FIFTH ANNUAL
HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 3, 2013
ANISON JAMES COLBERT
LAWRENCE EUGENE “LARRY” DOBY
SARA J. HARPER
PASTOR ROBERT LEE HARRIS
MARJORIE B. PARHAM
CHARLES O. ROSS, JR.
ALEXANDER M. “SANDY” SPATER

Sustaining Sponsor:

Founding Sponsors:
Thank You

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission wishes to extend our sincere appreciation for the tremendous support from each of our sponsors. This program would not be possible without the generosity and creativity provided through our partnership.

A special thank you to our committee members:

Dr. J. Michael Bernstein, Wright State University
Dr. Kimberly A. Barrett, Wright State University
Stephen Francis, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.
Shannon Morgan, PNC Bank
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame seeks to acknowledge the citizens who have left their mark in the State of Ohio through their tireless efforts in furthering civil and human rights in their communities. These distinguished individuals have served as beacons making significant strides in support of civil and human rights. Through their exemplary leadership they have helped to eliminate barriers to equal opportunity in this great state as well as foster cultural awareness and understanding for a more just society.
Honda salutes Ohio’s civil rights heroes.
RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the 5th Annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Ceremony is an event at which our state honors the great work of Ohioans who have influenced the progression of civil rights and equal justice; and

WHEREAS, seven individuals, united by their mission, are being celebrated for the impact they have made on Ohio history, and it is my honor to recognize their strength and determination; and

WHEREAS, Anison James Colbert, Sara J. Harper, Marjorie Perham, Pastor Robert Lee Harris, Alexander “Sandy” Spater, and posthumously, Charles O. Ross and Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby, have all been invaluable to the civil rights movement here in Ohio, and throughout our great nation; and

WHEREAS, organized by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, along with the assistance of Wright State University, Honda of America Manufacturing, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and PNC Bank, the purpose of tonight’s event is to reflect on the acts of courage and fortitude that have led these individuals to make a difference in the lives of countless Ohioans; and

WHEREAS, as stated by Ohio Civil Rights Commission Chairman Leonard Hubert, “Ohio is recognized nationally as a leader in equality because of the tremendous body of work displayed across time by phenomenal civil rights leaders. The select group being inducted this year has clearly added to that mission.”

NOW, THEREFORE, I, John R. Kasich, Governor of the State of Ohio, do hereby recognize

THE 2013
OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

and encourage all Ohioans to follow the trail that has been blazed by Ohio’s Heroes of Justice and Equality: Anison James Colbert, Sara J. Harper, Marjorie Perham, Pastor Robert Lee Harris, Alexander “Sandy” Spater, Charles O. Ross and Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby.

On this 3rd day of October, 2013;

John R. Kasich
Governor
Joe Hallett, Senior Editor of The Columbus Dispatch, joined the newspaper in February 1999 as politics editor after serving three years as chief political writer and Statehouse reporter for The Cleveland Plain Dealer. Prior to then, Hallett spent 15 years with the Toledo Blade, 11 as chief of its Columbus bureau.

Hallett, who earned a degree in journalism from Ohio University in 1971, broke into the newspaper business in his hometown, Wauseon in northwestern Ohio, as editor of the twice-a-week Fulton County Expositor. He joined The Blade in 1981 and had been the newspaper's City Hall reporter for three years before being transferred to the Statehouse bureau in 1985.

As senior editor for The Dispatch, Hallett is a member of the newspaper’s senior management team, but still spends much of his time as a reporter and Sunday columnist. He has the freedom to roam in search of interesting stories, but focuses much of his reporting on politics and public policy.

Along with continuing to serve as The Dispatch's chief political writer, Hallett plans and coordinates the paper's state and national political coverage. He led The Dispatch's coverage of the 2000, 2004, 2008 and 2012 presidential campaigns, including the Republican and Democratic conventions, and covered the recount in Florida in 2000. He has covered presidential conventions since 1976, and Ohio governor races since 1986.

In September 2000, Hallett was selected one of America's eight best political reporters by Brill's Content, a national magazine reporting on the news media. Others on the list included the late David Broder of The Washington Post, Richard Berke of The New York Times, and Ronald Brownstein of the Los Angeles Times. In 2010, Hallett was named Ohio’s best political writer by the Associated Press and the Society of Professional Journalists.

Along with covering all levels of American government and politics, Hallett has filed stories from China, South Korea, Taiwan, Japan, Australia, Central America, and Eastern Europe. He also went to Kuwait and Iraq in March 2004 to cover Ohio troops. The Dispatch nominated Hallett for a Pulitzer Prize for his coverage in June 2004 of devastating mudslides, poverty and political turmoil in Haiti. He has won numerous journalistic awards.

Hallett and his wife, Marie, live in Westerville, Ohio. Their daughter, Maggie, her husband Christian and their son, Evan, live in Upper Arlington, Ohio.
October 3, 2013

Welcome to Ohio’s Fifth Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission and co-sponsors Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc., Wright State University, PNC Bank, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center are very proud to host this annual event. We are committed to preserving the rich civil rights heritage in our state while also promoting equal opportunity and goodwill.

On behalf of Ohio’s citizens, we extend our appreciation and admiration to the nominees who have been selected for induction into today’s Fifth Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Each inductee has an exceptional story of outstanding service to our state. The celebration today of their service and accomplishments will hopefully inspire future generations to follow in their footprints.

Thank you for supporting this extraordinary event and Ohio’s strong public policy against discrimination.

Sincerely,

Leonard Hubert, Chair

Stephanie Mercado, Commissioner

William Patmon, III, Commissioner

G. Michael Payton, Executive Director

Tom Roberts, Commissioner

Rashmi Yajnik, Commissioner
Wright State University is proud to partner once again with our fellow founders, Honda Manufacturing of America, Inc. and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, for the 2013 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

As an institution of higher education, we have a responsibility to advocate for diversity and inclusion everywhere and to educate future generations on the importance of tolerance and cultural awareness. Wright State is honored to participate in today’s festivities.

This year’s inductees have been champions of civil rights, not only for the people of Ohio, but also for the entire human race. As the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote in his letter from a Birmingham jail in April 1963, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.”

The seven individuals we honor today have been trailblazers in the quest for justice and equality for all people, regardless of race, creed, or disability. They have demonstrated that one person truly can make a difference and help change the lives of others.

My heartfelt congratulations and appreciation goes out to all of this year’s inductees and their families and to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for its ongoing dedication and commitment to protecting the rights of Ohio’s citizens.

Sincerely,

David R. Hopkins
October 3, 2013

Dear Friends,

Honda and its associates throughout Ohio would like to congratulate the 2013 inductees of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Freedom and civil rights is an expectation all citizens should have in our society. Today’s honorees helped to protect and preserve these principles for all citizens of our nation.

As the nation celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the famous March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom on August 24, 2013, we all reflected on the unforgettable ‘I Have A Dream’ speech of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Honda believes it has helped to live out Dr. King’s dream through encouraging its associates to utilize their power of dreams, not only at work, but also in their daily lives. We believe that dreaming unleashes the strength of the human spirit to make change. At Honda, our dreams continue to result in innovation and great products for our customers.

Today’s inductees are also dreamers. I am sure Dr. King, inspired most of them in some way, to pursue their dreams of civil rights and fair treatment for all. Each of them, in their own way, has dreamed of a better tomorrow and we are so thankful that they took action toward meaningful change.

Honda is very proud to be a founding sponsor of this event. It is an opportunity for all of us to celebrate the achievements of those who have fought to make all of our lives better. Because of their example, we are all motivated to transform our own dreams of a better society into reality.

To the inductees and their families, I offer my congratulations and gratitude. We are proud of you, and we appreciate your life-long dedication and passion to improving the quality of life in our communities.

Sincerely,

Hidenobu Iwata
President and CEO
Honda of America, Mfg., Inc.
CONGRATULATIONS to the 2013 Ohio Civil Rights Inductees

Wright State University is proud to support the Ohio Civil Rights Commission’s 2013 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. It is our honor to stand with these inductees and our co-sponsors.
October 3, 2013

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The PNC Financial Services Group, I would like to congratulate the 2013 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Hall of Fame inductees and their families. Today’s ceremony reminds us that when people with diverse points of view, backgrounds, and experiences come together and work hard, great things happen. The inductees' commitment to advancing positive change throughout Ohio is to be commended.

Like the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, at PNC we recognize that our people represent our strongest competitive advantage and our greatest sustainable resource. The more successful we are at fully engaging and educating our people, the more successful we will be in meeting the needs of our customers and communities.

As we pause to honor the 2013 inductees, it’s important to reflect on the significance of fostering diversity in this region. Today’s inductees have worked hard to not only promote this significance, but to positively impact Ohio, making it a better place to live and work as a result.

We applaud these efforts and look forward to the continued partnership and dedication to advancing equality in the region.

Sincerely,

Marsha Jones
Chief Diversity Officer
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
Dr. Roderick J. McDavis became Ohio University's 20th president on July 1, 2004. He is the university’s first African American president and only the second university alumnus to lead the university in this role in the institution’s 208-year history.

A native of Dayton, Ohio, he received a bachelor's degree in social sciences in secondary education from Ohio University’s College of Education. He received a master's degree in student personnel administration from the University of Dayton, and a doctorate in counselor education and higher education administration from the University of Toledo.

Since accepting the role of President, Dr. McDavis has been a tireless ambassador for Ohio University’s students, faculty, staff, and alumni. More importantly, he is an advocate for increasing access and educational opportunities for all students, in particular multicultural students.

In one of his first actions as President, he and his wife First Lady Deborah McDavis established the Urban Scholars Program. This scholarship program provides full tuition to Ohio University for four years to high-achieving students from our urban centers. A year later, they created a similar program to serve students in Appalachia called the Appalachian Scholars Program.

In 2008, Dr. McDavis founded The Interlink Alliance, a coalition of historically black colleges and universities and Ohio University, for the purpose of developing and preparing African American students to learn, live and lead in the 21st century. In 2010, Dr. McDavis was appointed to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division I Committee on Academic Performance and was named to the American Council on Education (ACE) Blue Ribbon Panel on Global Engagement. In 2011, Dr. McDavis was asked to serve on the Ohio Board of Regents Technology Transfer and Commercialization Task Force in recognition of Ohio University’s leadership in this arena. In 2012, the University of Arkansas awarded Dr. McDavis the Silas Hunt Legacy Award for his commitment to diversity.

His passion for education, mentoring, and preparing our next generation of leaders, thinkers, teachers, and entrepreneurs is evident as he leads Ohio University, building on its historic legacy of diversity and its vision to become the best transformative learning community in America.
for inspiring everyone in this room.

Determination. Hard work. Guts. That’s what leaders are made of. And that’s why we’re so proud to honor the Ohio Civil Rights 2013 Hall of Fame Inductees.

pnc.com
MEET THE 2013
OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS
HALL OF FAME
INDUCTEES

ANISON JAMES COLBERT
LAWRENCE EUGENE “LARRY” DOBY
SARA J. HARPER
PASTOR ROBERT LEE HARRIS
MARJORIE B. PARHAM
CHARLES O. ROSS, JR.
ALEXANDER M. “SANDY” SPATER

Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame
October 3, 2013
Anison James Colbert was born in Youngstown, Ohio. He attended public schools and spent a good amount of time in his teen years working at several funeral homes in Youngstown. He also joined the NAACP and traveled with his youth advisor to several NAACP related events in other cities. Later, he graduated from Youngstown University and enrolled at Pittsburgh Institute of Mortuary Science and worked at Gaines Funeral Home. He graduated in September 1958 and shortly thereafter became the first black male in the state of Ohio to receive a National Funeral Directors License. In 1973, Colbert was given the opportunity to manage the McLin Funeral Home in Xenia, Ohio. Shortly, after moving his family there a tornado ravaged the city. Colbert spent many hours helping in the recovery efforts and carrying the injured to local hospitals. He opened the funeral home doors for donations of food, clothing and other items for families struggling to recover. Colbert has served on the Trustee board of Zion Baptist Church, as executive secretary of the Board of Senior Citizens in Xenia, on the YMCA Board, and was a member of Xenia's Civil Rights Commission for 20 years. He formed an organization called “Concerned Citizens of Xenia” and served as its director, which allowed him to take a more active role in addressing problems in the community. Among other things, he received a grant from Greene County to help find employment for low-income and minority citizens. In 1985, Colbert opened his own funeral home. Still committed to mentoring, he hired several students from the Greene Vocational School’s marketing program over the years. He also began an annual charitable drive to distribute more than 100 turkeys and hams to needy families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Although now retired, Colbert remains active in both his church and community.
Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby
(1923-2003)

Nominator: The Cleveland Indians Baseball Organization

Larry Doby was an American professional baseball player in the Negro leagues and Major League Baseball (MLB). The son of a semipro baseball player, Doby excelled at baseball, basketball, and football, earning an athletic scholarship to Long Island University in New York. Doby played for the Newark Eagles of the Negro National League in 1942 and 1943 before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. After serving in the military, Doby returned to baseball in 1946, and along with teammate Monte Irvin, helped the Eagles win the Negro League World Series. In 1947 at the age of 23, Doby joined Jackie Robinson in breaking the MLB color barrier as he became the first black player to integrate the American League (AL) when he signed a contract to play with the Cleveland Indians. Doby was the first player to go directly to the majors from the negro leagues. A seven-time consecutive All-Star center fielder, Doby and teammate Satchel Paige were the first African-American players to win a World Series championship when the Indians won in 1948. He was also the first black player to hit a home run in the World Series and All-Star Game. He helped the Indians win a franchise-record 111 wins and AL pennant in 1954 and finished second in the AL Most Valuable Player (MVP) award voting as he was the season’s RBI leader and home run champion for the second time in three seasons. In 1978, he became the second African-American Manager in the majors when he joined the Chicago White Sox. Doby later served as a Director with the New Jersey Nets of the National Basketball Association (NBA) and in 1995 was appointed to a position in the AL’s executive office. He was selected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998 by the Hall’s Veterans Committee. Mr. Doby died in 2003 at the age of 79 and was eulogized by the President of the United States of America. Doby’s number “14” was retired by the Cleveland Indians in 1994.
Judge Sara J. Harper is the first African American woman to graduate from Case Western Reserve University Law School. Judge Harper ran for her first political office (state representative) in 1954. Judge Harper became a prosecutor in the 1960s during the initial term of Cleveland's first black mayor, Carl Stokes—a friend of hers since their teen days in Outhwaite public housing on the city's East Side. As president of the Cleveland NAACP in the early 1980s, Harper fought against strip searches by police of female NAACP members who were arrested for minor traffic infractions. She was the first woman to serve on the judiciary of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and she co-founded the first victims' rights program in the country. In 1980, she ran as the endorsed Republican candidate for chief justice of the Ohio Supreme Court and she was the first African American woman to do so. In 1990, Judge Harper and another African American woman became the first women to win seats on the Ohio Court of Appeals. In 1992, she sat by assignment on the Ohio Supreme Court, another first for an African American woman. Judge Harper is the recipient of many awards including the Ohio Supreme Court's Excellent Judicial Service Award, the NAACP's Unsung Heroine Award and Raymond Pace Alexander Award. She is a member of the Ohio Veteran's Hall of Fame and the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame. She continues to give back to the community with the Sara J. Harper Library, founded in the early 1990s at the Outhwaite Homes Estates on East 43rd Street. The mission of the library is to provide a safe environment that encourages and promotes reading, learning and positive avenues for self-realization.
Robert Harris was born in 1946 and contracted meningitis at the age of 8 months which left him permanently paralyzed in both legs and left hand. He began championing inclusion at a young age fighting to continue his education after completing elementary classes at Cincinnati’s only school for the disabled. He did not want to be stuck at home, so he made his way into a somewhat accessible high school and ultimately an art academy. He has become an accomplished artist with over 18 years of video production experience and 30 years in visual art. Harris is currently the President of the Board of Directors for the Cincinnati Human Relations Commission (CHRC). The Greater Cincinnati Bicentennial Committee has included Harris in its Portraits in Excellence. Harris is an Ohio winner of the "Victory Award" which he received from former First Lady Barbara Bush at a ceremony at the White House. In 1994, he received the "Ohio Humanitarian Award - Employment Equality" from Governor George Voinovich. In 2002, Harris received the "Maurice McCracken Award for Peace and Justice" and in 2003 was included in Fifth Third Bank's "Profile in Courage." Harris’ painting "Skyline" is part of the art collection of Cincinnati Bell. In 2006, Harris was awarded the “Lifetime Dreamkeeper Award” from the Arts Consortium of Cincinnati and in August 2013, The Cincinnati METRO awarded Harris as a “Community Partner” for helping to make the transit system more accessible for those with disabilities. He is very active in the community and has been involved in many boards and committees, including the Ohio Arts Council's Artist with Disabilities Advisory Council, the Contemporary Art Center, the United Cerebral Palsy Center, University Affiliated Center for Developmental Disorders, the Aronoff Center, the American Red Cross, Housing Opportunities Made Equal, United Way and Community Chest. He currently serves as a member of the Community Advisory Committee of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center. Also, he currently serves as the Disability Design and FRAME [Fashion, Arts, Music and Entertainment] Director. He has served as an Inclusion Consultant for the Cinergy Children’s Museum of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Reds Architectural Design Team, and others. He has also provided services for the Greater Cincinnati Region of the National Conference for Community and Justice [now known as “BRIDGES for a Just Community] and as a Marketing Representative for the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission in the Cincinnati/Dayton area. Robert Harris also serves as one of the Pastor’s at the International Church for all Nations in Cincinnati, Ohio.
Marjorie B. Parham

Nominator: Donna Jones Baker

Majorie B. Parham was born in 1918 in Clemont County, Ohio. She graduated from Batavia High School and went to Wilberforce University, a historically black college. She later took classes at the University of Cincinnati, but she never graduated from college because she was getting pushed away from what she wanted to do. She wanted a business career. She married William Spillers and produced a son, but she was single again by 1946 and took a job as a clerk with the U.S. Veterans Administration in Cincinnati. In 1954, she wed Gerald Porter, who a year later founded the Cincinnati Herald, a weekly newspaper aimed at African-American readership in the city. In 1961, Parham retired from the Veterans Administration to take over the Dayton Tribune, which her son had been running until he was drafted by the U.S. military. In 1963, Parham took over as publisher and editor of the Cincinnati Herald after the unexpected death of her husband, the newspaper's founder, Gerald Porter. She spent more than three decades at the helm of the Cincinnati Herald and became a respected figure in the greater Cincinnati community through both her newspaper work and her involvement in numerous civic organizations. In 1982, she became the second African American ever to serve as a trustee of the University of Cincinnati, and also chaired the board of the National Afro-American Museum and Cultural Center in Wilberforce, Ohio. She was also active in the Urban League, the American Red Cross and scouting groups.
Charles O. Ross, Jr. was born January 16, 1934 in Bessemer, Alabama. He attended Wenona High School in Birmingham, Alabama where he played varsity basketball and football. He was awarded an athletic scholarship to play basketball for Stillman College in Tuscaloosa, Alabama in 1951. While at Stillman, he met his college sweetheart Ruth Forte. He graduated from Stillman College in 1955 with a B.A. in English and relocated with Ruth to Gary, Indiana where they were married in 1958. Their two sons, Charles and Marcus, were born while the couple resided in Gary. He received his Masters Degree in Social Work from the University of Chicago in 1960. Ross engaged in grass roots electoral politics in Gary, Indiana and Chicago, Illinois and in the struggle for racial equality and social justice during the height of the Civil Rights Movement. In 1970, Ross joined the faculty of The Ohio State University as an Associate Professor in the College of Social Work. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Ross served as the inaugural chairperson of the Black Studies Department. Ross engaged in mass community mobilization and grass roots activism at The Ohio State University and Columbus community at large during a period of social upheaval in the city of Columbus. He was instrumental in raising community awareness on issues such as targeted law enforcement and excessive force. He was an advocate for recruitment and retention of African American students, faculty, and staff and diversity and inclusion on the Ohio State University Board of Trustees. He had a demonstrated commitment to youth throughout his professional life and played an active role in electoral politics at the local and national levels. Professor Ross distinguished himself in the Columbus community as an educator, community activist, and public speaker.
Alexander M. “Sandy” Spater
(1943-2013)

Nominator: Raphael Davis-Williams

Alexander M. (“Sandy”) Spater was born in 1943 in New York; He attended Lawrence University in Appleton, Wisconsin, receiving his B.A degree in 1965, and attended the University of California at Berkeley between 1965 and 1967, receiving a Masters Degree in Asian Studies. Spater served in the Peace Corp in Nepal between 1967 and 1969 working as a community development specialist. Between 1969 and 1970, he worked in a low income housing program in Corinth, Mississippi. He attended The Ohio State University Law School between 1970 and 1973, receiving the Juris Doctor degree in 1973. He spent his entire professional life assisting the downtrodden and representing victims of discrimination. After law school, Spater was legal counsel for the Housing Opportunity Center of Metropolitan Columbus for one year. He was a partner in Spater, Gittes, Schulte & Kolman and predecessor law firms between 1974 and 2001, before starting his own firm. Spater throughout his career worked with other attorneys in Ohio and around the country in litigating civil rights cases and was often at the forefront of civil rights law. He also lectured around the country on various civil rights policies and issues. During the 70s, 80s and 90s Sandy represented women in firefighter cases alleging discrimination in hiring, and represented black police officers alleging discrimination in promotions, transfers and assignments. Spater won housing discrimination cases and successfully argued that police officers unfairly targeted black people. There are few civil rights lawyers in the State of Ohio that have had such an impact or developed such a body of case law.
“Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted; and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationship.”

—A. Phillip Randolph
Ohio Civil Rights
Hall of Fame Inductees

2009
WILLIAM F. BOWEN
ROBERT M. DUNCAN
BRUCE KLUNGER
TONI MORRISON
CARL B. STOKES

JOAN B. CAMPBELL
RUTH GONZALEZ DE GARCIA
C.J. MCLIN, JR.
FRED SHUTTLESWORTH
GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLIAMS

2010
AVERY FRIEDMAN
DR. KARLA IRVINE
ERIC PARKS
RHONDA RIVERA
DR. MARIAN SPENCER

DR. FRANK W. HALE, JR.
WILLIAM MCCULLOCH
SALVADOR RAMOS
DR. RATANJIT SONDHE
BALDEMAR VELEASQUEZ

2011
ROGER ABRAMSON
KEN CAMPBELL
AMOS LYNCH
V. ANTHONY SIMMS-HOWELL

THEODORE M. BERRY
NATHANIEL R. JONES
LOUIS D. SHARP

2012
JAMES G. JACKSON
WILLIAM L. MALLORY
REV. DR. OTIS MOSS, JR.
OHIO TUSKEGEE AIRMEN

REV. DAMON LYNCH, JR.
RICHARD MAXWELL
JESSE OWENS

October 3, 2013
Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame

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