

Richland One to induct six into Hall of Fame

Written by Staff Writer

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Six new members will be inducted into the Richland One Hall of Fame in January, district officials announced at a news conference October 3.

The Richland One Hall of Fame was created to recognize Richland One alumni and other persons throughout the district's history who have made significant contributions to Richland One, their communities, their professions and society as a whole. Induction into the Richland One Hall of Fame is the highest honor bestowed upon individuals by the Richland One Board of School Commissioners. Forty-one persons have been inducted since the Hall of Fame was established in 2004.

The six members of the 2012 Richland One Hall of Fame induction class are:

- Pastor Sam Goodwin, a 1961 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School who was a star athlete in basketball and football in high school and at South Carolina State University and who later became pastor and founder of Stedfast Christian Center in Columbia;
- Jean Sanders Hopkins, a 1950 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School whose many contributions to the nursing profession in South Carolina include more than 16 years of service as a school nurse in Richland One;

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- Sen. Phil Leventis, a 1964 graduate of A.C. Flora High School, a former fighter pilot and a retired brigadier general in the S.C. National Guard who has served in the state Senate for more than 30 years;

- Martha Cunningham Monteith, a native of Union, South Carolina who organized the first speech pathology program in South Carolina's public schools and gave 45 years of service to Richland One before she retired as coordinator of speech pathology;

- Dr. Jasper Salmond, a native of Camden, South Carolina and a former Richland One elementary school principal who later joined Wilbur Smith Associates consulting firm and who served on the Richland One Board of School Commissioners for 20 years; and

- Dr. Albert N. Thompson, Sr. (posthumously), a 1936 graduate of Booker T. Washington High School who successfully brought a lawsuit against the Richland County Schools in 1944 (Thompson vs. Gibbes, et al.) to equalize the salaries of African-American teachers with the salaries of white teachers and who went on to serve as a professor at Texas Southern University for 50 years after he and his wife were terminated from their teaching jobs in Richland County.

The 9th annual Richland One Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony Gala will be held Saturday, January 26, 2013 at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center. Tickets will go on sale in November.

For more information about the Hall of Fame Gala, including sponsorship opportunities, contact Karen York in the Richland One Office of Communications at 231-7504.