

THE AGGIE SPIRIT

2026 Spring Newsletter

WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.

April 2026



The National Board meetings are scheduled for the 2nd Saturday of each month at 1 p.m. and are virtual.

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A Message from the President

2026 - Service, Scholarship, and Spirit: Our Commitment Continues

I extend my heartfelt thanks to you, my fellow Warren County Training School - North Warren High School Alumni & Friends Association, Inc., for your support, participation in events and contributions. Your dedication to our Alma Mater keeps the school's spirit and legacy alive.

Today, the Association remains active, with members across multiple states working to preserve the campus for homelessness and community activities. The Association also provides scholarships that serve as a way to assist college bound students financially and to build connections between students and the Alumni network.

I'm assured that our acts of responsibility and sustainability, ensure a positive legacy for the future. Therefore, let us focus on long-term commitment and intentional care of our precious school legacy. We can accomplish this together by continuing to share our natural and professional talents, ideas, funds, resources and hard work.

It is very important that we keep alive the spirit of our school. Some ways we can do that are: bridging the past and present, by fostering lifelong friendships and relationships; celebrating progress; developing an official mentorship program and by using past experiences, successes and mistakes as reflective practice to inform future actions.

Attending Alumni reunions, business meetings and other related events will help to encourage and maintain a strong, connected Alumni and community. Working, planning and reaching goals together can help strengthen the bonds between the older and younger Alumni. In that respect, please join us for our annual Alumni fundraisers - Fish Fry and Gala (Memorial Day Week-end), designed to engage Alumni and secure donations for the Association's support.

Best regards,
Odessa Burnette Gatewood, President

It is Reunion Weekend Time!**Theme: A Legacy Worth Celebrating - An Evening of Unity, and Purpose**

It is with great excitement that we invite you to join us for our Annual Alumni Gathering on May 22 & 23, 2026.

This special weekend is a chance to reconnect with old friends, share memories, and celebrate the incredible journeys our alumni have taken since their time here. Both evenings will feature:

- Networking opportunities with fellow graduates and friends
- Updates on recent achievements and plans for our Association
- Entertainment, refreshments, and a trip down memory lane.

Your presence will make this gathering truly memorable, and we would be honored to have you with us.

Event Details:

Fish Fry Cost- \$25 per person/ Lifetime Members \$22.50 May 22, 2026

Doors open at 5 PM sharp.

Dining Hall on WCTS-NWHS Campus

Gala Cost- \$60 per person/ Lifetime Members \$54.00 May 23, 2026

Program begins at 5 PM sharp.

Vance-Granville Community College 200 Community College Road, Henderson

You may use Cash App to submit payment: **\$WCTSNWHS**

You may pay by check or money order and send it to the address below.

Make check or money order payable to: **WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.**

Mailing Address:

WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc.

Attn: Carolyn Mayfield Davis

Post Office Box 122

Wise, NC 27594-0122

The registration form is enclosed for your convenience and please use it to submit funds indicating the items listed for payment.

Please submit all funds by May 10, 2026, and remember no money accepted at the door for the Gala Event.

We look forward to celebrating our shared history and bright future together as we still stand strong. I am forever grateful to you for keeping the spirit alive through prayers, nostalgia, deeds, camaraderie, and a positive outlook.

Warmly,

Reunion Weekend Committee

A Legacy of Service and Strength



Edison's journey of service began shortly after his graduation from **Warren County Training School** in May 1955. Answering the call to duty, he enlisted in the United States Army that same year. While he excelled technically as a radio repairman, he also channeled his discipline and drive into the boxing ring. As an Army boxer, he showcased his tenacity by winning the **Light Welterweight Division Championship Title** and competing for the **Golden Glove** championship.



This competitive spirit and dedication later transitioned into a second career of service as a correctional officer for the California penal system.

Faith and Community

A man of unwavering faith, Edison's spiritual home was **Burchette Chapel United Church of Christ**. As a dedicated and faithful member, he found immense joy in the fellowship of his church community and the power of worship. His commitment to his roots was further evidenced when he returned to North Carolina after his retirement, where his entrepreneurial spirit led him to open two stores to serve and provide for his local community.

A Devoted Family Man

Above all his professional and personal accolades, Edison was a devoted family man who left an enduring legacy of love and guidance. He was the loving husband to Shirley Ann Roberts, with whom he traveled the world, and a proud father to his children: **Shawn, Corel, and Kylandra**. His greatest joy was found in his:

- **Eight grandchildren**
- **Three great-grandchildren**
- Extended family, including his sisters, Lottie and Eunice, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Edison Somerville's presence will be deeply missed, but his spirit of perseverance and his "hurtful clarity" of love will live on in the hearts of everyone who knew him.

Edison was a staunch and faithful supporter of his Alma Mater until his health declined.

By Kyiandra Somerville

Class of 1959 Couple Highlight: A Lifetime of Love and Legacy

The Warren County Training School–North Warren Middle School Alumni Association proudly celebrates a remarkable love story from the Class of 1959: Clarence White, Sr. and Doris Tereasia Boyd White.

Their journey began early, meeting as young students in the 8th grade—long before they could have imagined the life they would build together. That early connection would grow into a lifelong partnership rooted in love, respect, and shared purpose.

see "A Lifetime of Love" page 4

“A Lifetime of Love” —continued from page 3

As they matured, each began to leave a lasting impression at Warren County Training School. Doris Tereasia Boyd shined as the lead majorette in the high school band, captivating audiences with her grace, poise, and leadership. Clarence White, Sr. distinguished himself on the baseball field, earning recognition as the starting pitcher at just 15 years old. Competing alongside older teammates, he quickly proved himself a standout athlete, shining brightly as a true star of the team.

Their shared history deepened over the years, and immediately following graduation in 1959, they united in marriage—beginning a partnership that would span more than six decades. They remained lifelong residents of Warren County, choosing to raise their family in the same community that shaped them. Guided by the examples of hard work and perseverance set by their own parents, Clarence and Tereasia instilled those same values in their children.

Raising a family during the 1960s and 1970s, they experienced a period of profound social change and historic transformation. In the early 1960s, they exercised their right to register and vote—an important milestone of civic engagement and progress. In 1967, their three oldest children were among those who helped integrate the local schools, demonstrating courage during a pivotal time in their community and across the nation.

Amid these sweeping changes, Clarence and Tereasia remained steadfast in their commitment to family, leaving an indelible mark on their children. Through their example, they instilled strength, dignity, and a deep sense of responsibility—shaping the adults their children would become during one of the most transformative eras in American history.

Together, Clarence and Tereasia built a strong and loving family, raising five children—two sons and three daughters—instilling in them the values of commitment, resilience, and pride in community. Their legacy continued to flourish through 10 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren, each a testament to the enduring foundation they created.

Clarence and Tereasia shared 63 years of marriage, a beautiful example of devotion, partnership, and unwavering love. Their journey together remained strong until Tereasia’s passing in 2019.

Today, their story stands as an inspiration to fellow alumni and future generations alike—a reminder that lifelong love can begin in the hallways of Warren County Training School and grow into a legacy that touches generations.

By Pamela White King

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### The Century Club is Calling

As you know, we are losing members regularly. Our organization has stood throughout the years because of the faithful support of alumni and friends. Please be generous and support the Century Club with a donation of \$100 and/or support the Aggie Challenge. The Principal’s Level is from \$1.00 to \$99.00, the President’s Level is from \$100.00 to \$199.00, and the Chairman’s Level is from \$200 and up. Please feel free to use the “up” part. This is what keeps the lights on and our organization strong.

### **Warren County Training School-North Warren High School Alumni and Friends Association, Inc. Remembers Dr. Richard Melvin Henderson**

Dr. Richard Melvin Henderson, son of James and Sarah Henderson, was born on November 7, 1935, in Vance County, North Carolina. He entered eternal rest on August 11, 2025, at Duke University Hospital, leaving behind a legacy of faith, service, and steadfast Christian living that will continue to inspire all who knew him.

A life of steadfast leadership and service began in his youth in Vance and Warren Counties, where he laid the foundations for the character that would guide him for decades. He pursued undergraduate studies at Hampton Institute in Hampton, Virginia, laying the groundwork for a life of intellectual curiosity joined to deep spiritual conviction. Service to country and a broad horizon of discipline characterized his early years. Dr. Henderson served in the United States Air Force, during which he studied at the Kodokan Institute of Judo in Tokyo, Japan. He earned a Black Belt in judo and served as an instructor in Combat Measures for Combat Crew Members, exemplifying courage, precision, and a commitment to training others in the protection of our nation.

After completing his military service, he relocated with his family to New York. There, he connected with The Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church and began a long chapter of community leadership and spiritual ministry in Queens. His professional life spanned public service and law enforcement, with roles including a four-year tenure as a letter carrier for the United States Postal Service and more than two decades with the New York City Police Department. He retired from the NYPD as Team Leader of the 32nd Precinct Detective Unit, a testament to his strategic mind, calm demeanor, and unwavering integrity.

Dr. Henderson answered the call to ministry with equal vigor. He was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel and served as Assistant Pastor of Christian Faith Tabernacle and Greater Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church, both in Brooklyn, New York. His academic pursuits complemented his spiritual calling: a Bachelor of Science degree from the New York Institute of Technology in 1978, a master's degree from New York Theological Seminary in 1984, and a Doctor of Theology from the American Theological Seminary in Milledgeville, Georgia, conferred on June 4, 1988.

In May 1987, Dr. Henderson was installed as Pastor of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church. Under his leadership, the church became a beacon of faith and community transformation. A sustained rhythm of worship, study, and service marked his tenure. Dr. Henderson's influence extended far beyond his pulpit. He played a formative role in the broader community, earning respect as a religious and civic leader who embodied service, faith, and practical compassion. Dr. Henderson lived a life of living faith in action, leading by example, guiding with wisdom, and serving with a humble heart. His steadfast commitment to spiritual renewal, educational opportunity, and community safety left an enduring imprint on the people and institutions he touched. He stood as a devoted shepherd, both guiding his congregation in worship and standing as a steady presence within the larger community, always ready to lend a hand, a word of counsel, or a faithful prayer.

Today, the memory of Dr. Richard Melvin Henderson invites us to reflect on a life well lived—one defined by leadership that sought the good of others, faith that informed every choice, and a Christian witness that inspired accurate service. May his legacy continue to encourage present and future generations to pursue justice, pursue knowledge, and pursue a compassionate, Christ-centered life.

“Dr. Richard M. Henderson” —continued from page 5

In his passing, the community remembers a man of resolve and grace, whose devotion to God, family, and neighbor remains a living model for all who strive to serve with integrity and love. May we honor his memory by continuing the work he championed: education, service, and steadfast faith in the risen Christ.

Dr. Henderson was the Chaplain of WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. Dr. Richard Melvin Henderson: A Devoted Shepherd, Leader, and Pillar of the Community.

### **Stay Alert for Scams Targeting Older Adults**

Each year, millions of older Americans fall victim to some type of financial fraud or deceptive scheme. Elder fraud is a growing problem, with seniors losing more than \$3billion annually, according to the FBI. Scammers target older adults due to their trust, financial resources, and reluctance to report fraud. There are steps you can take to protect yourself and your family, or, if you are a caregiver, those in your care.

First, stay on the lookout for the most common scams. Criminals often pose on social media or dating sites as an interested romantic partner. They also pretend to be technical support representatives offering to fix a non-existent computer problem to gain access to sensitive information. Sometimes they will claim to be a grandchild in distress and needing immediate cash. Fraudsters also pose as government employees threatening to arrest victims unless they pay. Other scams involve bad guys claiming to represent a legitimate charity to gain trust. Sometimes they will claim you won a big lottery prize, which they can help you collect, for a “fee.” Criminals will even appear in person and charge homeowners in advance for home improvements services they never provide.

Always be cautious of unsolicited telephone calls, emails, mailings, and door-to-door offers to protect yourself. Never give or send any personal information, money or anything else of value to unverified person or businesses. When in doubt end all communication, close the door, hang up the telephone, disconnect from the internet, or shut down your computer. Call local law enforcement immediately if you feel there is danger to yourself or a loved one.

Elder fraud often goes unreported because the victim doesn’t know how to report, or may be too ashamed at having been scammed. An older adult may also be concerned that relatives will lose confidence in their abilities to manage their own financial affairs. You can file a complaint with the FBI’s Internet Crime Complaint Center at <https://www.ic3.gov/>. Older adults and their families should always look to local law enforcement, including your sheriff’s office, as a resource when crime is suspected. Warren County Sheriff’s Office Telephone Numbers 252-257-3364 or the Drug Hotline 252-257-1356.

### **The Fight to End Distracted Driving Starts with You**

On average, sending or reading a text message while driving takes your eyes off the road for five seconds. That is like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed at 55 miles per hour.

While texting is the most alarming distraction, it is not the only one. Distracted driving is any activity that diverts attention from driving, including texting or even just talking on your telephone, eating and drinking, talking to people in your vehicle, fiddling with the radio or GPS, anything that takes your attention away from the task of driving safely.

Distracted driving is a deadly problem. In 2023, 3,275 people were killed in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Driving requires the driver's full attention, and any non-driving activity is a potential distraction that increases your risk of injury.

We can all help save lives by ending distracted driving. First, lead by example, never drive distracted; talk to the young drivers you know, especially teenagers, and remind them that a violation of distracted driving laws could mean a delayed or suspended license. Be a voice in your community by supporting local laws, speaking out at community meetings, and highlighting the dangers of distracted driving on social media, at your house of worship, book club, investment club and in a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

You can "Take the Pledge to Drive Phone-Free" at <https://www.nhtsa.gov> –pull down the "Risky Driving" menu and click on "Distracted Driving."

Warren County Training School-North Warren High School Alumni and Friends Association, Inc., supports Director Mark Ezzell of the North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Program and their initiatives against distracted driving and in support of other safety issues to reduce the number of traffic crashes and fatalities in our state. For more information visit [www.ncdot.gov](http://www.ncdot.gov) and pull down the "Initiatives & Policies" tab, then click on "Safety."

**We should all do our part to save lives by ending distracted driving.**

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A Word About Legacy Giving

As our membership ages, many of us are probably wondering what we can do to continue the legacy of the WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. This can be accomplished through a planned giving program that could consist of :

- Donations from IRA accounts; Required Minimum Distributions start at age 73, donations of RMDs are exempted from AGI without itemizing deductions.
- Name WCTS-NWHS Alumni & Friends Association, Inc. as a beneficiary of insurance policies or investment accounts, and specify how you would like funds used.
- Add language to will or trust document including WCTS-NWHS as a beneficiary and how you would like funds used.

Please consult with your family members and/or legal representative about this opportunity.

THE AGGIE SPIRIT

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Wise, North Carolina 27594

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Office Information

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Email: wctsnwhsalumni@embarqmail.com.
Website: <http://www.wcts-nwhs.org>

ADMINISTRATION

We do most of our communications via email. If we do not have your email address or if you have not received email messages from us during the last 30 days, please forward us your Email Address. We can be reached at: wctsnwhsalumni@embarqmail.com.

Don't forget to check out our website: www.wcts-nwhs.org to see what new information our Executive Director—Reginald Hinton—has made available.

National Officers

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Exec. Director	Reginald Hinton 252-432-2684
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