



FW PUBLIC WORKS
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GENERAL
INFORMATION

MEMORIAL WAY LISTING & HISTORY

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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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.

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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

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