

## Colleton High Class of 1963 reunites

Energetically reminiscing about what was done and how it was done 50 years ago were the voices of 36 class members of the Colleton High School Class of 1963 and their guests/spouses, during the Labor Day weekend in Walterboro.

Friday evening, only the class members met for a drop-in at Courtney Bay Restaurant, and Saturday evening the class members and their guests/spouses enjoyed a 50th-year banquet with Deacon Ray T. Johnson, one of their retired teachers, as the speaker.

Deacon Johnson told the class that he was very proud of them for their accomplishments and how they had put into action what they had been taught. However, he reminded everyone that there is still work to be done. Further, he shared moments about the fact that the Class of 1963s' graduating year

coincided with the March on Washington and that some of Dr. King's dream has been realized through them and the first African-American President, Barack Obama.

Memorial Moments for approximately 40 deceased members of the class were shared at the banquet by Janie Burnette Rivers. Freddie Loadholt accompanied her during these moments with a rendition of "When the Saints go Marching In" on the guitar.

One of the class's major highlights was that they were able to give a \$500 scholarship to a senior at Colleton County High School with the anticipation of doing the same each year after their 50th year. One of their goals is to increase one scholarship to several scholarships each year.

Alondra DeSantiago, one of the co-salutatorians of the CCHS graduating class of 2013, was this year's recipient. Presently, she is enrolled at Clemson University majoring in pre-medicine.

Members of the class in attendance at this "golden-year" reunion came from Florida, New York, New Jersey, Georgia, Virginia, North Carolina, Greenville and, of course, Walterboro.

The class boasts of having many professionals recognized in its class. The photographer was their very own, Herman Bright, who has worn several professional hats.

A number of educators came out of this class, and several served in branches of the United States military. Some have launched second careers as others are avid volunteers within their respective communities. Given the many accomplishments of so many of their classmates, their motto, "Education does not cost; it pays," has been most fitting.

Additional guests, who were former teachers of the class, were Mrs. Thelma Cooley Johnson (wife of Deacon Ray T. Johnson), the first-grade teacher and "School Mom" of many of the 63ers, and Mrs. Snell (known by

many as the "no nonsense teacher"), a class advisor and English teacher, of many of them. The weekend was enjoyed by all in attendance, and the activities concluded on Sunday by attending church service with one of the classmates, Samuel Williams, at Red Bank United Methodist Church, where the Rev. Jimmy Washington is the pastor, and having breakfast afterwards at Shoney's in Walterboro.

Members of the Steering Committee who truly worked diligently as a group in getting things done were: Charles Bodison (president), Jim Bodison, Herman Bright (photographer), Cassandra Bennett Duncan, Hester Farmer, Jimmy Fields, Juanita Gelzer Gerald (secretary), Luvern Powell Glover, Johnny Holmes (chaplin), Euric Milten (treasurer), Deloris Kelly Parks (vice-president), Anna McMillan Ponds, Christine Bowman Radcliff (program chairperson), Janie Burnett Rivers (asst. secretary), Virginia Walker, Karen Mitchell

Whittaker, and Samuel Williams.

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