



Richmond Hill
MLK
Observance Committee

2026
Black Tie Gala

September 19, 2026 | 6:30 pm
John W. Stevens Wetland Education Center
500 Cedar Street Richmond Hill, GA 31324

A Message from President Thompson

I am honored to serve as President of the Richmond Hill MLK Observance Committee and to help carry forward the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and those who stood beside him. I believe honoring Dr. King's legacy is more than remembering our history—it is about taking action, serving our community, and being a positive force for change.

Our hope is to create opportunities for the Richmond Hill community to come together, learn from one another, celebrate our rich history, and recognize the things that connect us. I am especially passionate about ensuring our younger generation understands Dr. King's legacy and recognizes that they have a role in carrying it forward.

Through service, education, community engagement, and scholarships, we hope to invest in our young people and empower them to lead and make a difference. Together, we can honor those who came before us while working to make our community better for ourselves and generations to come.



Talisha Thompson President

Order of Events

MASTER OF CEREMONY DR . HUBERT QUILLER

Occassion

Talisha Thompson

**Invocation& Blessing of
Food**

Dr. Hubert Quiller

Lift Every Vocie & Sing

**Recognition of Guests &
Sponsors-**

Dr. Johnnie Quiller

RHMLK History

Shirlonda Shepard

Dinner

Spoken Word

LaLa Martin

Introduction of Speaker

Dr. Johnnie Quiller

Keynote Speaker

Terry Enoch

Awards Recognition

Talisha Thomposn

Scholarship Appeal

Nathaline Simons

Closing Remarks

Talisha Thompson

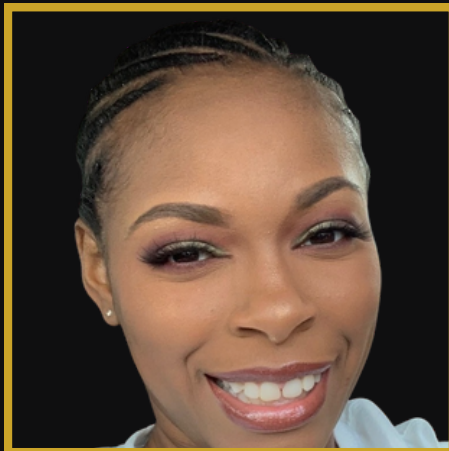
Lift Every Voice & Sing

Lift every voice and sing,
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod,
Bitter the chast'ning rod,
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
Yet with a steady beat,
Have not our weary feet
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?
We have come over a way that with tears has been watered.
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the
slaughtered,
Out from the gloomy past,
Till now we stand at last
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
Thou who hast by Thy might,
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,
Lest our hearts, drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to our God,
True to our native land.

2026-2028 RH MLK Observance Committee Officers



From Left to Right

President - Talisha Thompson President , VicePresident- Johnnie Quiller ,
Secretary - Sharon Muhammad ,

Treasurer- Sawaner Tucker, Financial Secretary -Angelica Chambers ,
Parliamentarian- Diane McLeod

Publicly Coordinator - Shirlonda Shepard, Volunteer Coordinator -Clyde Shepard

RH MLK Observance Committee History

The Richmond Hill Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Committee has its roots in a vision shared by Mr. and Mrs. Craig Butts to bring the Richmond Hill community together to honor, celebrate, and preserve the life, legacy, and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Before becoming known as the Richmond Hill MLK Observance Committee, the organization began as the Richmond Hill MLK Parade Committee. What started as a grassroots effort was fueled by the dedication of Richmond Hill citizens who shared a desire to see positive change in their community and were willing to work together to make that change a reality. Their collective vision, commitment, and service laid the foundation for what would eventually grow into an organization dedicated to promoting Dr. King's principles of unity, service, equality, and community engagement.

The first Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Parade in Richmond Hill, Georgia, was held on January 19, 2019 with Mr. Carl Gillard serving as the first Grand Marshal. This historic event marked the beginning of what would become an ongoing community tradition celebrating Dr. King's legacy of service, unity, equality, and hope.

Following the inaugural parade, the Bryan County NAACP, under the leadership of Dr. Johnnie Quiller, was asked by then-Mayor Russ Carpenter to assume responsibility for hosting the parade. Candace Fife volunteered to lead the planning and coordination efforts, helping to organize the parade and continue its presence within the Richmond Hill community.

In 2019, the committee expanded its vision beyond the annual parade and worked diligently throughout the year to prepare for the 2020 Richmond Hill MLK Parade while creating additional opportunities for community engagement. Mr. Donald Singleton was selected to serve as the Grand Marshal for the 2020 parade, recognizing their contributions to the community. Events leading up to the parade included the Embracing Our Community Gospel Music Concert, the inaugural Black Tie Affair Fundraiser, which was a sold-out event, and a 5K Run & Walk. These activities reflected the committee's growing commitment to creating meaningful opportunities for fellowship, service, and community involvement throughout the year.

Following the second parade in 2020, the Richmond Hill MLK Parade Committee made the decision to become an independent organization. The committee subsequently became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization under the leadership of its first president, Mrs. Candace Fife, and vice president, Elsie Boyd.

Shortly thereafter, the COVID-19 pandemic changed how communities across the country gathered and celebrated. Rather than canceling its annual observance, the committee adapted. In 2021 and 2022, the RH MLK Observance Committee hosted virtual parades, allowing the community to continue honoring Dr. King's legacy while prioritizing public health and safety. The 2021 Grand Marshal was Dr. Johnnie Quiller and the 2022 Grand Marshal was Bishop Daniel Boyd.

Following the 2022 observance, Shirlonda Shepard assumed leadership of the committee and served as president until February 2026. During her tenure, the committee continued expanding its community impact. Among its accomplishments was the awarding of a scholarship to a Richmond Hill High School student, furthering the committee's commitment to education and investing in the next generation. The committee also hosted its second Black Tie Affair Fundraiser, continuing an event that had become an important part of its fundraising and community engagement efforts.

RH MLK Observance Committee History

In 2023, the committee celebrated its fifth year of MLK parades in Richmond Hill, with Dr Hubert Quiller serving as Grand Marshal. In 2024, the sixth year of the Richmond Hill MLK Parade, Mr. Johnnie Miller served as Grand Marshal.

As the organization continued to grow, committee members recognized an opportunity to broaden the observance beyond the traditional parade format and encourage greater community participation. In 2025, the committee transitioned from hosting a parade to presenting an MLK Prayer Breakfast at Restoration Church. Georgia State Representative Al Williams served as the featured speaker. During the program, longtime community servant Mr. David Williams was recognized for his leadership, service, and contributions to the community.

The committee continued to evolve in 2026, creating a new opportunity for the Richmond Hill community to come together in the spirit of unity. The committee hosted a Unity Walk and Community Celebration, bringing community members together to walk in solidarity while celebrating the values of unity, service, and togetherness that reflect the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The celebration provided an opportunity for individuals, families, community organizations, and local leaders to gather, connect, and strengthen relationships across the community. As part of the event, the committee also recognized Dr. Karen Boiles and former Richmond Hill Mayor Russ Carpenter for their service, leadership, and contributions to the Richmond Hill community.

The 2026 Unity Walk and Community Celebration represented another chapter in the committee's continued growth—demonstrating that while the format of the annual observance may evolve, its commitment to bringing the community together, honoring service, promoting unity, and continuing Dr. King's legacy remains at the heart of its mission. From its beginnings as a dream to host an MLK parade in Richmond Hill to its development into a nonprofit organization with year-round community initiatives, the RH MLK Observance Committee has continued to evolve while remaining committed to its purpose. Through parades, concerts, fundraisers, scholarships, prayer breakfasts, unity walks, community celebrations, and opportunities for service, the committee strives to keep Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy alive while bringing people together and strengthening the Richmond Hill community.

The history of the RH MLK Observance Committee is still being written, and its commitment remains clear: to honor the dream, celebrate the legacy, serve the community, and inspire future generations to continue the work.

Past Leadership



Sharon & Craig Butts



Candice Fife



Lady Elisha Boyd



Shirlonda Shepard

Previous Grand Marshalls & Awardees

Parade Grand Marshals:

2019 - Carl Gilyard

2020 - Donald Singleton

2021 - Johnnie Quiller

2022- Daniel Boyd

2023 - Hubert Quiller

2024 - Johnnie Miller

Community Awardees :

2025 - Dave Williams

2026 - Karen Boles & Russ Carpenter

Meet the Speaker: Mr. Terry Enoch



Chief Terry L. Enoch has devoted more than four decades to public safety and community service in Savannah-Chatham County. On January 26, 2015, he was sworn in as Chief of Police for the Savannah- Chatham County Public School System Board of Education Police Department (BOEPD).

In this role, he leads a department of approximately 182 sworn and support personnel serving a jurisdiction of more than 426 square miles. The department provides law enforcement and public safety services for 62 schools and administrative facilities, approximately 34,000 students, and 5,600 employees across eight municipalities in Chatham County, Georgia. BOEPD is a State Certified Law Enforcement Agency and is recognized as one of Georgia's leading school law enforcement agencies.

Chief Enoch began his law enforcement career in May 1985 with the Chatham County Sheriff's Department, where he served in numerous leadership capacities and ultimately rose to the rank of Colonel. His career also includes service as Interim Assistant Chief of the Savannah-Chatham Metropolitan Police Department and Executive Director of the Savannah Impact Program, a specialized community reentry collaborative focused on supporting high-risk and at-risk youth and adults.

Throughout his career, Chief Enoch has been recognized for his commitment to leadership, mentorship, and community service. He has twice been honored as Georgia's "Outstanding Citizen of the Year" for his decades of public service and was recognized by WTOG-TV as a Hometown Hero for making service to the Savannah- Chatham County community a priority. A charter member and Past President of the 100 Black Men of Savannah, he has served the organization in numerous capacities, including Chairman of the Mentoring Committee and Gala Committee. His chapter honors include the 2001 "Man of the Year" award and the 2010 President's Award. He is a charter member and current president of the Richmond Hill - Midway GA Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc.

A longtime resident of Georgia's Coastal Empire, Chief Enoch earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Savannah State University and a Master of Public Administration from Columbus State University. He is also a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government Executive Leadership Program and Leadership Savannah. Chief Enoch's dedication to service extends far beyond his distinguished career in law enforcement. He faithfully serves as a Deacon at First African Baptist Church, where he also serves as Chairman of the Safety and Security Ministry and Special Events. His commitment to community leadership is further demonstrated through his service with numerous civic and nonprofit organizations, including the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce, St. Joseph's/Candler Trustee Board, United Way of the Coastal Empire, Step Up Savannah, Savannah East Rotary, Tide to Town Urban Trail System, and Union Mission. Through his faith, leadership, and commitment to community, Chief Enoch continues to embody his guiding principle of serving God through serving others. Chief Enoch is also the published author of the Sergeant Star School Safety Series, a comprehensive collection of children's books, teacher guides, classroom games, and educational resources designed to help schools teach safety, security, emergency preparedness, and responsible decision-making to elementary students.

At the heart of Chief Enoch's life is his family. He and his wife, Veronica, are the proud parents of three children, Kent, Chloe, and Noah, and proud grandparents of three grandsons. He treasures time with family and friends and remains especially passionate about mentoring young people and helping prepare the next generation for success.

Distinguished Service Award Awardee

Mr. Clyde L. Shepard



Clyde Shepard is a native of Charleston, South Carolina, whose life has been marked by professional service, military leadership, and a longstanding commitment to strengthening his community. He is a graduate of Denmark Technical College and Benedict College.

Clyde dedicated over 30 years of service to LRADAC (Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council), where he worked in numerous roles throughout the agency. His contributions allowed him to serve individuals, families, and communities impacted by substance use and related concerns. He was also among the individuals instrumental in the development of the organization's name.

In addition to his professional career, Clyde has an extensive history of community involvement and leadership. While living in Columbia, South Carolina, he served as President of the Belvedere Community Organization, served on the Steering Committee for the Millennium Magazine Youth Awards, and was President of the Virginia Pack Elementary School PTA. He also served as Treasurer and a board member of the James R. Clark Sickle Cell Foundation and was formerly involved with the TN Development Corporation/City of Columbia.

His dedication to service has been recognized through several honors, including the 2023 Bryan County NAACP Visionary Award. In addition to many other awards and recognitions.

Clyde also has a distinguished history of service and leadership in Masonry. He is a member of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Ancient York Rite Masons, Palmetto Grand Lodge, and has served the organization in numerous leadership capacities. His positions have included Past Potentate of Islam Grand Temple, Past Grand Master of Palmetto Grand Lodge, Past President of the Grand Masters Council, and Past National Grand Master of the Most Worshipful National Grand Lodge. He is also a member of the Supreme Council of Nine and has attained the 33rd Degree.

After spending much of his life serving organizations and communities in Columbia, South Carolina, Clyde continued his commitment to service after relocating to Richmond Hill, Georgia. He is currently a member of the Bryan County NAACP, where he has served as Armed Forces Committee Chair. He is also an active member of the Richmond Hill Martin Luther King Jr. Observance Committee, where he serves as Volunteer Coordinator.

Clyde is also a proud United States Army veteran. He served his country through the United States Army and United States Army Reserve, retiring after 30 years of military service at the rank of Master Sergeant.

Beyond his professional accomplishments and community service, Clyde values his roles as husband and father. He is married to Shirlonda Shepard, is the proud father of Sonya Shepard, and is bonus father to Dillon Taylor. He is a member of Compassion Christian Church in Savannah, Georgia.

Throughout every chapter of his life—from South Carolina to Georgia, from military and professional service to civic and fraternal leadership—Clyde has remained committed to serving others. His decades of involvement reflect a belief that meaningful community change is built through leadership, consistency, service, and a willingness to give back.

*Congratulations
RHM LK Committee*

**"Children are
our most
precious
resource and
our best hope
for the future."**

-Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



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Congratulations
RHMLK Committee
FROM



CLYDE & SHIRLONDA SHEPARD

**"If you can't fly, then run, if you can't run, then walk, if you
can't walk, then crawl, but by all means keep moving"**

- Dr. Martin Luther King Jr,

RHMLK Observance Committee

**We encourage you with the words of Dr. King to
Keep Moving**

Congratulations RHMLK Committee



*Sustaining Hope,
one smile at a time!*



DR. JOHNNIE M. QUILLER
Survivor, Founder & CEO

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OF THE MONTH**

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WE CAN
Sustain Hope!*



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**YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE
IN THE LIVES OF THOSE AFFECTED BY CANCER!**

**THANK YOU FOR HELPING US SUSTAIN HOPE,
ONE SMILE AT A TIME!**

Congratulations RHMLK committee!

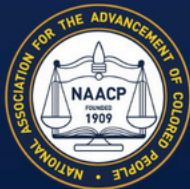
Freedom Fund Gala
2026

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH

6:00pm - 10:00pm

*Hendrix Park Gym,
Pembroke Georgia*

Please come and celebrate with us!
All are welcome



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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

The Richmond Hill MLK Observance Committee Executive Board extends our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who attended and supported our 2026 Black Tie Scholarship Gala.

Your presence and generosity help us continue our mission of honoring the life, legacy, and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. while making a meaningful impact in our community.

SAVE THE DATE!!!!

RH MLK Unity Walk & Celebration

January 16, 2027

We look forward to seeing you as we come together once again in the spirit of unity, service, and community.

Stay Connected!

Follow us on social media and visit our website for upcoming events, announcements, and ways to support the RH MLK Observance Committee. Thank you for helping us keep the dream alive!

The Dream in Action: A Pictorial Journey



The Dream in Action: A Pictorial Journey



The Dream in Action: A Pictorial Journey



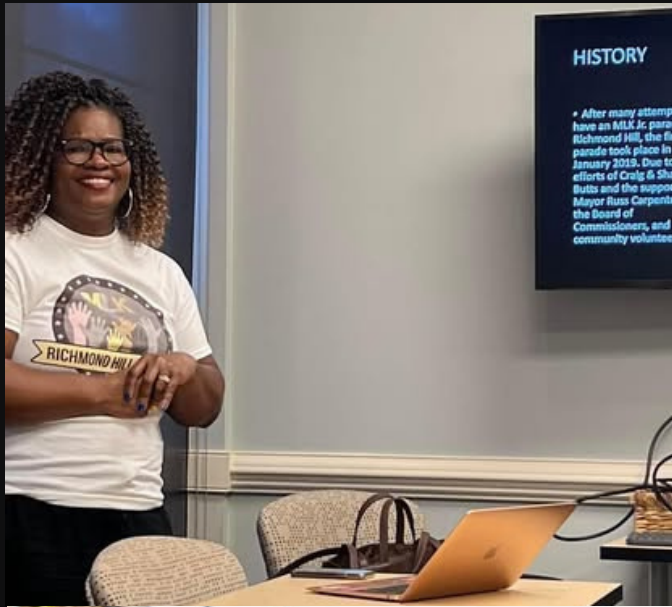
The Dream in Action: A Pictorial Journey



The Dream in Action: A Pictorial Journey



The Dream in Action: A Pictorial Journey



Vendors & Special Acknowledgments

Await to Create Catering

DJ Ricky Nails

Spoken Word by LaLa

Cynthia's Elegant Touch

Terry Enoch

The Happy Baker

Dr. Karen Boles -Grant

Vida Hill Photography

**Special Thanks to the Businesses &
Individuals Who Purchased Ads**

September 19, 2026 | 6:30 pm

John W. Stevens Wetland Education Center

500 Cedar Street Richmond Hill, GA 31324