A CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC SERVICE

IN MEMORIAM:
Remembering Members Who Are Deceased

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
John A. Wilson Building
Washington, DC
Honorable John A. Wilson
Council Chairman
Service: January 2, 1991 – May 19, 1993
Councilmember, Ward 2

John A. Wilson was born on October 29, 1943 in Baltimore, Maryland. Mr. Wilson was a quintessential American politician.

Wilson served in 1974 as the chairman of the drive to approve the referendum to adopt the Home Rule Charter (Charter) for the District of Columbia. The Charter established the most democratic structure in the history of local government in the District of Columbia. The Charter, for the first time, allowed District residents to elect both a mayor and a thirteen-member legislature, the Council of the District of Columbia (Council). Following approval of the Charter in 1974, John Wilson successfully ran for and won election to the Council, representing Ward 2, which at that time was the most diverse ward in the District. He represented Ward 2 until he was sworn in as chairman of the Council on January 2, 1991. He served as chairman until his death in 1993.

During Mr. Wilson's tenure as the Ward 2 representative to the Council, he chaired the Committee on Finance and Revenue and was widely acknowledged as an expert in municipal finances. His early warnings about government overspending proved prophetic, eventually leading the U.S. Congress to establish a financial authority to oversee the District's finances for a number of years.

Wilson compiled an impressive record of legislative accomplishments, ranging from housing to healthcare, to childhood welfare, to criminal justice and human rights. His legislative record includes controls on converting rental housing to condominiums, gun control, rent control, and expanded medical coverage for women and children. He wrote the District's tough anti-hate crimes laws, and its human rights law, which is still one of the most comprehensive and progressive in the nation.
During his Council years, Wilson was a Harvard Fellow at the John F. Kennedy School of
government. He also attended the Senior Executive Program for State and Local Government
at Harvard University.

In the 1960s, Wilson served in the civil rights movement, first with the National Association
for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and then with the Student Non-Violent
Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He moved to Washington, D.C. as associate director of the
National Sharecroppers Fund. He was also a former co-chair of the D.C. Democratic State
Committee and was elected democratic national committeeman in 1992.

Over the years, Mr. Wilson was actively involved in numerous community organizations,
including the Capital Children's Museum, the Anchor Mental Health Association, the
Salvation Army, the Metropolitan Boy's and Girl's Club, the Junior League, and the
Concerned Citizens on Alcohol and Drug Abuse. Wilson also received numbers awards and
commendations for outstanding community service. These included a doctor of public service
from the University of Maryland and a doctor of laws from the District of Columbia School of
Law. In addition, he received the presidential citation from the National Association for Equal
Opportunity in Higher Education, the tree of life award from the Jewish National Fund, and
the 4-H Club distinguished alumnæ award.

Mr. Wilson died on May 19, 1993 in Washington, D.C.
Honorable David A. Clarke

Council Chairman

and
September 14, 1993 - March 27, 1997

Councilmember, Ward 1


David A. Clarke grew up in Washington and graduated from the D.C. Public Schools. He earned a degree in religion from George Washington University and a law degree from Howard University School of Law.

Before his service on Council, he was counsel and Director of the Washington Bureau of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference and was legal assistant to the N.A.A.C.P Legal Defense Fund. He also served as a program evaluator for the U.S. Senate Committee on Nutrition. In 1974, David Clark was elected as the Ward One Representative on the Council of the District of Columbia- first Council elected by District of Columbia voters. During his eight years as the representative of Ward One, he was chairperson of the Judiciary Committee, a member of the Council’s Housing and Finance committee, and chairperson of the Public Safety Committee of the Metropolitan Council of Governments.

Mr. Clarke was a member of the D.C. Bar, the Americas Civil Liberties Union, the N.A.A.C.P., and the National Coalition against the Death Penalty, the Washington Urban League, and Calvary Baptist Church.

In November 1982, David Clark was elected Chairman of the Council for a term which expired January 2, 1987. He was elected to a second four-year term as chairman in November 1986. That term expired in January 1991.
Honorable Julius W. Hobson

Councilmember, At-Large

Service: January 2, 1975 – March 23, 1977

Julius W. Hobson (1922-77) was a civil rights leader whose political career grew out of his grass roots activism in D.C. beginning in the 1950’s. In the District, he worked for equity in public school funding and fair rental housing, opposed D.C. freeways and police brutality, and was a key founder of the D.C. Statehood Party. In the national political arena, Hobson was a leader in major civil rights organizations, an early advocate of black power, and the Vice Presidential candidate on the People’s Party ticket with Dr. Benjamin Spock in 1972. Hobson was often described as a “gadfly” for change because during his almost 25 years of political activism he had a tireless commitment to fight battles on many fronts in order to bring about racial equality, peace he, and social change.

Julius Hobson was born in Birmingham, Alabama on May 29, 1922; his own father died when he was very young. His stepfather owned a drugstore and a dry cleaning business and his mother was a teacher and later an elementary school principal. After graduation from high school, Hobson attended Tuskegee until World War II interrupted College. Hobson served as an artillery spotter pilot in the Army during the War, he earned an engineering degree from Tuskegee Institute and then a Master’s in Economics from Howard University. At Howard, Hobson studied with some leading socialist thinker’s whose radical perspectives influenced his own analyses of political and social issues.

After college, Hobson worked first at the Library of Congress as an economic researched and later as a social science statistical analyst with the Social Security Administration. Hobson married his firs wife Carol Smith in 1947 and two children were board of this union, Julius, Fr., and Jean. In 1969, Hobson married his second wife, Tina C. Lower.

Julius Hobson’s serious commitment to civil rights and educational equity began in earnest in the early 1950’s. Not long after graduation form Howard and as a young parent, Hobson took an interest in efforts to desegregate schools in the District in the Wake of the Brown v. Board of Education decision. He was PTA president at both Slowe Elementary (1953), a segregated black school, and later at the newly desegregated Woodbridge Elementary School. Gradually, Hobson took larger leadership roles in the community, including President of the Woodridge
Civic Association (1956-1958) and Vice President of the citywide Federation of Civic Associations (1955-1957). As a member of the Federation, Hobson became chairman of the Institute on Employment, which was sponsored by the Federation as well as the Urban League and Howard’s School of Social Work. In 1958 he became a member of the NAACP’s Executive Committee and the chairman of the Committee of Employment and Education. In 1959 Hobson co-authored Civil Rights in the Nation’s capital Report on a Decade of Progress and prepared a chapter in the book titled “The Employment and Utilization of Negro Manpower in the District of Columbia’s Government and Private Enterprise.” In the same year Hobson was part of the study group whose efforts led to the establishment of the Human Relations Council.

Clearly, by the close of the 1950’s, Hobson was a civil rights power in the District. In 1961, leaders at the Congress of Racial equality (CORE) selected Hobson as chair of the local chapter of CORE. Within a few years, he became CORE’S regional director. In CORE, Hobson led campaigns of roving and unpredictable picketing at local D.C. establishments to protest job discrimination among D.C. employers, especially in the downtown area. Hobson organized almost 800 picket lines at retail stores from 1960-64, which resulted in 5,000 new jobs for blacks, many in non-traditional positions. In 1963, Hobson led a major campaign for open housing in D.C., which resulted in 500 persons demonstrating at the District Building. Eventually, District lawmakers outlawed segregated rental housing. While at CORE, he also brought greater attention to the issue of home rule by filing a lawsuit in federal court to gain home rule. As part of his national work for CORE, Hobson trained civil rights activists in non-violent techniques for participation in the 1961 Freedom Rides in the Deep South and headed a contingent of marshals at the historic March on Washington in August 1963.

Core expelled Hobson in mid-1964 due to what they believed were his increasingly militant stands. After leaving CORE, Hobson founded the Associated Community Teams (ACT), a militant national organization. ACT’s most prominent member was Adam Clayton Powell, chair of the Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. House of Representatives. Other prominent leaders of ACT were Gloria Richardson, a fiery civil rights leader from Cambridge, Maryland; Jessie Gray, rent strike leader in Harlem; and Lawrence Landry of Chicago. ACT took the position that black goals and aspirations were being comprised by white involvement in the Civil Rights Movement through white financial support and decision-making. ACT was on the cutting edge of what became known as the Black Power movement. It sought to disrupt that status quo through militant acts of protest. During his involvement with ACT, Hobson began referring to himself as the “Spiritual Father” of Stokely Carmichael, a key spokesperson for the Black Power Movement at the time. Although not entirely in agreement with the black power movement’s Philosophy and tactics, Hobson continued an association with the movement throughout his life.

In 1966, with William Kuntsler as his attorney, Hobson brought a lawsuit against Carl Hansen, the superintendent of D.C. public schools and other schools officials to receive educational equality for black and poor students in the District schools. The lawsuit was the culmination of several years of statistical research conducted by Hobson to support a claim of educational inequality in D.C. Schools. The landmark Hobson v. Hansen case, decided by Judge J. Skelly W.Wright in July 1967, mandated equity in schools funding for blacks and
changes to a system, which tracked black children in separate classroom. As a result of the case, Hobson became recognized as an expert on educational equity.

In 1968, Hobson ran for his first elected office, a seat on the Districts’ Board of Education and won. Hobson served on the Board of Education for just one year after losing his reelection bid in 1969. After his election defeat, Hobson founded WIQE with his wife Tina. The Hobsons organized WIQE in response to the May 1968 riots and dedicated its work to attaining implementation of Hobson v. Hansen. Hobson continued to push for the full implementation of *Hobson v. Hansen* throughout his life.

While Hobson had a very militant profile in civil rights, he worked for world peace and opposed U.S. involvement in the Viet Nam War. He was active in the Anti-War movement and took part in most of the major Anti-War demonstrations, many of which were held in the District. Because of his Anti-War demonstrations, many of which were held in the District. Because of his Anti-War activities, in 1972 Benjamin Spock asked Hobson to run as his Vice Presidential running mate on the People’s Party slate.

Hobson was a key early founder of the D.C. Statehood Party. The D.C. Statehood Movement had its roots in the early 1970s when a small core of statehood supporters convinced Hobson to run for non-voting delegate to Congress in the 1971 election. Walter Fauntroy defeated Hobson, but a viable new third party in D.C. was founded.

In 1974, Hobson was elected councilman-at-large on the Statehood Party ticket in the first District council election in over a century. As a councilman, Hobson continued to push for local educational reform, especially while serving as chair of the Educational and Youth Affairs Committee, as well as an end to all forms of racial discrimination in the District.

Mr. Hobson died in office on March 23, 1977.
Polly Shackleton (1910-1997) was a politician and social activist in the District of Columbia. Mrs. Shackleton came to the District in 1939, after a brief enrollment at the New School of Social Research in New York and working on the campaign of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt during the 1930's. Polly Shackleton's professional endeavors prior to her work in District politics included serving as an editor with *Who's Who in American Art and the American Art Annual*; work with the Office of War Information as an information specialist and researcher during World War II, and an eleven year position with the American Institute of Architects from 1951 to 1962.

Polly Shackleton became involved in the politics of the District during the 1950's while working on Adlai Stevenson's Democratic campaign. After Stevenson won the Democratic nomination, Shackleton became both a Democratic Central Committee member and an alternate Democratic National Committeewoman. In 1956, she was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention and served on the platform committee. Polly Shackleton remained at the forefront of local political affairs in the District, and in 1967 she was appointed to the first D.C. Council by President Lyndon Johnson. As one of the first appointed council members, some of her responsibilities included serving on various council committees, particularly ones concerned with health and welfare, citizen's rights, and childcare. Though not reappointed to the following council term, Polly Shackleton won a seat on the District's first elected council in 1974. She was reelected to that seat twice, once in 1978 and a second time in 1982. She served on the elected Council until 1986 when she retired from public office.

While serving on the District's elected council, Polly Shackleton was responsible for the adoption of approximately 60 pieces of legislation that eventually became District law through her sponsorship and co-sponsorship. Polly Shackleton's dedication to the social and political conditions in the District is made evident through her life and work. She was a major
advocate for District Home Rule and representation for the District in the Congress of the United States, lobbying for these causes throughout her career. Most of her greatest social efforts involved improving conditions for and protecting the existing rights of those whose interests were most often overlooked by the government, such as the poor, children, and the elderly and infirm. She fought against transportation legislation that sought to build highways through the District, and would result in the displacement of many residents in low-income areas. She was an advocate of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority system, taking an active role in its planning and development, and also sought to develop bicycle paths and routes throughout the District.

Mrs. Shackleton was very involved with the Lady Bird Johnson's District beautification efforts while she served as First Lady and her efforts with Project Pride, a District-wide summer program that aimed to provide District youth with activities that would help build skills and foster a sense of community within neighborhoods while working to beautify certain areas of the District. Polly Shackleton also took a stand to improve health care for the young and old alike, securing licensing standards for nursing homes, building better nursing facilities for the infirm, and advocating for better services and management at the old D.C. General Hospital.

At the time of her death, Polly Shackleton was referred to as a bridge between her predominately white higher income constituents in Ward 3 and the rest of the District’s residents whose interests she fought for throughout her career. She is remembered for the many social and political improvement efforts she undertook as a politician, and also for the individualized attention she paid to those who came to her for help; the collection contains numerous thank you letters from District residents who had turned to Polly Shackleton with a problem and found their needs had been met. She outlived her husband, Robert Shackleton, by nine years, and lived long enough to see the fruits of her social and political labor.

Polly Shackleton was born in Brookline, Massachusetts.
Honorable Wilhelmina J. Rolark

Councilmember, Ward 8


Wilhelmina Jackson Rolark was born in the early 1900s in Truxton, a suburb of Portsmouth, Virginia. Her father, John William Jackson, was a native of Washington, D.C., and one of only two black navy clerks at the Norfolk Navy Yard in Portsmouth. Rolark's mother, Margaret Boykin Jackson, was a Portsmouth native and a teacher prior to her marriage; afterwards, she worked as a substitute teacher and opened a nursery school in her home. In a July 2, 1993, interview, Rolark credited her mother with instilling in her a compassionate attitude toward those less fortunate than herself. During Rolark's childhood, it was common practice to keep retarded children hidden from public view, but the pioneering Margaret Jackson enrolled such children in her nursery school. She patiently taught them the same curriculum as the other students while allowing for their slower and different ways of learning. Rolark's siblings, now deceased, were John H. Jackson, a Philadelphia-based Howard University School of Medicine graduate, and Gwendolyn Jackson Bowie, a Washington, D.C., teacher.

Rolark graduated from Truxton Elementary School and I.C. Norcum High School in Portsmouth. She received a bachelor's degree in 1936 and a master's degree in 1938, both in political science from Howard University. The magna cum laude graduate was privileged to have studied under eminent scholars in the field, including Ralph Bunche, E. Franklin Frazier, Eugene Holmes, and William Hansberry. In 1944 she earned a bachelor of laws degree from the Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C. This prestigious school was named in honor of Robert H. Terrell, a Howard law graduate and the first black judge of the District of Columbia Municipal Court.

In her dual role of attorney and local politician, Wilhelmina Rolark improved the quality of life for residents in Ward 8 in the District. And, as the primary force behind the establishment of the National Association of Black Women Attorneys (NABWA) and its founding president, she has helped to enhance the professional status of the black woman attorney. She was a great inspiration to young black women who had a desire to become lawyers and, through her leadership in the NABWA, provided them both financial assistance and guidance.
In a July 2, 1993, interview, Mrs. Rolark emphasized the advantages of attending night school law classes, which were taught by practicing lawyers, over day classes, taught by lawyers who were primarily theoreticians. This was probably one of the main reasons Rolark was able to pass the bar in October 1944, on her first attempt. In response to an inquiry about her mentors and role models, Mrs. Rolark remembered her high school history and English teachers, Mrs. Weaver and Mrs. Ewell, and Howard University history professor Harold Lewis. All were educators who were not only encouraging, but also highly qualified and widely respected in their fields. Rolark herself was fondly remembered by Jeannette Layton Forrester, a longtime Nashville resident and Howard University (B.A., 1935) schoolmate. In a July 1, 1993, interview, Forrester said: "I remember Wilhelmina Jackson as being witty, brilliant, lots of fun, and a bookworm who didn't bother much with the boys or a social life. She had an excellent mind."

Mrs. Rolark was married for 38-years to Dr. Calvin W. Rolark, a native of Texarkana, Texas, and a graduate of Prairie View Agricultural and Mechanical College. Calvin Rolark, who died in 1994, founded and was president of the United Black Fund and was editor and publisher of the Washington Informer Newspaper. The Rolarks had two children, Denise Rolark Barnes and Calvin Rolark II.

Mrs. Rolark died on February 14, 2006.
Honorable Willie J. Hardy
Councilmember, Ward 7

Willie J. Hardy, Hardy was born on July 18, 1922, in St. Louis, and moved with her family to D.C. in 1927. Mrs. Hardy who would never disclose what the “J” stood for -- was an outspoken community activist who became the first elected member of the District Council representing Ward 7 under the Home Rule Charter. Her mother raised 16 children, and she taught them to be good citizens involved in their communities, Mrs. Hardy once said. Her father was a carpenter at the Holton-Arms School, a private girls' school in Bethesda.

Mrs. Hardy, a blunt and forceful speaker who made her political name championing the rights of the poor and disadvantaged, served on the elected council from its inception in 1975 until 1981.

During her two terms, Mrs. Hardy served as chairwoman of the committees on Public Safety, Advisory Neighborhood Commissions, and Housing and Economic Development. She was also a member of the Committee on Finance and Revenue and the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. Hardy, a widow and mother of seven, also advocated for family values. In 1976, she pushed a bill that would have imposed an 11 p.m. curfew for teenagers and required fines or jail time for parents of youths who were on the streets after curfew. When the bill failed, she concluded that it was ahead of its time. Concerned about keeping families together, she said she thought that some federal programs hurt families more than they helped.

In the Council chamber and elsewhere, she evinced a down-to-earth manner, peppering her speech with "honey," or "baby."

Near the end of her time on the Council, she told The Washington Post that she was proud of her record. "If I'm criticized, then I've been heard," she said in 1980. "If I'm not criticized, then I have a silent voice."

Willie Hardy was the true sense of a public servant, putting people and communities first.
In the 1960s, she joined efforts to integrate Glen Echo Park. She later joined the Rev. Walter Fauntroy and others in anti-war demonstrations. She was chairwoman of Dollars for Democrats, head of the Metropolitan Community Aid Association and executive director of the University Neighborhood Council.

Before being elected to the Council, she was deputy director of the Office of Special Services in the District's Department of Environmental Services.

She left the Council to start a consulting firm and lectured at the University of the District of Columbia's Department of Urban Studies. She also remained involved in politics.

She was always proud of being a mother, often saying she had seven children and "raised 20 as my own." Her first husband, DeSales Carter Sr., died in the late 1940s or early '50s. Three children from that marriage predeceased her: DeSales A. Carter Jr., JoAnn Carter Abernathy and Charles Carter.

Her second husband, Lloyd Hardy Sr., whom she married in 1954, died in 1970.

Survivors include four children from her second marriage: Linda Hardy Silver of Oxon Hill, Marinne N. Hardy of the District, Lloyd N. Hardy Jr. of Sumter, S.C., and Diana Hardy of Springfield; two sisters, Ruth Blunt of Landover and Martha Moore of Greenbelt; a brother, Dixon White of the District; 22 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren.

"I am interested in changes, and they come with power," Mrs. Hardy said in 1976. "I see the ones who make laws are the ones who bring about change. That's where the power is."

Mrs. Hardy died on August 18, 2007.
Hilda H. M. Mason was born in a split log cabin in 1916 in rural Campbell County, Virginia, and attended schools in Gretna and Lynchburg, and Saint Paul’s College in Lawrenceville, Virginia, before coming to the District in 1945. She graduated from Miner Teachers College and received a Masters of Arts from the District of Columbia Teachers College (both now part of University of the District of Columbia). She also did graduate work at the State University of New York (Plattsburgh) and at Catholic University of America.

Ms. Mason has been a teacher, Counselor, Supervising Instructor, and an assistant principal in the District of Columbia Public schools. She has done research, written professional studies, and served as an educational consultant and lecturer.

Her past memberships in various professional, community, civil rights, peach and women’s organizations include: American Personnel and Guidance Association, District of Columbia Education Association, Americas Federation of Teachers, D.C. Counselors Associations, D.C. Citizens for Better Public Education, Washington Urban League, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Women Strike for Peach, National Women’s Political, The National Organization for Women, and the National Council of Negro Women. She served on advisory boards for a number of organizations including the Institute for Policy Studies, The National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy (S.A.N.E), and Saint Francis Center.

Ms. Mason served on the District of Columbia Board of Education (representing Ward 4) form January 1972 to April 1977, and she founded the Ward 4 Council on Education. She was a Director for the District of Columbia on the Board of Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Ms. Mason was appointed to the Council effective April 4, 1977, to fill the vacancy left by the death of Julius W. Hobson. She was elected on July 19, 1977, to complete Mr. Hobson term and re-elected on November 7, 1978, to a four year term which expired January 2, 1983. On November 2, 1982, she was re-elected to serve until January 2, 1987. Ms. Mason was re-
elected on November 4, 1986, to her third four-year term which expired on January 2, 1991. She was the Chairperson of the Committee on Education and Libraries.

Mrs. Mason died on December 16, 2007.
Honorable Nadine P. Winter

Councilmember, Ward 6

Nadine P. Winter was born to Elnora Kenyon Poole and Sam Poole in New Bern, N.C., March 3, 1924. Winter was recognized as a community activist and organizer at a very young age when she helped found Winston-Salem’s first Black Girl Scout Troop.

Winter graduated from Atkins High School in Winston-Salem, attended Hampton Institute and received a Bachelor of Arts Degree after transferring to Brooklyn College. Winter lived in a multi-ethnic community in Brooklyn, NY, where she founded a store-front community service agency and worked nights to complete her education. After moving to the District of Columbia permanently in 1947, she graduated from Cortez Peters Business School and later received a Master of Arts degree from Federal City College.

Winter was elected to the Council of the District of Columbia, representing Ward 6, in 1974 and reelected in 1978, 1982 and 1986. She served as the Chairperson Pro Tempore, the Chairperson of the Housing Committee, and a member of numerous other Council committees. She represented the Council on the Pennsylvania Avenue Development Corporation Board of Directors and the Council of Governments.

Winter served four times as Delegate to the Democratic National Convention; was the former chairperson of the District of Columbia Political Education Council; co-chaired the city-wide task force on truancy; and was a member of the D.C. Women’s Political Caucus, The National Democratic Women’s Club, and numerous other political, social and civic associations. She received more than 200 awards, citations and certificates for outstanding achievement. She was elected the elector for Democratic President Nominee in 1986 and year 2000.

Winter was the founder and former executive director of Hospitality House, a non-profit social action and social service agency that served the underprivileged residents of near northeast/southeast Washington for more than 20 years. Under her leadership Hospitality House
conducted day care activities for youth and senior citizens and received national recognition for establishing the first recognized temporary shelter for homeless families.

Perhaps her most noteworthy achievement was the successful fight to initiate urban homesteading, providing a model program for the District of Columbia and other jurisdictions.

Winter served as a consultant on housing projects, both in the United States and Europe and was recognized as a lecturer and author; some of her articles on social problems have appeared in national publications. She was one of the original organizers of the National Welfare Rights Organization and operated a free employment and counseling service for the under and unemployed residents.

Winter was founder and president of Health Outreach Information Network, Inc. (HOIN, Inc.), a non-profit agency that performed outreach services on health issues in the poorest areas of the District. Winter and her volunteers would walk the streets of northeast going into barber shops and beauty salons teaching cancer prevention and detection.

Winter would always tell the story of when she met former mayor and Councilmember Marion S. Barry. “He was a smart country boy who needed some city clothes. So I bought him some and fed him too,” she said in 2007 at a luncheon to honor cancer survivors.

Barry never forgot Winter’s sincere generosity and said more people who have been blessed should be more like her. “Nadine is a unique individual that God put on this earth to serve the most needy, poor, left out and locked out. She had a heart for caring and sharing. These are lessons that all of us should live by,” said Barry of his dear friend.

Ms. Winter passed graciously on August 26, 2011 at her southwest home with her family at her side.

Afro Staff, 29 August 2011, “Councilwoman Nadine Winter, Champion of the Poor Dies at 87.”
Accessed 17 June 2013