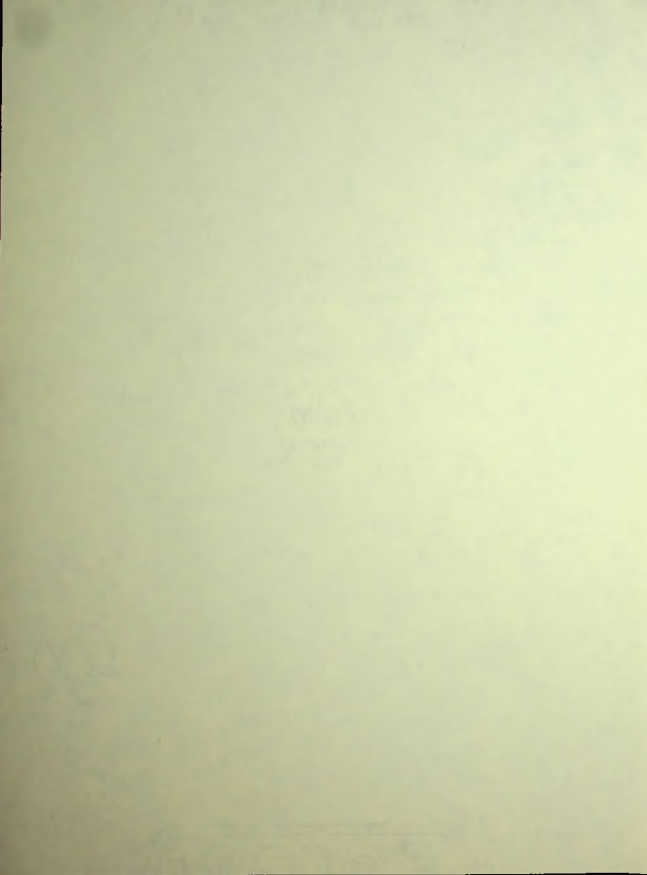


June 22-24, 1995  
50th Reunion Celebration



## Dedication

To my father, Thomas Lycurgus Barnett, Crispus Attucks Class of 1945,  
for his love, kindness, and care

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### Note to Parents from Principal Russell Lane, 1945

## Introduction

During a summer trip in the early 1980s I came to Indianapolis to visit my grandmother. I helped my father clean up old items which he'd been keeping in his mother's attic. Rather than really help him, I entertained myself by sifting through the boxes and imagining what life was like for the person who grew up to be my father.

In one box I found a small manila envelope and a slim, blue leather book. The envelope contained most of my father's report cards; the thin blue volume was his high school yearbook. Like most yearbooks it contained photos, class mottoes, and predictions about students. In other respects, however, the yearbook was very different.

The names of the students were definitely seemed different to me: names like Aubrey and Buford weren't common in my junior high school. In addition, next to each student's face was not only their favorite subject but also their ambition. That line captured my interest for the rest of the day and led to my desire to report the dreams and experiences of my father's high school classmates.

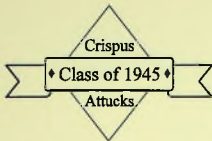
This project began as a booklet of short biographies. After months of conversations, letters, and initial drafts, I decided that the words and memories given to me were far better than any summaries I might try to create.

Here you will find the recollections of the Class of 1945. This booklet is a small tribute to their struggles and contributions. As brothers and sisters, and as neighbors and leaders, they have given much to their families and to the world.

Thomas Lycurgus Barnett, June

Favorite Subject: History

Ambition: First Negro US Senator (Indiana)



Favorite teachers: Mrs. Walker, Mr. Southern

"My experience at Attucks inspired me to go on to higher education."



Thomas graduated from DePauw University in 1949 and from Springfield College in 1951. He then entered the Army, where he served in the Counterintelligence Corps until 1953.

From 1954-1960, he was the Building Boys' Secretary at the Senate Avenue YMCA in Indianapolis. From 1961-1967 he was Branch Executive of the Indiana Avenue Branch Y in Toledo. From 1967-1984, he served as VP and Branch Executive of the YMCA in Milwaukee.

From 1985-1995 he taught social sciences at Milwaukee Area Technical College.

Thomas has two sons and one daughter.

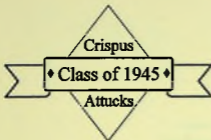
His hobbies include reading mysteries, commercial art, gardening, and community service.

He serves as the Lay Leader of Bethany Calvary United Methodist Church.



Arnett Cage, June

Favorite Subject: Mathematics  
Ambition: Run a Four Minute Mile



Favorite teachers:  
Frederick Parker and Crowell Shelton

Favorite school activity: track and cross country

Fond memory: Ray Crowe and the basketball team

"A few went on to college, but college wasn't the fast track to success for many of us in those days. Success was a blue-collar job, any kind of a job. In school we learned how to learn. We learned how to use what we knew, and to know what we didn't know."



Arnett lived in Japan from 1947-1950 and Korea from 1950-1951.

His military tours included Kansas, Texas, Pennsylvania, Greenland, Michigan and California.

He lived in Greenland for eleven years, and was made a Viking by Danish friends.

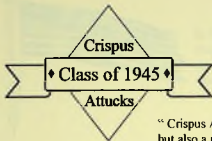
Currently Arnett is living in Delano, California where he writes a newspaper column on civic responsibility and self-improvement, entitled "Words from that Bird"

"The attitude I received about education from both sides of my family, and from all their friends, was that one had to first be better than the next person to get a job. At least twice as good to be interviewed, and three times as good to get hired.. The only handicap we were allowed to consider was the lack of ability—not being good enough. Race had no part in it at all."

Ernest Vernon Davis, January

Favorite Subject: History

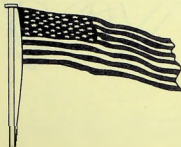
Ambition: Aviator



Favorite teachers: Dr. Carroll, Dr. Morton Finney,  
T. C. Johnson, Mr. White

Close friend: General Harry W. Brooks, Jr.

“Crispus Attucks taught us not only the stuff in the books,  
but also a necessary “togetherness” that is not shown that  
much in the high schools of today.”



Ernest became an Army General.

He graduated from West Virginia State College and met at  
least a dozen Attucks graduates while there

He has lived across the United States, including  
Indianapolis, Chicago, Cincinnati and Miami.

Currently, Ernest is living in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida.

On a part-time basis, he teaches general studies to homeless  
people.

He and his wife enjoy fishing and traveling, sometimes with  
Harry Brooks and his wife.

Ernest is also a charter boat captain.

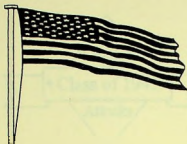




Alice Bernice Evans, January

Favorite Subject: Clothing

Ambition: Typist



In 1959, after having worked at Fort Benjamin Harrison at the Army Finance Center, Alice decided to move to California. She worked for the Norton Air Force Base in San Bernardino.



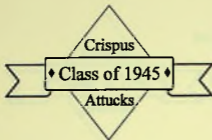
Each Sunday morning she sings in the gospel choir at the Base. She also teaches Sunday School at the First Missionary Baptist Church. In addition, she sings in the church's inspirational choir and serves as an usher one Sunday each month.

While most of her family is still in Indianapolis, she really loves California!

Janet Katherlyn Gaines Jackson, June

Favorite Subject: History

Ambition: Stenographer



Learned the rudiments of cooking and sewing at Attucks.

"Very few families owned sewing machines, so we made broomstick skirts by hand."

"...teachers were dedicated and had an inner core of strength. We as students absorbed that, and knew somehow that it came from God."



Janet as raised two sons.

She is a member of Mt. Zion Baptist Church and is involved in Sunday School and Deaconess Board.

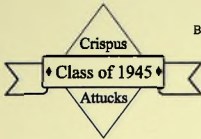


Janet is a life member of the Church Scholarship Committee and a life member of the NAACP.

Edwena Bell Payne, June

Favorite Subject: Negro History

Ambition: Embalmer



Brought the famous "Crazy Song" to Attucks

Remembered fondly as one of Attucks' finest cheerleaders



She graduated from West Virginia State College with a BA in English and then from Indiana University with an MS in Education.

She has had a distinguished and varied career in education, Negro history, and school administration.

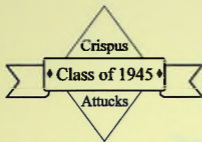


The mother of one child, Edwena's hobbies include swimming, music, travelling and bowling.

Mary Deloris Taylor Radford, June

Favorite Subject: Clothing

Ambition: Nurse



National Honor Society

Crispus Attucks Alumni Association



Mary graduated from Butler University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in preschool license, grades 1-8. She then received her Master of Science degree in elementary administration.

She served as a kindergarten teacher in schools 36, 63 & 42, as an elementary school teacher in school 109 and as the principal in schools 112, 22 and 35.



Member of:

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority

Bethel AME Church

Indiana Retired Teachers Association

American Bridge Association

Bridge Clubs

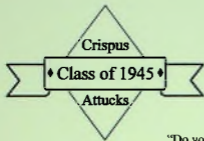
Founding member of Nellie M. Strong #59

Order of the Eastern Star

Mildred Smith Ragland, June

Favorite Subject: History

Ambition: Nurse



Mildred Smith Ragland raised five children,  
two of whom graduated from Attucks

"Do your best and learn as much as possible. It doesn't take a  
Master's Degree to make you what you are."



After graduation, her family started a housecleaning  
service and an interior decorating firm

Her dream is to start a business in Africa which she  
could build with her family and leave to the people there.

Mildred encourages her family to help others.

Mildred has nine grandchildren and one great  
grandbaby!



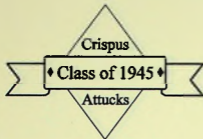
She has had the good fortune to travel to Texas, Florida,  
Canada, the Bahamas and the Caribbean Islands.

She enjoys doing jigsaw puzzles as a hobby.

Clara Elizabeth Garrett Smith, June

Favorite Subject: Music

Ambition: Nurse



Clara's aunt and classmate Lillian O'Daniel Colby was raised by Martha Martin, who taught at Attucks.

Her cousin, Mary, was a 1928 grad of Attucks



Clara has two children, one boy and one girl

Her children attended Catholic schools and were involved in music and activities.

"I tried to teach them independence, cooperation, unity, love and friendship. And to believe in themselves. To do their best, be punctual, keep their mind and body clean. To pray and ask God for help if it was something they could not handle"



Clara is actively involved as a volunteer for Cancer, Heart and March of Dimes Associations.

With her husband, Thomas, she attends neighborhood crime watch meetings and takes part in local beautification efforts.

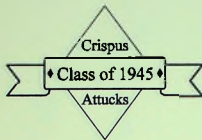
She has served as president of St. Andrew School PTA, and helped transport students to and from volleyball and basketball games.

Clara is also catechist for youngsters and a Brownie leader.

Mildred Alma Johnson Strong, June

Favorite Subject: Auto Mechanics

Ambition: Saxophone Player



“As I look back it was a real privilege to attend Attucks. Not only did we have excellent teachers (some with PhD’s), but just seeing them in positions of authority helped me to realize that it was possible for Black people to achieve.”



Mildred graduated from Marion County General Hospital School.

She has worked as Operating Room Nurse in Indianapolis and Cleveland.

After marrying and raising two sons, Mildred returned to school and nursing. She graduated from the IU School of Nursing with High Distinction.

Today, she is actively involved in community health issues.



Mildred’s husband passed on in 1992.

She is active as a trustee, Sunday School teacher, and the president of the senior choir at St. Paul Baptist Church.

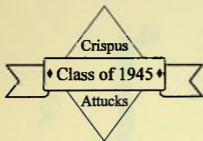
Mildred also tutors elementary children each week and she is involved with the Butler Tarkington Neighborhood Association.

She enjoys reading, playing the piano, and writing.

Myron Edward Thomas, June

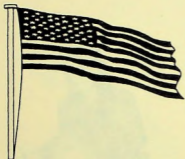
Favorite Subject: ROTC

Ambition: Journalism



Myron did not pursue journalism, developing instead an interest in becoming a pilot.

Attucks gave him a strong sense of responsibility and an understanding of the importance of following through.



He served in Korean War as an officer.

Later on, Myron became personnel/administration officer.

Along the way, he worked with General Benj. O. Davis, General Wilson, and General Westmoreland in Philippines and Vietnam.



Currently living in Southern California, Myron has three children, two girls and one boy.

He teaches Sociology and Psychology at Riverside Community College.

He also runs a mom-and-pop convenience store.



Dorothy Louise Edwards Thorne, June

Favorite Subject: History

Ambition: Social Worker



Dorothy graduated from Central State University in 1949 with a B.S. and received a Master of Social Work degree in 1957. She has done additional postgraduate work at the University of Chicago and at Michigan State University.



Dorothy has had an extensive career in social work in Ohio. She has worked as a supervisor in a juvenile detention home, as a coordinator for inner city community centers, and as an assistant professor in social services at Cleveland State University. She has also served as a therapist, both in private practice, and with the Nord Mental Health Center in Lorain, Ohio.



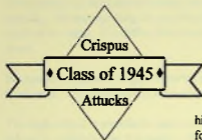
In addition to affiliations with social workers, Dorothy is a member of AKA, the NAACP, She is also an involved community volunteer; Dorothy helped found an organization called Open Door West in 1989.

She has been honored with a number of awards and commendations for her service to the community.

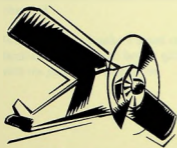
Clarence Alonzo White, June

Favorite Subject: Mechanical Drawing

Ambition: Federal Agent



“When I was growing up and before I entered high school the race issue was never discussed in our home. Only when I entered high school did I find out that the KKK [Ku Klux Klan] had a big hand in building Crispus Attucks High School. In grade school (#40) and junior high (#17) most of our text books did not cover any of our forefathers’ contributions to this country.”



After high school, Clarence was drafted into the Air Force. He left the service with an honorable discharge and the rank of S/Sgt. in 1948.



In 1953, Clarence joined the Indianapolis Police Department, where he rose to the rank of Captain in twelve years. He was the second Negro to achieve that rank, and the first to command a sector of 40-50 men.

## Report Card Statement, 1945

### TO THE HOME:

The purpose of this card is to keep you closely in touch with the progress your boy or girl is making. We are reporting to you four times each semester, the last of the four being the final mark of the term. If it differs from the first three, it is due to a change of standard in the pupil's work.

Parents are requested to give especial attention to the dates on which grades for the semester are issued. The dates should be made very important on the home calendar.

The high school is peculiarly dependent on the home. In the grammar grades the pupil's day at school is ordinarily the full number of hours during which the school is in session. In the high school, on the other hand, the pupil's school day is determined by his recitation schedule. His required hours at school seldom, if ever, include time for all of his study. The high school must, therefore, look to the home to see that sufficient time for study is set aside and regularly observed.

We hope you will make it a part of your plan to come to the school frequently and become familiar with what your boy or girl is doing here. We ask for our teachers a closer acquaintance with the parents of their pupils.

RUSSELL A. LANE, Principal