



# The John H. Scott Memorial Fund Newsletter

November 2013

P.O. Box 74901, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70874

## In This Issue

- Scholarship Recipients
- Grant Recipient
- Special Awards
- Fund Honors First Black Voters

### Board of Directors:

Attorney Louis G. Scott  
President

Devin Brown  
Vice President

Secretary  
Jewel Scott Jones

Johnita Scott  
Treasurer

At-Large Members:  
Cleo Scott Brown  
Harriet Pullen  
Elsie Scott  
Amatullah Umrani

Contact us by e-mail:  
jhsfund@gmail.com

Website:  
www.jhsfund.org



Kalesha Pullen, Speaker

## 32 YEARS OF SERVICE--THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Since 1982, the John H. Scott Memorial Fund has been awarding scholarships to deserving young people, helping them achieve their dreams of a college education. This Fund keeps alive the memory of Rev. John H. Scott who worked tirelessly to see that the people in his area had a chance for a better life. This Fund supports the economically depressed Louisiana parishes of Richland, Tensas, Madison, West Carroll, and East Carroll. Last year, East Carroll Parish was designated as the 12<sup>th</sup> poorest county/parish in the United States, but because of you and your donations, these young people have a greater chance to reach their goals of a college education.

*When you give the gift of a college education, you change a family's destiny for generations to come*

## 2013 Scholarship Program

What a wonderful time we had at our annual scholarship program held on May 4, 2013 at the Tallulah/Madison Community Center! Family members and acquaintances of our six scholars and visitors were on hand for our 32<sup>nd</sup> scholarship award program. Because of your gifts, we were able to grant a first place award of \$3000 to **Mary Rena Jones** of Newellton, LA who is now enrolled at LSU. Our second place award of \$2000 went to **LaCoty James** of St. Joseph, LA who is currently enrolled at Southern University in Baton Rouge where she plans to study speech pathology.



Mary Rena Jones

The keynote address was delivered by **Kalesha Pullen**, granddaughter of the late Rev. and Mrs. Scott. Ms. Pullen, from Orlanda, FL, is a paralegal and CEO of her event planning company, AMINA, Inc. She has been involved in the success of the JHS Fund since her childhood.

Ms. Pullen spoke on the topic "The Challenge". She reminded everyone to make choices that were right for them and to be mindful of the potential outcome of those choices. She advised the students to be responsible. "It is time to do what is necessary, not what is popular."



LaCoty James

## CONTRIBUTIONS

Your contributions are needed to continue the work of the Fund. Please complete the enclosed response form and mail your tax-deductible contribution today to P. O. Box 74901, Baton Rouge, LA 70874 or make your contribution online using a credit card at [www.jhsfund.org](http://www.jhsfund.org). Click on the "Support the Fund" tab at the top of the Home page. On the "Support the Fund" page, just click on "Donate" to be taken to a Pay Pal secure donation site where you may enter your donation. The Rev. John H. Scott Memorial Fund is a nonprofit, tax-exempt, 501(c) (3) organization. *We thank you for your support.*

## OUR SENIORS

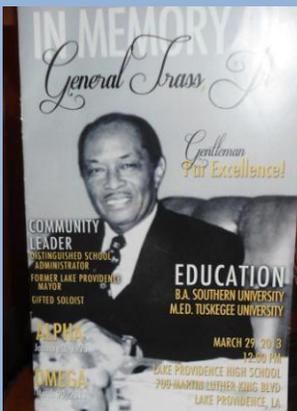


De'Juanae Shaw



Mary Lundy

### In Memory 1923 - 2013



### GENERAL TRASS

Fund  
Supporter & Donor,  
former principal of G.  
W. Griffin High School  
& former Lake  
Providence Mayor

## Meet the Students Your Dollars Support

The Fund annually provides financial support for six students in addition to the two new recipients chosen each May. We continue to be excited about their success and hope that you are too!

### Our Seniors

**De'Juanae Shaw**, from Lake Providence is entering her senior year in Southern University's School of Nursing. She used this year's scholarship to help purchase uniforms and supplies required for her last year of nursing school.

**Mary Lundy** of St. Joseph, LA is a senior studying English Education at Alcorn State University in preparation to become an English teacher.

### Our Juniors & Sophomores



Ariell Brown



Alex Ward



Daisha Batiste



TyJanay Mickens

**Junior, Ariell Brown** of Rayville is studying accounting at the University of Louisiana at Monroe. She says that the scholarship provides her needed finances as well as encouragement to keep moving forward.

**Junior, Alex Ward** of Newellton is studying Agriculture Science & Economics at Southern University.

**Sophomore, Daisha Batiste** of Tallulah is continuing her studies at LSU-Shreveport. Here is a portion of a letter of appreciation received in August:

"Your scholarship has aided me tremendously so far and I am still pursuing my dreams and goals with God first. I finished my Freshman year at LSU-S in good academic standing. I am currently working towards being involved more with school activities as well as keeping my grades in line....I am humbled to be a part of the great legacy Reverend Scott has left for fellow growing Christian activists."

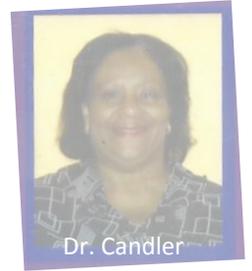
**Sophomore, TyJanay Mickens** of Lake Providence is continuing her studies at the University of Louisiana in Monroe. She started college with an interest in Pharmacy but has decided to major in Speech and Language due to experiences with a family member with delayed language development. She continues to make good grades.

Our 2013 contestants pictured with their gifts awarded by the Fund. (l-r) Frededreia Willis and Inetha Shoemaker, both of Lake Providence; Jerrica Newman of Waterproof; Nicholy Johnson, hostess/granddaughter of Rev. Scott; Mary Rena Jones of Newellton; LaCoty James of St. Joseph; and Keuana Hayes of Lake Providence, La.



## JHS Fund Grants

The Fund established a new grant program in the fall of 2011 to provide grants up to \$1000 to support youth services. A grant was awarded this year to the Youth Leadership Development Academy (YLDA) of Madison Parish under the direction of Dr. Patricia B. Candler. YLDA is a program designed to develop talented young people and help them grow to their full potential. Fifty-five students ages 9 – 18 participated in the program with 38 of the participants completing the program with at least 95% attendance. YLDA provided youth with leadership skills, adult support, and learning experiences. Various guest speakers were brought in to present to the students and career options were presented in the areas of education, construction, engineering, business/banking, small business, and religion. Other community activities consisted of mentoring, tutoring, and performing a park clean-up campaign. YLDA also hosted a Student Leadership Conference/Ceremony at Pleasant Grove #2 Baptist Church in Tallulah.



Dr. Candler

### **REMINDER:**

Deadline for Scholarship & Award applications is April 5<sup>th</sup>

For information, see our website:

[www.jhsfund.org](http://www.jhsfund.org)

Contact us at:  
[jhsfund@gmail.com](mailto:jhsfund@gmail.com)



Devin Brown, grandson of Rev. Scott, elected Memorial Fund VP



Tallulah Mayor, Eddie Beckwith Jr. welcomes the Memorial Fund to town; here with Fund President, Attorney Louis Scott

## Facebook You Won't Want to Miss!

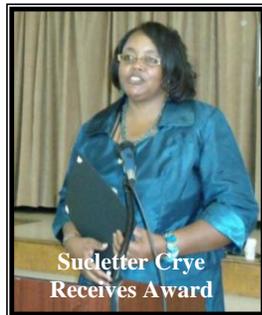
We hope you have not missed Fund updates and lots of information relating to LA & Rev. Scott's work--all on Facebook! Even if you don't have a Facebook account, you may still view the same information on the "Facebook Timeline" link found on our website at [www.jhsfund.org](http://www.jhsfund.org).

If you have a Facebook account and are not a "fan" of the Memorial Fund, just go to the tool bar at the top of the Facebook page and type in "John H. Scott Memorial Fund" in the "search" field and click enter. When the page loads, sign on to be a friend.

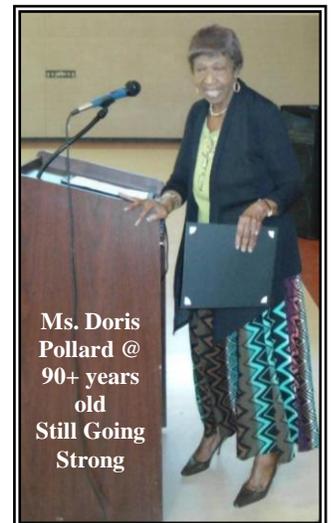
## Four Receive Special Awards

In addition to the two major scholarships of the Fund, the following special awards were made this year to encourage and inspire others who are making a difference.

**The Alease J. Scott Memorial Award** was awarded to **Ms. Doris Pollard** of St. Joseph and **Mrs. Sucletter Brown Crye** of Lake Providence, LA, both for their outstanding community outreach. Ms. Pollard at 90+ years old continues to be positively involved in her community. Ms. Crye does much of her work through the North Star Baptist Church which is the same church where Mrs. Scott did much of her work many years ago. This award given in honor of Alease Scott, the wife of Rev. J. H. Scott, recognizes a person who promotes community improvement and pride mainly through work in organizations.



Sucletter Crye Receives Award



Ms. Doris Pollard @ 90+ years old Still Going Strong

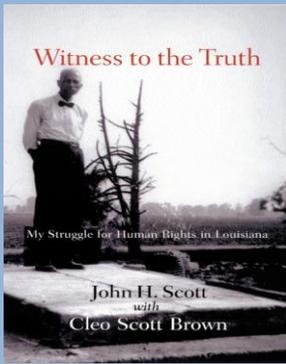
**The Elder Tyrone Scott Memorial Award** for creativity went to two high school seniors, Ms. **Inetha Shoemaker** & **Ms. Frededreia Willis**. Ms. Shoemaker, who shared her talent at this year's annual program, has been described as a powerful and anointed performing artist. Ms. Willis, while creatively transforming her own life, has been doing the same for other young people in her hometown of Lake Providence, LA. This award in honor of Tyrone Scott, the son of Rev. and Mrs. Scott, is given to a talented person who is outstanding in creativity or artistic ability and who uses his/her talent in a positive way.



Inetha Performs



Ms. Willis



**Witness to the Truth**, the story of Rev. Scott's crusade for voting rights and the history of NE Louisiana is still available in paperback. You can purchase a copy through your local bookstore, through the "Support The Fund" link on our website, [jhsfund.org](http://jhsfund.org) or by visiting the author's website at [www.cleoscottbrown.com](http://www.cleoscottbrown.com) and clicking on the "Purchase Info" tab at the top of the home page. (Published by the University of South Carolina Press)

**The Fund was established in commemoration of the legacy of Rev. John H. Scott, who with the support of his wife Alease, worked tirelessly for human and civil rights in northeast LA.**

## Fund Honors First Black Voters

By Amatullah Umrani



Adam Millikin, 104, the oldest living member of "The 26" first black voters

There have been many people who have been a part of history—those who have taken noteworthy actions that caused positive changes. Most of these regular people live among us for decades without even family members giving much thought to their contributions. Such were most of the first Black voters since Reconstruction in Lake Providence, LA.

On Saturday, May 4, 2013 in Tallulah, LA., the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary program of the release of the book, *Witness To The Truth* provided the opportunity for family and community to reflect upon their accomplishments. *Witness To The Truth* documents Rev. John H. Scott's fearless work as a human rights advocate, and 100 years of northeast Louisiana history. The program was coordinated by *Witness's* author, Cleo Scott Brown.

The 26 persons who were honored at the Tallulah/Madison Community Center were some of the individuals who partnered with Rev. Scott in various degrees in what was then a dangerous endeavor: seeking the basic freedoms and privileges enjoyed by other citizens. Becoming the only people ever to have been registered to vote by a Federal court were: Eric Armstrong, Francis Joseph Atlas, C. W. Baggett, Benjamin F. Blockwood, Rose P. Blockwood, James Brown, John H. Bunn, Charles Carson, Bragg Clay, Mary E. Cole, Freddie Green Sr., Lehman H. Griffin Jr., James L. Hadden, Gardena Johnson, Mary E. Johnson, Percy Knighton, Adam Millikin Jr., Walter H. Nash, Frank Nervis Sr., Alease J. Scott, John H. Scott, Alfred Shoemaker, Henry O. Simmons, Laura Thompson, Fred Threats Jr., and Nathan Weaver. Though all but three of the original 26 were deceased, most were represented by family members, including electronically, by phone.

Each family present gave expressions of gratitude, and reflections of their member's contribution. They received a gift bag with copies of historical items related to that individual's vote, a certificate of recognition, and a mug on which the names of the 26 were printed.

There was joy and warmth shared among the attendees, in learning that their relative, friends, or acquaintances were connected in a way that had not been previously apparent. It resulted in the informal sharing of other stories of persons who were in the second, or subsequent groups of Lake Providence registered voters—the climate at the time; how many were afraid of loss of job or of other repercussions; how the younger people helped the older ones to prepare for the literacy portion of the registration process. Brown also provided a display of historical documentation from her years of research required to write *Witness To the Truth*. The program served as a reminder to **NOT TAKE THE VOTE FOR GRANTED** and to put forth effort for good causes, even if there is risk involved.



Fred Threats, the youngest of "The 26", passed away this June

**For more info & pictures on this story, go to [www.cleoscottbrown.com/news/](http://www.cleoscottbrown.com/news/)**

## Your Donations Are Needed to Continue the Work!

We ask for your support so that we might be able to continue the much needed work of the Fund. Making a donation to this worthy cause is easy. You may:

- Mail a check payable to the John H. Scott Memorial Fund to P. O. Box 74901, Baton Rouge, LA 70874
- Pay on-line by going to the Fund's website, [www.jhsfund.org](http://www.jhsfund.org) and click on the "Support the Fund" tab at the top of the Home page. On the "Support the Fund" page, just click on "Donate" to be taken to a Pay Pal secure donation site where you may enter your payment information.