

EIGHTH ANNUAL



Jason Irby Presents
**Arkansas Heritage
Celebration of
Black History
Month**

Legend Among Us

February 25, 2023

10:00 a.m.

Event streamed [LIVE on YouTube](#)  YouTube



[Irby Vision YouTube Channel](#)

ORDER OF CEREMONY

Opening by Jason Irby

Prayer by Melvin Moore

National Anthem by David Ashley

Presentation of Colors by Jacksonville High School Air Force ROTC

Moment of Silence

Remembering R.D. Kinsey by Jacksonville High School Air Force
ROTC

Remembering Raye Jean Montague by Carla Coleman

Arkansas National Guard Museum by Raymond Screws

Speak Out by Coach Oliver and Dr. Joycelyn Elders

Presentation of Legend Among Us 2023

To **Muskie Harris** by Jason Irby and Sonny Rhodes

To **Daniel. F. Littlefield** by Jason Irby and the Arkansas State Archives

To **Philander Smith College** by Jason Irby and Sherman Tate

Comments

Closing

Fellowship and Viewing of Displays

Presentation by the Central Arkansas Library System

Thank you to everyone for your support and participation

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2023 LEGENDS

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2023 LEGEND

Daniel F. Littlefield

Daniel F. Littlefield, Jr., holds a Ph.D. degree from Oklahoma State University and was a college classroom teacher from 1960 to 2005. He has been a faculty member at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock since 1970, and from 1983 to 2005, while teaching, he was Director of the American Native Press Archives, the world's largest archival repository of Native American newspapers and periodicals.

In 2005, he left teaching and became Director of the Sequoyah National Research Center, which houses the archives and other major collections. In addition, he has been a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow in the Institute of Southern and Negro History at Johns Hopkins University; has been a visiting professor of history at the University of Arizona, where he was assistant editor of *Arizona and the West*; and has taught as a visiting professor of English at the University of Alabama and as a distinguished visiting professor of ethno-history at Colgate University.



He is also a scholar, having published scores of articles and the following books in Native studies, of which he is author, co-author, editor, or co-editor:

- An Encyclopedia of American Indian Removal (2011), J. W. Parins co-editor;
- Chickasaw Removal (2010) with Amanda L Paige and Fuller L. Bumpers;
- Seminole Burning: A Story of Racial Vengeance (1996);
- Native American Writing in the Southeast: An Anthology, 1875-1935, James W. Parins, coeditor (1995);
- Tales of the Bark Lodges by Hen-Toh, Wyandot, James W. Parins, co-editor (1995);
- Ke-ma-ha: Omaha Stories by Francis La Flesche, co-editor with James W. Parins (1995);
- The Fus Fixico Letters by Alex Posey, Carol Hunter, co-editor (1993);
- Alex Posey: Creek Poet, Journalist, and Humorist (1992), The Life of Okah Tubbee (1988);
- American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals, 1971-1985, James W. Parins, co-author (1986);
- American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals, 1925-1970, James W. Parins, co-author (1986);
- A Biobibliography of Native American Writers, 1772-1924, Supplement, James W. Parins, co-author (1985);

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- American Indian and Alaska Native Newspapers and Periodicals, 1826-1924, James W. Parins, co-author (1984);
- A Biobibliography of Native American Writers, 1772-1925, James W. Parins, co-author (1981); The Chickasaw Freedmen (1980);
- Africans and Creeks (1979); The Cherokee Freedmen (1978);
- Africans and Seminoles (1977); and others, as well as paperback editions of some of the
- above titles.

His most recent research concerns the Dawes Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes and Indian removal. He has served as a member of the Cherokee Nation's Great State of Sequoyah Commission and a member of the Board of Directors of the Arkansas Humanities Council.

In 2001, he was inducted into the Oklahoma Historians Hall of Fame. In 2014 the Arkansas Historical Association honored him with its Lifetime Achievement Award for his co-founding of the Sequoyah National Research Center and his promotion of Arkansas history. At the end of the Spring 2023 semester, he will have completed sixty-three years in his teacher-scholar career.

2023 LEGEND

Muskie Harris

Muskie Harris is has achieved success in the areas of athletics, politics, along with business and community engagement which has propelled him into an exclusive class of pacesetters and social service.

The following are highlights of achievements of Muskie Harris, a fourth generation Little Rockian and a young man who has worked in the community and given additional manpower to many causes and organizations.

- Four-year letterman in football at the University of Arkansas (UAF) in Fayetteville, Arkansas.
- The first young Black man to attend the UAF from Little Rock Central High School on an athletic scholarship.
- Obtained a real estate license in 1978 and continues to practice this trade. This career started with Block Realty and later with Compton Realty. He eventually started his own company called JM Realty.
- Politically became the first Black to achieve the status of Republican nominee for Lieutenant Governor in the race of Nelson and Harris vs. Clinton and Tucker in 1990.
- First Black on the UAF Alumni Board of Directors, serving three four-year terms.
- Initiated the UAF Black Alumni Association.
- Arkansas Sports Hall of Fame Board of Directors, served three terms.
- First Black on the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce Ambassador organization.
- Current Court Liaison for local rehab facilities, for 20 years.
- Owner of MHRS, 5 years.
- President of 100 Blackmen of Greater Little Rock, 14-year member.
- Board Member of The Tiger Foundation Financial Support for LRCH



2023 LEGEND

Philander Smith College

Philander Smith College was the first historically black, four-year college in Arkansas and the first historically black college to be accredited by a regional accrediting institution. Enrollment as of September 2014 was 553 students.

Like most of the African-American colleges and universities in the United States, Philander Smith College originated in the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen and Abandoned Lands (commonly known as the Freedmen's Bureau). The War Department organized the Freedmen's Bureau on March 3, 1865, just before the Civil War ended. Throughout its six-year existence, the bureau sold confiscated properties and raised money to help the freed slaves gain access to the rights that they were denied during slavery. Among these was the right to be educated.



Founded in 1877, Philander Smith College is the result of the first attempt west of the Mississippi River to make education available to freedmen (former African American slaves). The forerunner of the college was Walden Seminary, named in honor of Dr. J.M. Walden, one of the originators and the first corresponding secretary of the Freedmen's Aid Society.

In 1882, Dr. G.W. Gray, president of Little Rock University, the institution for the Arkansas Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, met Mrs. Adeline Smith, widow of Mr. Philander Smith of Oak Park, Ill., while soliciting funds. The late Philander Smith had been a liberal donor to Asiatic Missions and had developed an interest in the work of the church in the South. In making her gift to Dr. Gray, Mrs. Smith designated \$10,500 for Walden Seminary. The trustees accepted the gift and gave it special recognition by changing the name of the struggling Walden Seminary to Philander Smith College. A new site for the school had already been purchased at Eleventh and Izard Streets. The gift made by Mrs. Smith was a significant contribution towards the construction of Budlong Hall, the first brick building on the new site.

Philander Smith College was chartered as a four-year college on March 3, 1883. The first baccalaureate degree was conferred in 1888. The first president, the Rev. Thomas Mason, resigned in 1896. He was succeeded by a member of the faculty of the college, the Rev. James Monroe Cox, professor of ancient languages. Dr. Cox retired from the presidency of the college in 1924, and was succeeded by the Rev. George Collins Taylor, a graduate of the college. Dr. Taylor served as president from 1924 to 1936. In May 1936, Dr. Marquis LaFayette Harris succeeded Dr. Taylor as president. During the administration of Dr. Harris, the campus area was greatly enlarged. In July 1948 the site of the Little Rock Junior College, adjacent to the South end of Philander Smith's campus, was purchased. On March 30, 1949, after an extensive program of academic improvement, Philander Smith College was fully accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Dr. Harris was succeeded by Dr. Roosevelt David Crockett, a graduate of the institution, on June 1, 1961.

Dr. Earnest Dixon, Philander Smith's sixth president, took office Jan. 1, 1965. He was succeeded by Dr. Walter R. Hazzard, who took office as the seventh president of the college on July 1, 1969. Dr. Hazzard was succeeded by Dr. Grant S. Shockley who took office as the eighth president on Jan. 1, 1980. Dr. Shockley was succeeded by Dr. Hazo W. Carter, who was elected unanimously July 19, 1983 by the Board of Trustees, and took office Aug. 20, 1983. Dr. Carter resigned the presidency in August 1987. He was succeeded by Dr. Myer L. Titus, a 1954 graduate of the institution. Upon Dr. Titus's retirement on June 30, 1998, Dr. Trudie Kibbe Reed was elected by the Board of Trustees in February 1998, becoming the eleventh and first woman president of Philander Smith College.

In the summer of 2004, in the wake of Dr. Reed's resignation, Dr. Julius Scott was appointed as Interim President by the Board of Trustees.

In October 2004, the Board announced the selection of Dr. Walter M. Kimbrough as the 12th president. Kimbrough took office on Dec. 13, 2004 and served until spring 2012 when Dr. Johnny Moore, a 1989 graduate of Philander Smith College, was named as the 13th president.

Following Dr. Moore's February 2014 resignation of the presidency, Dr. Lloyd E. Hervey, a 1968 graduate of the College, served as Interim President. Selected by the Philander Smith College Board of Trustees, Roderick L. Smothers, Ph.D., took office as the College's 14th president on January 5, 2015.

PAST RECIPIENTS

2016

Al Bell
 George Barnes
 Garbo Hearne
 Ethel Thompkins
 Martha Dixon
 Janis F. Kearney



2017

Robert "Say" McIntosh
 Wanda Hamilton
 Geese Ausbie



2018

Raye Jean Montague
 Rodney Block
 Phyllis Y. Stickney
 Linda Gilliam



2019

Oliver B. Elders
 Joycelyn Elders
 Lottie H. Shackelford
 Lawrence Gupton, Jr.
 Sarah Green
 Dwight Stewart
 Jenifer Rice-Mason
 Leonard Burgess



2020

Sherman Tate
 Hezekiah Stewart, Jr.
 Dr. Katherine Mitchell
 Richard E. Anderson
 R.D. Kinsey



2021

Crystal Haskins
 Otis Kirkland

2022

Frank Scott, Jr.
 George B. McGill
 R.J. Hampton
 Shirley M. Washington
 Stephanie Flowers
 Trayce Parker

DISPLAYS & KIOSKS

African American Cemeteries
AARP
Arkansas National Guard Museum
Anderson Karate*
Black History Commission of Arkansas
Buffalo Soldiers
Care Above All Care
Cherokees of Black Indian History Preservation
Dinauve Capital
Howard County High School
Divine Rest
Dixon Enterprises *
Kirkland Photography*
Sequoyah National Research Center
Little Rock Police Department
Little Rock Dept of Community Programs
Little Rock Convention and Visitors Bureau
Lupus Champions
R.J. Hampton*
Speakout*
Uncle Jam

Legend Display Booth

Muskie Harris
Daniel F. Littlefield
Philander Smith College

**Display by past Legend Among Us recipient*

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Ty Anderson

John McCullough

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Sonny Rhodes

Arkansas State Archives

Sherman Tate

Jason Irby

David Ashley

Melvin Moore

Jacksonville High School ROTC

Tiffany Lewis

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