THE POWER IS IN YOU. ADVANCE THE DREAM!
“Without love, there is no reason to know anyone, for love will, in the end, connect us to our neighbors, our children and our hearts.”

—DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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City of Charleston

JOHN J. TECKLENBURG
MAYOR

January 21, 2020

Dear Friends:

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 48th Annual Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, considered South Carolina's largest tribute to the enduring legacy of Dr. King. Over the course of 10 days every January, our community enjoys various events such as the MLK Area Worship Services, Tri-County Ecumenical Service, Holiday Parade, and the Business and Professional Breakfast.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. achieved unequaled moral stature and commanded worldwide respect as he led our nation in its quest for civil and human rights with remarkable eloquence and courage. So, as we celebrate the anniversary of his birth, let us reaffirm our commitment to the honorable principles for which Dr. King lived, and ultimately, gave his life.

I would especially like to thank Mrs. Sheila C. Johnson - entrepreneur, philanthropist, and Founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts - who will serve as the keynote speaker for this important event. Furthermore, I offer sincere congratulations to the staff and Board of Directors of the YWCA of Greater Charleston for their many years of service to the Lowcountry.

Once again, welcome and thank you for joining us.

Most sincerely yours,

John J. Tecklenburg
Mayor, City of Charleston
January 2020

My Dear Fellow MLK Celebrants,

The 48th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration reflects the times and traditions that make our community a great place to live by bringing thousands of people together, from all walks of life, to renew and act on their commitment to social justice and economic freedom. This great civic celebration reflects the goals Dr. King proclaimed in his world renowned August 28, 1968 “I Have a Dream” speech.

The theme for our 20th Annual Breakfast is “The Power is in YOU. Advance the Dream!”.

Today, our MLK Celebration is considered South Carolina’s largest event of its kind honoring Dr. King. Backed by more than 25,000 attendees at MLK events, volunteers, church patrons, businesses and advertisers; our MLK Celebration represents 46 years of annual celebrations sponsored by the YWCA Greater Charleston. For that, we salute the YWCA Greater Charleston, its Board of Directors, Advisory Council, and staff for making this celebration a lasting tradition of goodwill and good works.

As our community undergoes rapid change and growth, we must work continuously to ensure that there is equal opportunity for all, while expanding our economy, improving our schools and enriching our civic and cultural lives.

I am humbled and proud to be involved in this time-honored tradition of commemorating the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and The Civil Rights Movement.

Sincerely,

R. Keith Summey
Mayor
YWCA Greater Charleston
1064 Gardner Road, Suite 113
Charleston, SC 29414

Dear Friends:

It is an honor and a privilege to extend warm greetings to all the benefactors of the 48th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. celebration commemorating the 64th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Movement. I look forward to celebrating with you at the 20th Annual Breakfast with the theme of “The Power is in YOU. Advance the Dream!”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. achieved unequaled moral stature and commanded world-wide respect as he led our nation in the quest for civil rights for African-Americans and all people through his eloquence, personal courage and non-violent philosophy.

The YWCA and local members of the Greater Charleston Region exemplify Dr. King’s life long ambitions with continuous work of peace and justice, human rights activism, women’s health and sustainable development for everyone regardless of color or creed. We are humbled and proud to be involved in the commemoration of the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Civil Rights Movement.

Congratulations to the Staff and Board Members of the YWCA for their accomplishments of the past and best wishes for a bright and successful future.

Sincerely,

Will Haynie
Mayor
TOWN OF MOUNT PLEASANT
December 5, 2019

YWCA Greater Charleston
1064 Gardner Road STE 307
Charleston, SC 29403

Dear Friends,

It is with a warm heart and hope for the future of our region, state and country, I wish my very best to your organization and its 48th annual MLK Celebration.

Thank you for your years of service and your continued good works in being a leader to eliminate racism and empowering women.

As the great Dr. King once said, “Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.” He knew the struggle for Civil Rights was a struggle for all races, not just one race.

Dr. King’s dream has very much become a reality, but there is still much work to be done and achieved. Together, as we continue moving forward in bonds of faith, hope, and fairness; we should all continue to serve together to make America the nation he knew it could become.

With warmest regards,

[Signature]

Gregory S. Habib
Mayor
January 2020

On behalf of the YWCA Greater Charleston board of directors and staff, I am grateful and thank you for joining us for the 2020 Annual Celebration of the life and legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

While some may languish and long for times passed, we at YWCA Greater Charleston are energized about this year’s and this century’s opportunities to broadcast the clarion proclamation: We will stand up and resist the tenets of classism, discrimination, racism, sexism, misogyny, and gender inequities.

How will we overcome all of this together? Some consider this question with angst and trepidation. Yet upon contemplation, we find deep in the recesses of our minds, souls, and beings the will not to be silent.

Our theme for 2020, “The Power is in YOU. Advance the Dream!” celebrates this. We also celebrate 100 years of women’s suffrage. These encourage us to embrace and understand the vision, sacrifices, and accomplishments of those past and present who showed strength and fortitude from “dusk to dawn.”

Those powerful and intuitive souls refused to give up, give out, or become complacent. Their indomitable spirit “bent but did not break.” They moaned but refused to cry. Under the hostilities of potential extinction, still they rose, refusing to be marginalized or trivialized. As in the African word *Buntie*, “as you are, so are we.” As our sisters are, so are we! Silent, strong, resilient, consistent, and fearless, we shall survive.

Your support is coveted and appreciated. Your committed and continued encouragement will allow us to always keep the dream of Dr. King alive in all we are, and all we hope to be.

Sincerely yours,

The Honorable Tamara C. Curry
Chair, Board of Directors
YWCA Greater Charleston
WHY WE CELEBRATE

The civil rights movement that spanned the years 1955 through 1968 was led by Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in challenging and compelling the United States Congress to dismantle the laws of segregation, discrimination, and racism against African Americans. This pivotal period of history is why we gather in the tri-county area for the annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration.

We encourage you to always remember those 13 years of Dr. King’s leadership, which shaped public policy and changed the course of American history forever. Due to the sacrifices of those who endured physical abuse while sitting-in at lunch counters, boycotting buses and businesses, and marching down highways and byways across the South, today all Americans have been freed to accomplish their goals, living out the American dream.

Make it your personal challenge to never forget:

- The Montgomery Bus Boycott of 1956, which led to the desegregation of public transportation
- The March on Washington in August 1963, which led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act that dismantled institutional racism
- Bloody Sunday on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama and the Selma-to-Montgomery March in 1965, which forged passage of the Voting Rights Act
- Passage of the Fair Housing Act of 1968
- Passage of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. federal holiday

Make it your personal commitment each time you celebrate the holiday to vote in every election, to encourage other citizens to register and vote, and to make voting a priority for people you know and love.

Lest we forget, it took generations of men and women to link heritage to hope and action through sacrifice, vision, and personal commitment, leading to passage of the King federal holiday.
MAKING HISTORY

YWCA Greater Charleston was founded in 1907. It has been eliminating racism and empowering women across the Charleston region ever since.

The organization played an important role during the civil rights movement in Charleston with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s wife, Coretta Scott King, participating with its members and board in the historic 1969 MUSC hospital strike. By happenstance, YWCA Greater Charleston’s executive director at that time was Ms. Christine O. Jackson: Coretta Scott King’s cousin.

In 1972, Ms. Jackson (pictured at right) founded one of the first MLK tributes in America. She was sitting in an evening meeting at the YWCA in 1968 when she received word of Dr. King’s assassination, shaking her badly. She had last seen him in 1967 when he came to Charleston to speak.

The idea for a tribute came gradually. In its first year it consisted of a ball, suggested to her by a YWCA volunteer, Mrs. Margaret Thomas; Ms. Jackson added a worship service, with the pastor of an Alabama church serving as the keynote speaker at her invitation. In its second year, the keynote speaker was Dr. King’s father, Martin Luther King, Sr. “I remember Mayor Joe Riley being at that celebration,” she says.

The third year, the ecumenical worship service moved to Morris Street Baptist Church. Eventually, area worship services spread throughout the Charleston region, and in 2020 the ecumenical worship service began to rotate throughout tri-county churches.

A breakfast for business leaders and professionals became a fixture of the tribute in 2000, after she walked into Mayor Joe Riley’s office unannounced. Atlee Prince and Spencer Pryor had come up with the idea of the breakfast, and with the mayor’s support, the breakfast was born. Cecelia Roger, mother of our current board chair, was its first chair. Now in its 20th year, Mayor Joe Riley still attends the event.

YWCA Greater Charleston continues to make history as it strives to eliminate racism and empower women—not just with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, but with new programs like:

- **WHAT WOMEN BRING**, an annual power lunch celebrating South Carolina women’s leadership in business, community, and culture
- **RACIAL EQUITY INSTITUTE** workshops led locally by experts nationally recognized for helping communities address institutional racism
- **Y GIRLS CODE** clubs, financially empowering girls of color by preparing them to enter the high-paying, male-dominated technology field
- **CAREER SUCCESS SERIES & SHESTRONG** programs designed to help women and girls grow as leaders in the workplace, in business, and the community
- **WOMEN’S HEALTH SERIES** events including the Choose Well contraceptive program and *indabas* enabling personal conversations with experts
2020 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

1. **SUNDAY, JANUARY 12, 2020 | Area Worship Services**
   3 PM at Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist (Edisto); 3 PM at St. Luke AME (Hollywood); 4 PM at New Hope Missionary Baptist (N CHS); 4 PM at Greater St. Peters (W Ashley); 5 PM at James Island Presbyterian

2. **THURSDAY & FRIDAY, JANUARY 16-17, 2020 | Racial Equity Institute: Phase I**
   9 AM to 5 PM at the College of Charleston’s North Campus, 3800 Paramount Drive
   www.ywcagc.org/racial-equity-institute

3. **SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020 | Youth Poetry Slam**
   2 PM to 4 PM at the Charleston County Library, 68 Calhoun Street
   Emcee: Marcus Amaker, Charleston Poet Laureate and Founder, Free Verse Festival

4. **SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020 | Ecumenical Worship Service**
   4 PM at Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church, 7396 Rivers Avenue
   Keynote Speaker: Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Presiding Bishop of the 10th Episcopal District

5. **MONDAY, JANUARY 20, 2020 | MLK Day Parade, and MLK Commemorative Concert**
   10 AM downtown for the parade; 5 PM at First Baptist Church of James Island for the concert
   Parade Marshal: North Charleston Police Chief Reggie Burgess; Concert: Lowcountry Voices

6. **TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2020 | Business & Professional Breakfast, and Youth Summit**
   7:30 AM to 9 AM at the Charleston Gaillard Center, 95 Calhoun Street
   Keynote Speaker: Sheila C. Johnson, Founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts
CALL TO WORSHIP | Rev. Dr. Byron Benton, Pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

OPENING ANTHEM | “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by Congregation

INVOCATION | Rev. Leonard O. Griffin. Pastor of Morris Street Baptist Church

OLD TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE | Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church

NEW TESTAMENT SCRIPTURE | Rev. Dr. Krystal T. Sears, Pastor of Greater St. Luke AME Church

MUSIC SELECTION | MLK Community Choir

WELCOME | Master Arden S. Dixon of Mount Zion AME Church

THE OCCASION | Rev. Dr. Kylon Jerome Middleton, Pastor of Mount Zion AME Church

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER | Rev. Dr. Eduardo K. Curry, Pastor of Mount Carmel AME

KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie, Presiding Prelate of the 10th Episcopal District


OFFERING | Selection by the Choir

BLESSING OF THE OFFERING | Rev. Karen Reed Perrineau, Associate Minister of Greater St. Luke AME

GREETINGS | The Honorable Keith Summey, Mayor of the City of North Charleston

THE LITANY | Rev. Dr. Betty W. Broomfield, Pastor of St. Paul AME Church

HARVEY GANTT TRIUMPH AWARD | Mr. Clay Middleton, Chair of the Harvey Gantt Award Committee

PRESENTATIONS | Mrs. LaVanda Brown, Executive Director of YWCA Greater Charleston

CLOSING REMARKS | Judge Tamara C. Curry, Board Chair of YWCA Greater Charleston, and Rev. Dr. Byron Benton, Pastor of Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church

THE BENEDICTION | Rev. Jeremy Rutledge, Pastor of Circular Congregation Church

PROCESSIONAL SELECTION | MLK Community Choir
INVOCATION & BLESSING | Ambassador Sonya M. Buncum of Eastside Missionary Baptist Church

THE OCCASION | The Honorable John Tecklenburg, Mayor of the City of Charleston, Honorary Chair

OPENING MESSAGE | The Honorable Tamara C. Curry, Board Chair of YWCA Greater Charleston

REMARKS | LaVanda Brown, Executive Director of YWCA Greater Charleston

SPOKEN WORD | 2020 MLK Youth Poetry Slam First Place Winner

INTRODUCTION OF YOUTH SPEAKER | Mayor John Tecklenburg

YOUTH ADDRESS | Maya Green, Senior at Charleston County School of the Arts

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER | Helen Hill, CEO of Explore Charleston, MLK Breakfast Chair

KEYNOTE ADDRESS | Sheila C. Johnson, Entrepreneur and Philanthropist

AWARD | Mamie Bush & Danielle Hardee, Co-Chairs of the Joseph P. Riley, Jr. Vision Award Committee

AWARD RECIPIENTS | Mickey Bakst and R3, Inc.

CLOSING REMARKS | Mayor John Tecklenburg

CLOSING SONG | “We Shall Overcome” led by Rev. Randolph Miller of Nichols Chapel AME Church

BENEDICTION | Reverend Wendy Hudson-Jacoby of Two Rivers United Methodist Church

YOUTH SUMMIT | All youth please proceed upstairs to Salon 1 for the MLK Youth Summit
Thank you to our sponsors for making the 2020 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration possible!

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WE THANK
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for supporting us in our mission and for their outstanding work on our MLK Celebration and #WhatWomenBring materials. #OnAMission

YWCA IS ON A MISSION

eliminating racism
empowering women

YWCA Greater Charleston

PROMOTING UNITY IN
IN THE TRI-COUNTY.

We are honored to participate in the celebration and lasting legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in this community we all call home. To live better, we must all LIVE UNITED.

LIVE UNITED

Join the Movement.

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EDISTO AREA WORSHIP

MOUNT OLIVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH | 3 PM | Presiding: Rev. Jeronica M. Gadsden, Pastor

- **PROCESSIONAL** | MLK Committee, Program Participants, and Choir
- **OPENING SELECTION** | “Lift Every Voice and Sing”
- **INVOCATION** | Rev. Rhonda Heyward, Pastor of Bethel AME Church
- **SCRIPTURE** | Rev. Dr. Nathan Brown, Pastor of Bethel AME Church
- **LITANY** | Rev. Rose Goodwater Richardson, Pastor of Allen AME Church
- **SELECTION** | Mount Olive Missionary Baptist Church Choir
- **WELCOME** | Sister Selina Blake
- **SELECTION** | Edisto Island Mass Choir
- **GREETINGS** | The Honorable Robert Brown of the South Carolina House of Representatives; Rev. Mack, Chair of the Charleston County School Board; Jarmalar Logan, Principal of Jane Edwards Elementary School on Edisto Island
- **OCCASION** | Rev. Albert C. Morrison of New Missionary Baptist Church
- **OFFERTORY APPEAL** | Rev. Wayne Camp of Trinity Episcopal Church
- **OFFERING** | Johanna Washington of Edisto Presbyterian Church and Deacon Samuel Baron of New First Missionary Baptist Church
- **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER** | Rev. Jeronica M. Gadsden, Pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist
- **SELECTION** | Edisto Island Mass Choir
- **KEYNOTE ADDRESS** | Rev. Dr. Charles Heyward, Pastor of Edisto Presbyterian Church
- **MUSIC** | Edisto Island Mass Choir
- **REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Francine Morrison, Co-Chair, MLK Planning Committee
- **CLOSING SONG** | “We Shall Overcome” by Choir and Congregation
- **BENEDICTION** | Rev. Jeronica Gadsden, Pastor of Mt. Olive Missionary Baptist Church
• **PROCESSIONAL** | M. L. King, Jr. Mass Choir and Program Participants
• **OPENING SELECTION** | “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by Choir and Congregation
• **INVOCATION** | Rev. Dr. Myra Meggett, Pastor of Mt. Horr AME Church
• **CHORAL RESPONSE** | Choir
• **SCRIPTURE** | Rev. Charles Linnen, Pastor of Faith Walk Ministry
• **MEMORIES** | Remembering Beulah Smith and Tony Rosendary
• **LITANY** | Ms. Antoinette Gilliard, Co-Chair, M. L. King, Jr. Planning Committee
• **PRESENTATION** | Praise Dance Ministry of St. John Baptist Church
• **GREETINGS** | Mr. Adolphus Smalls, President of the Willtown Association; The Honorable John Dunmeyer, III, Mayor of the Town of Hollywood; Kendra Snipe, YWCA Greater Charleston Board Vice Chair
• **OFFERTORY APPEAL & BLESSING** | Rev. Darryl Lee; Mrs. Pamela Smalls of Annivesta Baptist Church; Ms. Ophelia Williams of Greater New Bethlehem; and Mr. Albert Bing, Sr. of St. Luke AME
• **OFFERTORY MUSIC** | M. L. King, Jr. Mass Choir
• **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER** | Mrs. Mary B. Porter of the M. L. King, Jr. Planning Committee
• **SELECTION** | M. L. King, Jr. Mass Choir
• **SPEAKER** | James Parlor, Commissioned Pastor of St. Paul Presbyterian Church USA
• **REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Mrs. Victoria J. Forrest, Co-Chair, M. L. King, Jr. Planning Committee
• **CLOSING SELECTION** | “We Shall Overcome” by Choir and Congregation
• **BENEDICTION** | James Parlor, Commissioned Pastor of St. Paul Presbyterian Church USA
• **POSTLUDE** | Ms. Shawnquetta Mungin, Organist
● **MISTRESS OF CEREMONY |** Sister Samuella Holmes, Lovely Mountain Baptist Church
● **OPENING SELECTION |** New Hope Missionary Baptist Choir
● **INVOCATION |** Rev. Dr. Byron Benton, Mount Moriah Missionary Baptist Church
● **SCRIPTURE |** Deacon Joseph Vincent, Canaan Missionary Baptist Church
● **MUSICAL SELECTION |** Bethel AME Youth Choir
● **LITANY |** Deacon Michael Breedlove, Lovely Mountain Baptist Church
● **REFLECTIONS |** Chief Reggie Burgess, North Charleston Police Department
● **TRIBUTE TO DR. KING: POEM |** Amira Frazier
● **GREETINGS |** The Honorable Virginia Jamison, City of North Charleston Councilwoman, Dist. 13
● **OFFERTORY APPEAL |** Rev. Mack Gadsden, Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church

> Deacon Cohen Graham, Royal Baptist Church | Brother Herbert Drayton, Bethel AME Church | Victoria Abram, Charity Baptist Church | Samuella Holmes, Union Baptist Church | Brian Reese, Ashley Baptist Church | Brother Leroy Waring, St. Paul AME Church

● **OFFERTORY PRAYER |** Rev. Curtis Dayson, Lovely Mountain Baptist Church
● **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER |** The Honorable J. Seth Whipper
● **SELECTION |** New Hope Missionary Baptist Choir
● **KEYNOTE ADDRESS |** The Honorable Rep. Wendell Gilliard, South Carolina House of Representatives
● **REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS |** Deacon Cohen Graham, Chair
● **CLOSING SELECTION |** “We Shall Overcome” by Choir and Congregation
● **REMARKS & BENEDICTION |** Rev. Mack Gadsden, Pastor of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
JAMES ISLAND AREA WORSHIP
ST. JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH | 5 PM | Presiding: Rev. Michael Burgess, Pastor, Greater Bethel AME Church

- **PROCESSIONAL** | The Choirs and Program Participants
- **OPENING SELECTION** | “Lift Every Voice and Sing” by Choir and Congregation
- **INVOCATION** | Elder Derrick Oliver of Payne Church
- **CHORAL RESPONSE** | Choir and Congregation
- **OT SCRIPTURE** | Elder Helen Dooley of True Vine Tabernacle Church
- **NT SCRIPTURE** | Rev. Ruth Williams of First Baptist Church of James Island
- **LITANY** | Hunter Dent
- **SELECTION** | James Island Interfaith Adult Choir
- **A TRIBUTE TO REV. C. L. CAMPBELL** | Elder Lawrence Ray Whaley
- **SELECTION** | James Island Interfaith Praise Dancers
- **GREETINGS & OCCASION** | YWCA Greater Charleston
- **OFFERTORY APPEAL** | Rev. Cecilia Armstrong of St. James Presbyterian Church USA
- **OFFERTORY PRAYER** | Rev. Leroy Brown of St. James Island United Congregational Church
- **INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER** | Rev. Timothy Grant of Emmanuel Baptist Church of James Island
- **SPECIAL MUSIC** | James Island Interfaith Combined Choir
- **SPEAKER** | Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church USA
- **ALTERNATE SPEAKER** | Rev. Michael Burgess, Pastor of Greater Bethel AME Church
- **SPECIAL MUSIC** | James Island Interfaith Combined Mass Choir
- **REMARKS & ANNOUNCEMENTS** | Bishop William German of True Vine Tabernacle Church
- **CLOSING SELECTION** | “We Shall Overcome” by Choir and Congregation
- **THE BLESSING** | Rev. Dr. Brian Henderson, Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church USA
- **POSTLUDE** | Musicians
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ECUMENICAL KEYNOTE

BISHOP VASHTI MURPHY MCKENZIE
PRESIDING BISHOP, 10TH EPISCOPAL DISTRICT

The Right Reverend Vashti Murphy McKenzie serves as the 117th elected and consecrated bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

Her historic election in the year 2000 represents the first time in the more than 213-year history of the AME Church that a woman obtained the level of Episcopal office. The firsts continued, as she is the first woman to serve as president of the Council of Bishops, chair of the General Conference Commission, host bishop to the General Conference of the AME Church, and president of the General Board of the AME Church.

Currently she is honored to serve as the presiding prelate of the 10th Episcopal District, encompassing the great state of Texas.

Bishop McKenzie previously served as the presiding bishop of the 13th Episcopal District, encompassing Tennessee and Kentucky, and the 18th Episcopal District in southern Africa. In each district she initiated innovative ministries, from building three group homes for children orphaned by AIDS in Swaziland to establishing Believe, Inc., a faith-based nonprofit created to help serve as a resource to local congregations and provide theological scholarships.

Bishop McKenzie was appointed to serve on the Advisory Council of the White House Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships by President Barack Obama in 2009. She is a member of the board of trustees of Paul Quinn College in Davis, Texas, and is also a member of the board of trustees of the Inter-denominational Center in Atlanta, Georgia.

She is a graduate of the University of Maryland in College Park, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Howard University’s School of Divinity, and a Doctor of Ministry degree from United Theological Seminary. She is the author of six books.

She has been named by the Huffington Post as one of the 50 Most Powerful Women Religious Leaders. She has also been honored as one of the Great African American Female Preachers and by Ebony magazine.

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SHEILA C. JOHNSON
FOUNDER & CEO, SALAMANDER HOTEL & RESORTS

Sheila Johnson is an entrepreneur and philanthropist whose accomplishments span the arenas of hospitality, sports, TV and film, the arts, education, women’s empowerment, and community development.

As founder and CEO of Salamander Hotels & Resorts, Ms. Johnson oversees a growing portfolio of luxury properties. The Salamander Resort & Spa in Middleburg, Virginia, opened in 2013 and has been awarded the Forbes Five Star rating. The collection features two of the top golf resorts in Florida: Hammock Beach in Palm Coast and Innisbrook in Tampa Bay; The Henderson, a beach resort in Destin, Florida; Hotel Bennett in Charleston, South Carolina, which opened in January 2019; and Half Moon in Montego Bay, Jamaica, one of the Caribbean’s most iconic resorts.

As vice chairman of Monumental Sports & Entertainment, she is the only African American woman to have ownership in three professional sports teams, which span the NBA, NHL, and WNBA.

She has long been a powerful influence in the entertainment industry, starting with her work as founding partner of Black Entertainment Television. She has served as executive producer of four films, including “Kicking It,” which premiered at the 2008 Sundance Film Festival, “A Powerful Noise,” which premiered at the 2008 Tribeca Film Festival, “She Is the Matador,” and “The Other City,” which premiered at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival. She also helped finance the Screen Actors Guild nominated film “The Butler,” and is founder and chair of the Middleburg Film Festival.

YOUTH SPEAKER

MAYA GREEN
SENIOR, CHARLESTON COUNTY SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Maya is a team leader for the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, the student body president of her school’s student council, and an executive leadership council member of SheStrong, an empowerment program for high school girls. As a founding member of SheStrong, this creative writing major provides a safe community for local young women to hone their advocacy skills, creating positive change in areas important to them. In the fall Maya will attend Stanford University.
PARADE MARSHAL

CHIEF REGINALD “REGGIE” L. BURGESS
NORTH CHARLESTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Reggie Burgess grew up in the City of North Charleston in two historic neighborhoods, Union Heights and Liberty Hill, participating in sports and graduating from Bonds Wilson / North Charleston High School. He went on to attend Morgan State University in Baltimore upon obtaining a full football scholarship. While serving as a wide receiver for the Morgan State Bears, he received a number of industry honors, and in his senior year he was chosen to play in the Freedom All-Star Senior Bowl.

After graduation, he chose law enforcement with the North Charleston Police Department as his career in part because he wanted to protect the rights every citizen is afforded. He rose through six positions and six ranks until he was sworn in as the chief of police in January 2018.

He has taken part in advanced education including the US Secret Service Academy, and holds bachelor’s degrees in criminal justice and sociology from Claflin University.

“HATRED DARKENS LIFE; LOVE ILLUMINATES IT.”
-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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VISION AWARD

MICKEY BAKST
JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR. VISION AWARD RECIPIENT

The general manager of Charleston Grill, founder of Feed the Need and Teach the Need, and co-founder of Ben’s Friends, Mickey Bakst has been responsible for Charleston Grill becoming one of the most acclaimed restaurants in the US, nominated for a James Beard Award for Best Service. He was also named Maître D’ of the Year by Restaurant Hospitality magazine, and has been inducted into the Fine Dining Hall of Fame.

In 2009 he founded Feed the Need as an answer to the stress put on area homeless services as a result of the economic downturn. To date, Feed the Need has served more than 500,000 meals in three cities and donated nearly $2 million to those in need. In 2014 he created Teach the Need to train at-risk teenagers in the skills needed to work in the front of the house in Charleston restaurants.

His legacy, though, will be Ben’s Friends, designed to bring together food and beverage professionals seeking sobriety and provide them with a bridge to a sober life across 11 states, with five more in 2020.

VISION AWARD

R3, INC.
JOSEPH P. RILEY, JR. VISION AWARD RECIPIENT

Real Talk Real Action Real Results Incorporated (R3 Inc.) is an organization inspired by a love for doing the works of God, a passion for youth empowerment, and a dedication to community development.

The organization was founded in 2011 by Eric A. Jackson in Charleston, South Carolina. The group’s main objective is to encourage and support all youth despite their backgrounds.

R3 Inc. provides a supportive, family-like environment, and its programs include enriching experiences for participants. R3 encourages support and interaction from community partners, family, and friends to provide the utmost for youth.

As a result of R3’s timeless service, youth’s lives have been significantly enriched.
TRIUMPH AWARD

THADDEUS J. BELL, MD
HARVEY GANTT TRIUMPH AWARD RECIPIENT

Before going into medicine, Dr. Bell began his career as a schoolteacher in Gaffney, SC, where he was the first African American to teach at an all-white high school in the state.

In 1980 he co-founded the Elijah Wright: Cross Family Health Center, a free clinic for the underserved in Cross, SC, where he was the only physician for 10 years. He went on to serve as a physician at the Ralph Johnson Veteran Hospital in Charleston, and to enter private practice in family medicine in North Charleston. While in private practice he served as a medical consultant to the Charleston and Berkeley County Jails and medical director of the Fenwick Hall Drug & Alcohol Abuse Treatment Center. He has also served as a sports medical consultant to the USOC at the Olympic training center in Denver.

He holds distinguished degrees from South Carolina State University and MUSC, and earned a master’s degree from Atlanta University in addition to graduating from the School of Aerospace Medicine.

TRIUMPH AWARD

LARRY FERGUSON, DMD
HARVEY GANTT TRIUMPH AWARD RECIPIENT

A graduate of the former Charles A. Brown High School, Dr. Larry Ferguson opened his dental practice in 1980 after earning a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from The Citadel, and then earning a doctorate in dental medicine from the MUSC College of Dental Medicine, where he later served as a clinical instructor.

He has been honored with many awards, including his induction into the Academy of Dentists International, the American College of Dentists, and as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists for his outstanding service to the dental profession. He was also named Dentist of the Year in 2004 by the Charleston Dental Society and Citadel Man of the Year, and served as the governor’s appointee to The Citadel Board of Visitors.

He has served as past president of Charleston Avery Research Center Advisory Board, the Charleston Dental Society, and the Coastal District Dental Society. He served on the foundation board of the American Dental Association, and became the first African American president of the SC Dental Association in 2006.
“ALL LABOR THAT UPLIFTS HUMANITY
HAS DIGNITY AND IMPORTANCE
AND SHOULD BE UNDERTAKEN WITH
PAINSTAKING EXCELLENCE.”
—DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

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Marlon E. Kimpson is the attorney responsible for this communication.
Together, we can advance the dream

The Citadel is proud to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s legacy of principled leadership. Learn more about our mission to promote a culture of inclusion and equality at citadel.edu/together.