



FW PUBLIC WORKS

Traffic Engineering

In Your Neighborhood

GENERAL
INFORMATION

MEMORIAL WAY LISTING & HISTORY

Billie Rykard (Died August 9, 2017) A fierce supporter of the Waynedale area and Belle Vista Neighborhood, Billie helped funnel in over \$1 million City and County dollars into her neighborhood infrastructure. This included streets, storm sewers, ditch work and the bridge. Billie also spearheaded the effort to save the Waynedale Post Office by collecting over 1000 signatures. The Allen County Commissioners dedicated this bridge in her name on September 18, 2017.

Bradley Matteson – (Died October 5, 2000, at age 43) A 19-year veteran Fort Wayne police officer who died while on duty, after his police car was struck by a semitrailer that ran a red light at State Blvd. and Coliseum. After being struck, his patrol car flipped over, crushing the driver's side doors, and Officer Matteson had to be extricated from the car. He later died at Parkview Hospital.

Carole Lombard – (Died Jan. 16, 1942 at age 33) Carole Lombard was a film actress born in Fort Wayne, Indiana. She was a Hollywood actress known for her comedic talent and was one of the highest paid actresses of her time. She died in an airplane accident soon after she returned to Indiana to raise money by participating in a war-bond rally.

Elizabeth Dobyne – (Died January 5, 1999, at age 70) A fully-active member of the local, state and national NAACP for 43 years, Ms. Dobyne was elected or appointed to numerous positions and served as president Fort Wayne Allen County NAACP for many years. She had attended all national, regional and state conventions since 1967 and organized the first Marjorie D. Wickliffe Award Banquet in Fort Wayne. She was active in her church and helped organize the Baptist Training Union. Also, while working at Magnavox Electronic Corp., she was one of the first Black female testers of electronic components.

Eugene Parker – (Died March 31, 2016, at age 60) Known as the nation's first African American sports agent, Mr. Parker represented Deion Sanders, Emmitt Smith, Rod Woodson, Curtis Martin and a host of other professional athletes. He garnered awards as a star basketball player at Concordia High School and Purdue University. Having negotiated ground-breaking contracts for his clients, Mr. Parker was named one of the 50 most powerful Blacks in sports by Black Enterprise Magazine, in 2005.

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Janet “Mama” Reese – (Died October 3, 2006, at age 56) Community advocate who worked at Verizon for 23 years, was active in Jerusalem Baptist Church and her neighborhood. Ms. Reese and her husband also raised 13 children -- nine sons and four daughters.

Mary L. Morris – (Died December 18, 2014, at age 67) Social worker, teacher, realtor and public servant who worked for many years at the Fort Wayne Housing Authority and SCAN. She served for many years as president of the Oxford Community Association, served as president of the Indiana Democrat American Caucus and was a lifetime member of the NAACP and Fort Wayne Urban League.

Minister U.L. Stewart – (Died May 30, 2003, at age 75) Served as a Senior Minister of East Chestnut Church of Christ for more than 40 years. He guided the growth of the church, while raising a family with six children. He maintained a job at Mike Carwash for almost 30 years, before starting his own Stewart Carcare Center.

Miss Virginia – Founder of Miss Virginia’s Food Pantry, located at Miss Virginia’s Mission House, at 1312 Hanna Street – in a home where she used to live. Virginia Schwartz provided food, clothing and shelter for residents in need for more than 40 years. She also provided comfort and activities to neighborhood children. The Food Pantry continues to operate as a non-profit agency with about 40 volunteers.

Rep. Ben GiaQuinta – (Died July 11, 2010, at age 87) World War II veteran, who served in the Battle of the Bulge, Mr. GiaQuinta was a longtime realtor and a state legislator. He served as a member of the Wayne Township Board and served 14 years in the State House of Representatives. Mr. GiaQuinta was named to the Fort Wayne Realtor Hall of Fame and was named Realtor of the Year. He also received the statewide Sagamore of the Wabash award, which is given to residents who have demonstrated excellent citizenship.

Rev. Dr. C.E. Walker, Sr. – (Died January 20, 2007, at age 69) Worked at International Harvester- Navistar and served as pastor of Antioch Baptist Church for 37 years. He was actively involved in Baptist organizations, such as Institutional Baptist Association, Baptist Ministers Conference, Ministerial Alliance and Elsie’s Mission/Deliverance House Ministries.

Rev. Dr. Clyde Adams – (Died February 21, 2017, at age 102) Civil rights leader and pastor of Union Baptist Church for nearly 50 years. Under his leadership, the church grew to include computer classrooms, the Head Start program, education and job training programs and the One Church, One Offender program, to aid non-violent ex-offenders. He served on the board of the National Baptist Convention and as president of the local NAACP, where he fought to desegregate public places and joined with the Urban League to launch a boycott against Fort Wayne Community Schools. The successful boycott led to integration of elementary school programs in Fort Wayne.

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Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – (Died April 4, 1968, at age 39) National leader of the Civil Rights Movement, minister, scholar, bridge-builder, peace advocate and youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, at age 35. Created a lasting impact on the country and our community.

Rev. Dr. Samuel Walker – (Died May 27, 2006) Founder and Pastor of Jerusalem Baptist Church for 45 years, he also served as moderator of the Northern Indiana Missionary Baptist Educational District Association and as state president of the Original General Missionary Baptist State Convention of Indiana, Inc.

Rev. James Bledsoe – (Died April 6, 2004, at age 78) Served as pastor of St. John Missionary Baptist Church for 43 years and served as president of the Ministerial Alliance for 30 years.

Rev. James L. Hall, Sr. – A local pastor and community advocate who worked in partnership with Cecil and Juanita Ellis and Lincoln Chapman to co-found Ellis Funeral Home, in 1954.

Rev. Jesse White – (Died 2001, at age 74) Pastor and founder of True Love Missionary Baptist Church, Bishop White was recognized as being Fort Wayne's leading civil rights advocate for 50 years. He served as leader of the Council of Civic Action, which brought Operation Breadbasket, an interfaith economic justice program, to Fort Wayne. He was a World War II veteran, radio performer and recording artist. He served as a board member on the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. and was a lifetime member of the NAACP. He also helped establish two local housing complexes and served as one of the leaders of a 1969 boycott against Fort Wayne Community Schools, which led to 1,300 students attending Freedom Schools at local churches for nearly two weeks.

Rev. Mack Magee, Sr. – (Died January 6, 2008, at age 75) Served as esteemed minister and founder of Canaan Baptist Church in Fort Wayne on Fairfax Avenue.

Rev. Mike Nickleson – (Died December 16, 2015, at age 63) Civil rights advocate and longtime pastor of Mount Calvary Missionary Baptist Church. He served on the board of Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and was involved in the founding of the Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance, a group that addressed excessive force by the police in the 1990s, social inequality and community violence.

Thomas L. Brownlee – (Died May 8, 2010, at age 84) Owned and operated Thomas Brownlee & Sons Market on Oxford Street for over 30 years and worked at Veterans Hospital for 23 years.

Victure L. Scruggs – (Died December 27, 2015 at age 85) Community advocate, politician, counselor, leader and friend, Victure dedicated his time to the city. He was active with the Eastside Neighborhood Association for over 40 years, served on various boards and commissions including the NAACP. Victure also finished the term of councilman John Nuckols between 1982-83, working hard to improve voter registration.

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Sgt. Joseph A. Cox, Jr. — (Died Feb. 12, 2017) St. Joseph Cox served as an Allen County Sheriff with distinction as patrolman, canine officer, Emergency Services Team member, firearms and vehicle safety instructor, supervisor and fatal investigation department head. He served just under 20 years on the department and passed soon after responding to an emergency. His memorial parkway is an area he would regularly travel and patrol.

Helen Foellinger – (Died March 25, 1987, at age 76) A newspaper publisher, patron of the arts and philanthropist, Ms. Foellinger became one of the first woman publishers in the country, at age 25, after her father died unexpectedly and she took over the helm at the Fort Wayne News-Sentinel. She succeeded in growing the newspaper's circulation, reached a joint operating agreement with the Journal Gazette and built a two-newsroom and printing press facility on Main Street to house both newspapers. In 1949, the Foellinger Outdoor Theater was dedicated to her late father, Oscar Foellinger. In 1958, Helene and her mother, Esther, founded the Foellinger Foundation, a private, charitable foundation that provides funding to benefit residents, especially children and families.

Harold & Hana Stith — Mr & Mrs Stith were fixtures in Fort Wayne unifying our community. Hana was one of the first African American teachers hired by FWCS, refusing to leave any child behind giving extra time helping students struggling with reading and math. Harold was one of the first African American State of Indiana Plumbing Contractors. Hana was also co-founder and curator of Fort Wayne's first African/African-American Historical Society Museum.

PFC. Dennis Morrell – (Died March 20, 1967, at age 21) Waynedale Resident and US Army Private First Class (PFC) serving in the 9th infantry division, 3rd Battalion, 39th infantry, A Company died in action. PFC Morrell is also memorialized on the Veterans National Memorial Shrine on O'Day Road.

Lincoln "Link" Chapman – (Died June 18, 2007 at age 80) Entrepreneur and businessman, he served in the US Air Force, was a member of the Par Tee Golf Club, NAACP, St. Mary's Lodge #14 PHA, Fort Wayne Consistory #66, Saudi Temple #50 and was a supporter of many local community organizations and youth associations. His most recognizable accomplishments were his commitment to the lower to middle income African American children of the neighborhood when he opened up Link's Gay Arena and Link's Wonderland. These places provided a place for youths to meet in a safe environment and be involved with the community. His accomplishments and service to the community lasted over 50 years.

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Bill Blass (Died June 12, 2002 at age 79) Considered as Fort Wayne's first fashion designer, he was born and raised in Fort Wayne and was a decorated WWII Veteran, receiving a Congressional Gold Medal in honor of his service. He became a world-renowned fashion designer receiving over 40 fashion industry awards, including lifetime achievement awards and has a bronze marker on the fashion Walk of Fame, Seventh Avenue, NYC.

Battalion Chief Eric J. Balliet (Died September 27, 2017, at age 41) Died in the line of duty, he served on the FWFD for 19 years, mainly at Station 1 on Main Street. He was a sheriff's reserve officer for 18 years, and became a deputy coroner in 2006. Bn Chief Balliet also spent 19 year volunteering at the Great Lakes Burn Camp every summer for children with burn injuries. He was a leader at work and an example to his team. His dedication on Main Street is a reminder to everyone to live a life of service and sacrifice.

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