

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT

The scope of CLARENCE W. SEAY'S community activities and contributions make it difficult to be articulate in a summary of his service record. Nevertheless, Gamma Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is willing to make this second attempt by nominating CLARENCE WILLIAM SEAY for the 1974 Man of the Year Award.

C. W. SEAY is widely recognized as a man of stature in education; a pioneer in the struggle for equal opportunities for blacks; and, a man of deep concern for civic, governmental and religious betterment for people of all races and creeds. Citations for his contribution to community betterment have come from such organizations as the Lynchburg Bar Association, United Way, National Conference of Christians and Jews, The City of Lynchburg, Lynchburg School Board, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, The State Teachers Association, Western District Teachers Association, Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, Lynchburg College, Dunbar Athletic Association, Lynchburg Board of Officials for Sports and others.

Our nominee could well be identified as Mr. "First": -- first Dunbar High School Coach to develop State Championship basketball and football teams; first Negro Principal of the Dunbar High School and in the Lynchburg School system; first high school principal elected to the Presidency of the Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges (black or white); first black staff member employed at Lynchburg College where he was Assistant PROFESSOR of Education; first black elected to a seat on Lynchburg City Council; first man of his race elected Vice-Mayor of the City of Lynchburg. MR. SEAY views all of his "first" valueless except that they contribute to better race

relations and improved community life in general; that they inspire, heighten aspirations and open doors to black youth.

Some of VICE-MAYOR SEAY'S current concerns are to find ways to control crime and the drug traffic, improvement in minority hiring practices, betterment in human relations across the board, and improved public transportation. In order to accomplish these goals, MR. SEAY has allowed himself to be drafted to run for re-election in the City Councilmanic election to be held May 7, 1974.

The irradiant home and family life of the C. W. SEAYS is refreshing and worthy of imitation. Any casual visitor in their home is soon aware of the comfort, warm companionship and serenity within its walls. His wife, the former Clara Majors, is a founder of Gamma Iota Omega Chapter and its first Basileus. She is a zealous church and community worker. Always cordial, Clara and "Dick" Seay have surrounded themselves with many friends who never hesitate to take advantage of their accessibility for a social hour or Just-dropped-in-to-chat session.

To have CLARENCE W. SEAY Regional Conference 1974 Man of the Year Award winner will be an honor for Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority; an honor that Gamma Iota Omega Chapter is jealously seeking. We are proud to present the factual material that follows.

A native of Nashville, Tennessee, CLARENCE WILLIAM SEAY is a product of the ^{Public} schools of that city; a graduate of Fisk University, B.S., and Columbia University, M.A., with further graduate study at the University of Kansas and the University of Chicago.

C. W. SEAY'S professional career in education began as a high school teacher and coach and ended an Assistant Professor of Education at one of the larger white colleges in the South. Among the positions he has held are teacher of French and Chemistry and athletic coach at Lincoln High School--Paducah, Kentucky (1925-1926); Kansas Vocational School--Topeka, Kansas (1926-1928); Union High School--Phoenix, Arizona (1928-1929); and Dunbar High School--Lynchburg, Virginia (1929-1935); Principal of Peabody High School--Petersburg, Virginia (1935-1938); Principal of Dunbar High School--Lynchburg, Virginia (1938-1968); Assistant Professor of Education at Lynchburg College (1968-1970). He resigned from Lynchburg College to run in a ten-candidate city councilmanic election for one of four seats open on City Council winning with the second highest number of votes.

MR. SEAY'S high caliber of work came to public notice as a coach at Dunbar High School where he developed and maintained for four consecutive years the school's first state championship basketball and football teams. An array of trophies prominently displayed at the school attest to these achievements. At the same time his administrative potential was claiming the attention of educators. Beginning with the 1935-1936 School Year Coach Seay was employed as Principal of the Peabody High School in Petersburg, Virginia. His commendable administration of that school prompted the Lynchburg educators to vie for his return to Lynchburg.

In 1938 the Lynchburg School Board broke with tradition--their policy of not hiring Negroes in any administrative position--and employed C. W. SEAY as principal

of Dunbar High School. Thus, he became the first black school administrator in the City of Lynchburg. The small, one-building campus with a single academic curriculum, a five thousand dollar indebtedness and no available funds for many activities, embarked upon an upward climb in campus growth, curriculum expansion and financial stability. PRINCIPAL SEAY guided the destiny of Dunbar High School in a sagacious manner for thirty years.

A man of less stature and tact would have accepted his personal advancement and remained silent concerning employment injustices and the lack of quality education for Negroes in the community. PRINCIPAL SEAY was not satisfied to be the only Negro administrator in the city nor was he hesitant to speak out against existing injustices in the handling of educational problems. Standing alone, December 1943, he sent a letter to the late Omer Carmicheal, Superintendent, which illustrates his position and deep concern. The letter said in part:

"...to ask the Lynchburg School Board to consider the establishment of a policy of employing Negro principals and supervisors in the local Negro schools as retirements, transfers or other contingencies create openings in these positions..."

"We do not wish this decision to be construed as an attack upon the persons now holding these positions. We recognize the many contributions they have made to Negro education in our city. We honor and respect them for what they have done and are still doing in their several capacities... We do want to take this opportunity, however, to respectfully call your attention to the following points:

"First, We believe that Lynchburg Negroes are as capable and deserving of opportunity for leadership among their own people as are the Negroes of other cities of our state and throughout the South..."

"Second, we believe that education, in order to be effective, must closely ally itself with the social, religious, political and economic lives of the people, young and old alike. We do not believe that any educational leader can get the respect, confidence and cooperation he ought to have if circumstances force him to dissociate himself from active participation in the activities and problems of his community..."

"Third, We believe that a change in policy would lift the morale of the Negro teachers in Lynchburg and result in better preparation, more wholesome attitudes, harder work and increased efficiency. Noone who has never been trapped in a blind alley job can quite know what it can do to feeling and personality to realize that no matter what your qualifications or your ambitions you can go no further..."

It was largely through MR. SEAY'S efforts that the Lynchburg school system presented an entirely different picture at the time of his retirement in 1968. At that time, all predominantly black schools had Negro Principals; black supervisors and black personnel at the School Administration building were not unusual and a Negro citizen sat on the Lynchburg School Board.

Throughout his years at Dunbar High School PRINCIPAL SEAY met the challenge in a heroic manner. His continuous drive to upgrade facilities, curriculum, and the school's activities program bore fruit. The campus grew from the one building to a five-building complex, the single curriculum offering was expanded to a five curricula program--Scientific, Humanities, Business Education, Vocational, Homemaking and Vocational Shops. Homemaking was housed in a well-equipped ranch-style structure--the only one of its kind in the state. In addition, the enrichment subjects of music, art, journalism and Negro History were available. PRINCIPAL SEAY instituted a Professional Faculty Meeting Plan at Dunbar that was unique and rewarding. Three such meetings a semester dealt with topics on discipline, home-school relations, professional growth of teachers, liaison between high schools and colleges, etc. with parents, teachers, college personnel, representatives from industry, business and professional leaders sharing the panels.

The occasion of a Testimonial Banquet honoring MR. SEAY upon his retirement from Dunbar High School and public education was an attestation of C. W. SEAY'S

humanitarianism, his astute performance as an educator, his service and dedication in civic and religious affairs. The five hundred well-wishers attending the banquet represented former students, basketball and football players, parents and friends, government officials, educators known for their contributions on the local, state, national and international levels and many professional other than educators.

C. W. SEAY'S retirement from public education July 1968 was retirement for "but a day." The Lynchburg community was not willing to give him up nor was he ready to go. He joined the faculty of Lynchburg College August 1, 1968 as the first and only Negro staff member to serve in the capacity of Assistant Professor of Education. In two short years he had won the esteem of the college population. The administration of the college reluctantly released him to run in the 1970 City Councilmanic election.

A retired educator, the Honorable Vice-Mayor Seay is not eligible for the many professional memberships he once held. Before retirement, his professional status was beyond reproach with regard to affiliation, participation and practice. Among the creditable professional membership and activities during his career as an educator are: President and life member--Virginia Teachers Association; Virginia Education Association; President--Hill City Teachers Association; President--Virginia Secondary School Principals; President--Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools; National Education Association; National Association of Secondary School Principals; Chairman--Liaison Committee of the Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges; and, Member--Virginia State Advisory Committee on Education. He is the author of the following articles which have appeared in educational publications: "High School--College Articulation" in Bulletin of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, September, 1964; appearing in the Bulletin of the Virginia Teachers Association are articles which include: "The Teaching of the French Vocabulary," "Plain Talk about a Fancy

Subject," "You Can't Do Business With Indifference," "Death and Taxes," "Planning for Peace," and "Tears Fell on Virginia."

C. W. SEAY'S modesty hampers a complete investigation of honors accorded him, however, the following are among his citations: Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Education--Virginia Teachers Association; Scroll of Honor for Outstanding Service--Third District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity; Plaque for Dedicated Service in the Field of Education--Gamma Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity--Lynchburg, Va.; Western District Virginia Teachers Association Award from Group I schools; Dedication of C. W. SEAY Gymnasium at Dunbar High School by the Lynchburg School Board; Dedication of Stereophonic Recording -- "We Will Remember" by the Dunbar High School chorus and speech choir; Plaque in recognition of long service from the City of Lynchburg; Dedication of Portrait (Painting by Artist Lawrence Jones a Dunbar High School graduate) to hang in the school entrance from the Class of 1967; Gold Key tie clip for Outstanding Service from Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges; Plaque -- for thirty years of Wisdom, Excellent Guidance, Moral integrity and Outstanding Leadership -- from Dunbar High School Student Body; Meritorious Service Award for dedication to American Sports from the Lynchburg Board of Officials; "Ode To Greatness" a poem by L. Garnell Stamps, a Dunbar High School graduate and staff member; Plaque for many years of service from United Way, Inc.; Brotherhood Award for contribution to brotherhood from National Conference of Christians and Jews; Liberty Bell Award for civic contribution from the Lynchburg Bar Association; Silver Bowl for Outstanding contribution to education from Lynchburg College; Pedestrian Safety Award from Highway Safety Commission; "The Story of C. W. SEAY'S Candidacy for City Council" for "respectability in the community and a vote-getter in a tight councilmanic too well for anyone to try to improve," appearing in Black Faces In High Places -- Negroes in Government -- by Helen G. Edmonds, Published, 1971.

During this Week of Black Culture Observance, February 11-15, 1974, Lynchburg City high schools are paying tribute to the Honorable Vice-Mayor Seay through display bulletin board, at school assembly programs and the presentation of his portrait to hang in the E. C. Glass High School, a predominantly white high school.

A member of the Jackson Street United Methodist Church, MR. SEAY is engaged in activities in many divisions of the church's program. Among them: the Methodist Men's Organization; member of the Administrative Board, and Finance Committees; Chairman, Committee on Pastorial Relations; Treasurer, Building Fund; Member of the Virginia Conference Board of Education of the United Methodist Church; substitutes in the pulpit in the pastor's absence. Currently, he is involved in the development and execution of plans for renovation of the church and building a new parsonage.

A listing of civic groups to which MR. SEAY has given his time, educational expertise and financial means include: United Way, Inc. as campaign leader and member of Board of Directors; Mental Health Association, Board of Directors; Lynchburg Bicentennial Committee; National Conference of Christians and Jews, Dinner Committee; Lynchburg City Planning Commission, Vice-Chairman; American Red Cross, Board of Directors; Lynchburg-Campbell County T.B. Association; Hunton Branch Y.M.C.A., Executive Committee; Phyllis Wheatley Y.W.C.A. -- headed Building Fund Drive; United Negro College Fund, Inc., Treasurer; Friends of Lynchburg Public Library, Board of Directors; Charter Member--Lynchburg Chapter N.A.A.C.P.; Redevelopment and Housing Commission; Chamber of Commerce Task force (Museum); Lynchburg City Council -- serving on the following committees: Transportation Committee, chairman; Finance Committee; Bridge Construction Committee; and Drug Abuse Committee; Vice-Mayor of City of Lynchburg.

At a time in life when most men are cruising the world and playing shuffleboard, VICE-MAYOR SEAY is taking a new lease on life. He has distinguished himself as a councilman and Vice-Mayor. He is eloquent, as always, in his frequent appearance on the WLVA-TV program "Meet the Mayor"; in his many greetings to groups on behalf of the City of Lynchburg; as he fills the pulpit in churches throughout the city; when he addresses United Way groups, Alumni groups and many others. This man full of energy is truly of "Service to all mankind."

SUMMARY

Gamma Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Nominates

THE HONORABLE CLARENCE WILLIAM SEAY

for

1974 Regional Conference Man of the Year Award

Educational Background:

Public Schools of Nashville, Tennessee

Fisk University, B. S.

Columbia University, M.A.

Further Graduate Study:

University of Kansas

University of Chicago

Professional Experiences:

Teacher of French and Chemistry and Athletic Coach:

Lincoln High School - Paducah, Kentucky - 1925-1926

Kansas Vocational School - Topeka, Kansas - 1926-1928

Union High School - Phoenix, Arizona - 1928-1929

Dunbar High School - Lynchburg, Virginia 1929-1935

Principal:

Peabody High School - Petersburg, Virginia 1935-1938

Dunbar High School - Lynchburg, Virginia - 1938-1968

(Retirement from Public education)

Assistant Professor of Education:

Lynchburg College - Lynchburg, Virginia 1968-1970

Professional Membership and Activities:

Virginia Teachers Association, President and Life Member
Virginia Education Association
Hill City Teachers Association, President
Virginia Secondary School Principals, President
Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, President
National Education Association
National Association of Secondary School Principals
Liaison Committee - Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges, Chairman
Virginia State Advisory Committee on Education
Sixth District Teachers Association, President

Author of Articles:

Bulletin of National Association of Secondary School Principals,
September 1964:

"High School--College Articulation"

Bulletin of Virginia Teachers Association:

"The Teaching of the French Vocabulary"

"Plain Talk About A Fancy Subject"

"You Can't Do Business With Indifference"

"Death and Taxes"

"Planning for Peace"

"Tears Fell On Virginia"

Honors and Awards:

Certificate for Outstanding Achievement in Education -
Virginia Teachers Association

Scroll of Honor for Outstanding Service -
Third District of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity

Plaque for Dedicated Service in the Field of Education -
Gamma Omega Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity - Lynchburg, Va.

Western District Virginia Teachers Association Award - Group I Schools

Dedication of C. W. SEAY GYMNASIUM at Dunbar High School -
Lynchburg School Board

Dedication of Stereophonic Recording -- "We Will Remember" --
Dunbar High School Chorus and Speech Choir

Plaque in Recognition of Long Service - City of Lynchburg

Honors and Awards (Continued):

Dedication Portrait (Painting by Lawrence Jones) to hang in School Entrance - Class of 1967

Gold Key Tie Clip for Outstanding Service -- Association of Secondary Schools and Colleges

Plaque - for 30 years of Wisdom, Excellent Guidance, Moral Integrity -- Dunbar High School Student Body

Meritorious Service Award for Dedication to Sports -- Lynchburg Board of Officials

"Ode To Greatness," poem by L. Garnell Stamps
(Dunbar graduate and staff member)

Plaque for Long years of Service -- United Way, Inc.

Brotherhood Award for Contribution to Brotherhood --
National Conference of Christians and Jews

Liberty Bell Award for Civic Contribution --
Lynchburg Bar Association

Silver Bowl for contribution to the College --
Lynchburg College

Pedestrian Safety Award -- Highway Safety Commission

The Story of C. W. Seay's Candidacy for City Council --
(Appearing in Black Faces In High Places) by Helen G. Edmonds

Recognition during Black Culture Observance 1974 --
Lynchburg City High Schools

Church Affiliation and Activities:

Member of Jackson Street United Methodist Church

Activities:

Organizer and treasurer of Building Fund
Methodist Men's Organization
Finance Committee
Administrative Board
Committee on Pastoral Relations, Chairman
Substitutes in Pulpit in Pastor's absence
Committee currently planning for church renovations and
Building new parsonage
Virginia Conference Board of Education of the United Methodist Church