDC) — Rehabbed or Constructed Over 100 Homes Throughout Kanawha County — Provided the Visionary Inspiration for the West Side Revive Movement — Senior Advisor and Consultant to Reverend Matthew J. Watts and HOPE Community Development Corporation

- **Bishop Frederick Hightower, Sr.**
  Champion for Spiritual Excellence and Excellence in the Arts
  Founder and Pastor of All Nations Revival Center — Developed the Architectural Plans and Lead the Construction of the All Nations Revival Center Church Edifice — Gifted as a Painter and Sculpturer — Commissioned to Sculpture the Statue of Ms. Kathryn Johnson.
Honorees

Stephen R. Starks
Champion for Black Free Press and Social Justice — Thirty (30) Years Publisher WV Beacon Digest Newspaper — Visionary Founder and Organizer of Multi-Cultural Festival (Multifest) of WV

Paul Joseph Gilmer, Jr.
Champion of Youth Development Forty (40) Years Coach Midwestern Big Blues Youth Football — Thirty (30) years Coach Capitol City Striders

Deborah Starks
Champion for Black Free Press and Social Justice — Thirty (30) Years Business Manager for the WV Beacon Digest Newspaper

George Rutherford
Champion for Social Justice and Equality Long-time Community Leader — Forty-four (44) Years President of Jefferson County NAACP — Champion for Black History Presentation — One of the Founders of Jefferson County Black History Perseveration Society

Martin Luther King, Jr. Male Chorus
Champions for Gospel Musical Excellence Over twenty (20) years plus one of West Virginia Foremost Gospel Choral Groups — Have ministered at some of the most significant functions in West Virginia. This includes two gubernatorial inaugurations, funeral service for the late Senator Robert C. Byrd — Memorial Service with President Barack Obama Honoring for Twenty-nine (29) Miners Killed in the Upper Big Branch Mining Accident

Anna Elizabeth Evans Gilmer
Educator and Historian Co-Author of the Black Past Book — A Record of the History of African American in West Virginia — A Member of the Special Committee for the West Virginia Women's Commission, — Researched and Wrote Some of the Entries in the Commission's Book, A Sampling of West Virginia's African American Women of Distinction