



PRESS RELEASE

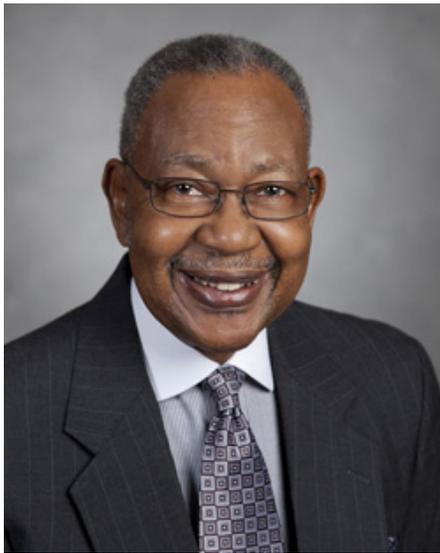
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**GERALD BROOKS, FORMER TISD TEACHER & ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
TO BE INDUCTED INTO TISD HALL OF FAME**



Texarkana, TX – Texarkana Independent School District will honor former Teacher and Assistant Principal, Gerald Brooks, as their 2012 inductee to the TISD Hall of Fame during their annual Texas Public Schools Week Community Breakfast.

The event will be held on Tuesday, March 6 at 7:00 a.m. in the Dan Haskins Student Center at Texas High School, 2112 Kennedy Lane.

“We are so pleased to honor Mr. Brooks as the 2012 Hall of Fame inductee,” commented Paul Norton, Superintendent of Schools. “This very special award is given to a retired TISD employee who has made a significant impact on the TISD and Texarkana community. Our Hall of Fame preserves the history of so many of our great educators who have made TISD what it is today and ensures that their names and contributions are here for others to see not only now but in many years to come.”

“During his forty year career in education, Mr. Brooks dedicated his efforts to making sure that students received the best possible education while at Texarkana Independent School District,” continued Norton. “He developed strategies that made history come to life and encouraged young minds to look at a global picture in order to see the full window of the world in which they lived.”

According to Wanda Boyette, President of the TISD Board of Trustees, “Mr. Brooks not only taught students the importance of history but led by example as TISD moved into racial integration. In 1967, he became one of the first African-American teachers of the school district’s fully integrated junior high school,” she shared. “The legacy of Mr. Brooks, as a Teacher & Assistant Principal, will long be remembered because of his unassuming manner, kindness and desire to further his students’ knowledge.”

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Brooks began his career in education in 1963 with TISD as 12th Grade Government & Sociology Teacher at Dunbar High School. In 1967, he moved to F. Ben Pierce Junior High School where he taught 7th Grade Texas History until 1976 when he was named Assistant Principal of Pine Street Junior High School (formerly F. Ben Pierce Junior High School).

In 1985, Brooks moved to Texas High School to serve as Assistant Principal and remained there until his retirement in 2002. Following retirement, he returned to TISD to serve as the Assistant Principal for Westlawn Elementary School from 2004-05. During his tenure with TISD, he was also an Adjunct Professor for Texarkana College from 1970 – 1990 teaching Black History and U.S. History.

“I choose education as a career because of the wonderful teachers that I had while growing up,” stated Brooks. “Originally when I accepted the teaching position with TISD in 1963 my intent was to only stay one year. Forty years later, I was still here and enjoying every moment of my time with students and staff.”

“In my teaching, I wanted students to see more than just what was in front of them so that they could broaden their horizons to the world stage of history, politics and the importance of being involved.”

Brooks has been active in the Texarkana community as former Chairman of the Board and current Board of Director of TEXAR Federal Credit Union for 20+ years. During his involvement with TEXAR, he has seen the institution’s assets grow from \$2 million to \$275 million.

Additionally, he has served as Basileus member of the Theta Upsilon Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, member of Phi Delta Kappa International Education Fraternity, Board of Director of the local chapter for the Texas Historical Foundation and Trustee Board Member for Oak Street Baptist Church.

In the educational field, Brooks is a Life Member of the Texas State Teachers Association and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and maintains membership in the Texas Association of Secondary School Principals.

He was born in Tyler, Texas in 1938 and graduated from Emmett J. Scott High School in 1958. He attended Texas College in Tyler and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Social Studies in 1963 and holds a Masters of Education in Broad Field Social Studies from East Texas State University – Commerce, as well as an Educational Administration Certificate.

He is married to the former Ruthie James and they have three children, Angela Bunn, Yolanda Evans and Grallin Brooks along with nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

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PHOTO, FILM AND STORY OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE AVAILABLE DURING EVENT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT TINA VEAL-GOOCH, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC RELATIONS AT 903.794.3651 EXT. 1013.