

Luther J. Battiste, III, Esquire

A

n outstanding lawyer, stellar leader, and exemplary public servant, Luther J. Battiste III, has distinguished himself in the areas of business, politics, and the legal profession. He is the son of the late Luther J. Battiste, Jr. and Mildred Beatty Battiste. Growing up in Orangeburg, South Carolina, Mr. Battiste developed a thirst for knowledge as a result of countless hours spent reading in the stacks of the library where his mother was a librarian. He decided early in life that he wanted to use his knowledge and skills to make a positive impact on his community.

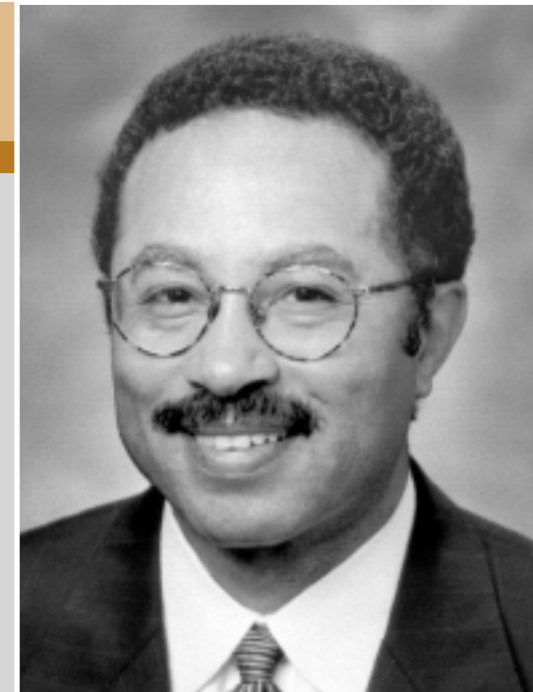
After graduating from Wilkinson High School, Mr. Battiste attended the University of South Carolina in Columbia. He became involved with student government activities and engineered the election of the first African American student body president of a predominantly white college campus in the south. He also co-authored the proposal that resulted in the creation and implementation of the African American Studies Program. In 1971, Mr. Battiste graduated from the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor of Arts degree in International Studies, the first African American to graduate from this department. In 1974, he was awarded a Juris Doctor degree from the Emory University School of Law and returned to South Carolina to practice.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Battiste joined the law firm of Johnson, Toal & Battiste. He and his partners formed the first racially integrated law firm (at the partner level) in South Carolina. As an eminent trial lawyer, Mr. Battiste has been exceptional in his profession, serving as the President of the Columbia Lawyer's Association, the first African American President of the Richland County Bar Association and the first African American President of the South Carolina Trial Lawyer's Association.

In 1983, Mr. Battiste was elected as one of the first two African Americans to Columbia City Council. Considered a political pioneer, he served on Columbia City Council for fifteen years including three unopposed re-elections and two terms as Mayor Pro Tempore. During his tenure, Mr. Battiste was known as one who was not afraid to raise a forceful voice on controversial and often unpopular issues or take the lone dissenting view. For his service to the City of Columbia, a plaza and monument have been erected in his honor in the Eau Claire Community.

In the business arena, Mr. Battiste served two terms as Vice Chair of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and served on two major bank boards, Standard Federal Savings Bank and South Carolina Bank and Trust. He presently serves as the Chairman of the Richland/Lexington County Airport Commission.

Mr. Battiste has received numerous honors including induction into the South Carolina Black Hall of Fame in 1999, the University of South Carolina Distinguished Alumni of the Year in 2000, and the Vision Magazine 2001 Achiever's Award. He is a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, St. Lukes Episcopal Church, and a life member of the NAACP. Mr. Battiste and his wife Judy Mitchell Battiste have two children, Justin Foster Battiste and Jade Nicole Battiste.



FEBRUARY



2004

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p>1</p> <p>Langston Hughes was born in 1902.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>Ernest E. Just, biologist, received the Spingarn Medal for pioneering research on fertilization and cell division, 1914.</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Geraldine McCullough won the Widener Gold Medal for Sculpture in 1965.</p>	<p>4</p> <p>Rosa Parks was born in 1913.</p>	<p>5</p> <p>Henry "Hank" Aaron, the home run king of major league baseball was born in 1934.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Jonathan Jasper Wright elected to South Carolina Supreme Court in 1870.</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Eubie Blake, pianist, was born in 1883.</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Oprah Winfrey became the first African American woman to host a nationally syndicated talk show in 1986.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>In 1995 Bernard Harris became the first African-American astronaut to take a spacewalk.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Roberta Flack, singer, was born in 1940.</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Clifford Alexander Jr. became the first African-American Secretary of the Army in 1977.</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Abraham Lincoln was born in 1809. Congress enacted the first fugitive slave law in 1793.</p>	<p>13</p> <p>Joseph L. Searles became the first African-American member of the New York Stock Exchange, 1970.</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Valentine's Day</p> <p>Frederick Douglass was born in 1817.</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Henry Lewis was named director of the New Jersey Symphony in 1968. Nat King Cole died in 1965.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>President's Day</p> <p>Joe Frazier became World Heavyweight Boxing Champion by a knockout in 1970.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Michael Jordan, basketball player, born in 1963.</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Toni Morrison (born Chloe Anthony Wofford) was born in 1931.</p>	<p>19</p> <p>William "Smoky" Robinson born in 1940.</p>	<p>20</p> <p>Frederick Douglass died in 1895.</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Malcolm X was assassinated in 1965.</p>
<p>22</p> <p>George Washington born in 1732. Julius Winfield "Dr. J." Erving born in 1950.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>W.E.B. DuBois born in 1868.</p>	<p>24</p> <p>In 1864 Rebecca Lee became the first African-American woman to receive an M.D. degree.</p>	<p>25</p> <p>Ash Wednesday</p> <p>Cassius Clay (Muhammad Ali) won World Heavyweight crown in 1964.</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Singer "Fats" Domino born in 1928.</p>	<p>27</p> <p>Marian Anderson, opera singer, was born in 1902.</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Richard Wright's "Native Son" published in 1940.</p>
<p>29</p> <p>Hattie McDaniel became the first black (male or female) to win an Oscar -- for Best Supporting Actress -- for her role as Mammy in "Gone With The Wind."</p>						