

RECOGNIZING AFRICAN AMERICAN ACHIEVERS



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SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE JESSICA E. GREEN, JUDGE OF THE JEFFERSON CIRCUIT COURT THIRTIETH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT, DIV. NINE



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BLACK HISTORY CELEBRATION EDITION
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CHESTNUT STREET YMCA ANNUAL
"BLACK ACHIEVERS AWARDS PROGRAM"

**RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING
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WITH SPECIAL SUPPORT FROM: CHESTNUT STREET FAMILY YMCA BLACK ACHIEVERS AWARDS PROGRAM

Rita Combs-Sterrett is a retired executive and volunteer leader at AARP Kentucky

Rita Combs-Sterrett, MS (ASCP) MT, is a recognized advocate for women and economic parity in the business community. A native of Detroit, Michigan with deep family roots in Kentucky; she attended Michigan College of Mining and Technology in 1959 where she was the first and only Black/African American female student. She later earned her Bachelor's Degree from Detroit Institute of Technology in BioScience and her Master's Degree in Medical Technology from Wayne University. It was a dream come true, when in 1991 she was relocated to Louisville after receiving the promotion to District Manager of the Southern Pride Region. Previously, there had been few women executives and no women of color. Rita's responsibilities for sales and marketing covered three states and she managed a sales force of fourteen representatives.

She was the first and only one in the south at that time. In 1961, Rita was the lone black student selected to intern for the summer program at the Parke Davis Pharmaceutical facility in Detroit. During the Civil Rights Movement, she was eager to join riders on the Freedom Bus movement. Her parents urged her to stay in school, and later she recognized they were



Rita Combs-Sterrett

right. Her education enabled her to do more for others in the long run. While working as a researcher at the Michigan Cancer Foundation she co-authored research papers published in the prestigious medical and scientific journals. Today, Rita continues giving back as a longtime community volunteer leader with AARP Kentucky, providing leadership and outreach to Louisville's 50-plus population. Her mantra for life is Visualize, Actualize and Realize. "See it, Do it, Have it."

Ebony Lowman continued from page 4

as Well-Being Advocate for Group Business Organization at Humana. Lowman is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated. She volunteers regularly with Wayside Christian Ministries and the Ronald McDonald House.

She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Organizational Communications and International Studies from Morehead State University and her Master of Science degree in Human Resource Leadership from Sullivan University.



**STRIVING
TO BE A LEADER IN DIVERSITY,
INCLUSION, AND EQUITY,
LOUISVILLE WATER SALUTES
AND CELEBRATES BLACK
HISTORY MONTH.**



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Join us in celebrating our own Adria Johnson and Terrence Carter as well as all Black achievers in our community who help dreams become reality every day!

Dreams become
REALITY
when we
LIVE UNITED



Metro United Way

metrounitedway.org

Kim Cox takes on new challenges at Louisville Water

Kimberly Cox earned an MBA and a national award while she worked as a billing manager for Louisville Water. Now she's applying her managerial skills and experience to a new position at the company.

She joined Louisville Water in 2013 and graduated from Bellarmine University's Executive MBA program in 2018.

"I received my undergraduate degree in the early 90s," she said, "and entering into a graduate program many years later, I will



Kim Cox

admit, was challenging. However, I found myself leading and making major project decisions for my cohorts. The rewards definitely outweighed the challenges."

In 2019, Cox received the National Small Business Institute's Graduate Project of the Year Award for Louisville Water's new Advance Metering Infrastructure (AMI), designed to improve customer access to water usage and billing information while improving the utility's operational efficiency.

In her new position as Manager of Business Operations, Cox oversees all collections and remittance activities to include workflow efficiencies and automation of reports, as well as exploring other avenues to enhance customer billing and payment processes.

Cox pointed out that she has always been interested in this type of position. "I have a banking background, similar to remittance activities," she explained. "I also have an accounting background that included

handling aged receivables and delinquent accounts."

Cox said she likes developing her career at Louisville Water because it's "a fun place to work. There's always a project in the works, and I enjoy being a part of a collaboration. I have also formed many great working relationships in the organization. There are many talented individuals at Louisville Water who have added to my knowledge and understanding of the utility industry."

Carter joined Metro United Way to give back to his Community

Terrence Carter has decades of experience as an accounting and human resources professional, most recently joining Metro United Way as the nonprofit's Human Resources Director in May 2021.

Carter's conflict-resolution and negotiation skills have served him well in his various roles in the public and private sector. Motivated by a passion to see all employees treated fairly and with respect, Carter facilitates finding common goals between people with different views. He has also streamlined processes for his employers and innovated new strategies to ensure employees' voices were heard. During his career he has managed human resources for various organizations ranging from 70 to more than 650 employees.

He joined Metro United Way's team to give back to his community through his time, treasure, and talent. Carter enables Metro United Way to continue to employ top talent and remain one of the best places to work in the Greater Louisville region.

As an undergraduate stu-



Terrence Carter

dent at the University of Kentucky, Carter co-founded the school's chapter of the National Association of Black Accountants. He was awarded the Torch of Excellence from his alma matter, the Gatton College of Business Economics at UK, in 2005. Carter also has a master's degree from Webster University.

Carter is a native of Louisville, growing up in the California neighborhood. He is the proud father of two children, ages 17 and 12.

Chaplain Rob Moore is part of Goodwill Industries Good Start Programs

Rob Moore was born, raised and still resides in Louisville. He was raised in west Louisville, specifically. He earned a bachelor's degree from Spalding University and went on to graduate with a master's degree from Vanderbilt University Divinity School.

Chaplain Moore is currently a student at Grimké Seminary, fulfilling post graduate studies in pastoral/spiritual care. He has always had a passion for helping others and has more than five years of experience as an advocate for underserved populations. Within the last year, Chaplain Rob is serving as the first and only chaplain at Goodwill Industries of Kentucky throughout the commonwealth by providing spiritual care resources to Goodwill staff, participants and for residents across the state.

Chaplain Rob currently hosts and presents several inter-faith and non-denominational spiritual care sessions across the commonwealth for various groups that focus individually on men and women, youth (16-24), personal/life



Chaplain Rob Moore

development, addiction recovery and grief support.

He's also a part of Goodwill's statewide RISE (Reintegrating Individuals Successfully Every Day) and Good Start programs for both adults and youth. Chaplain Rob connects with statewide faith-based and community partners in spiritual wellness events.

To learn more about the spiritual care/chaplaincy programs Chaplain Rob provides, you can contact him by phone at (502) 260-9184. .



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BLACK HISTORY MONTH'S SALUTE TO AFRICAN AMERICAN ACHIEVERS 2022