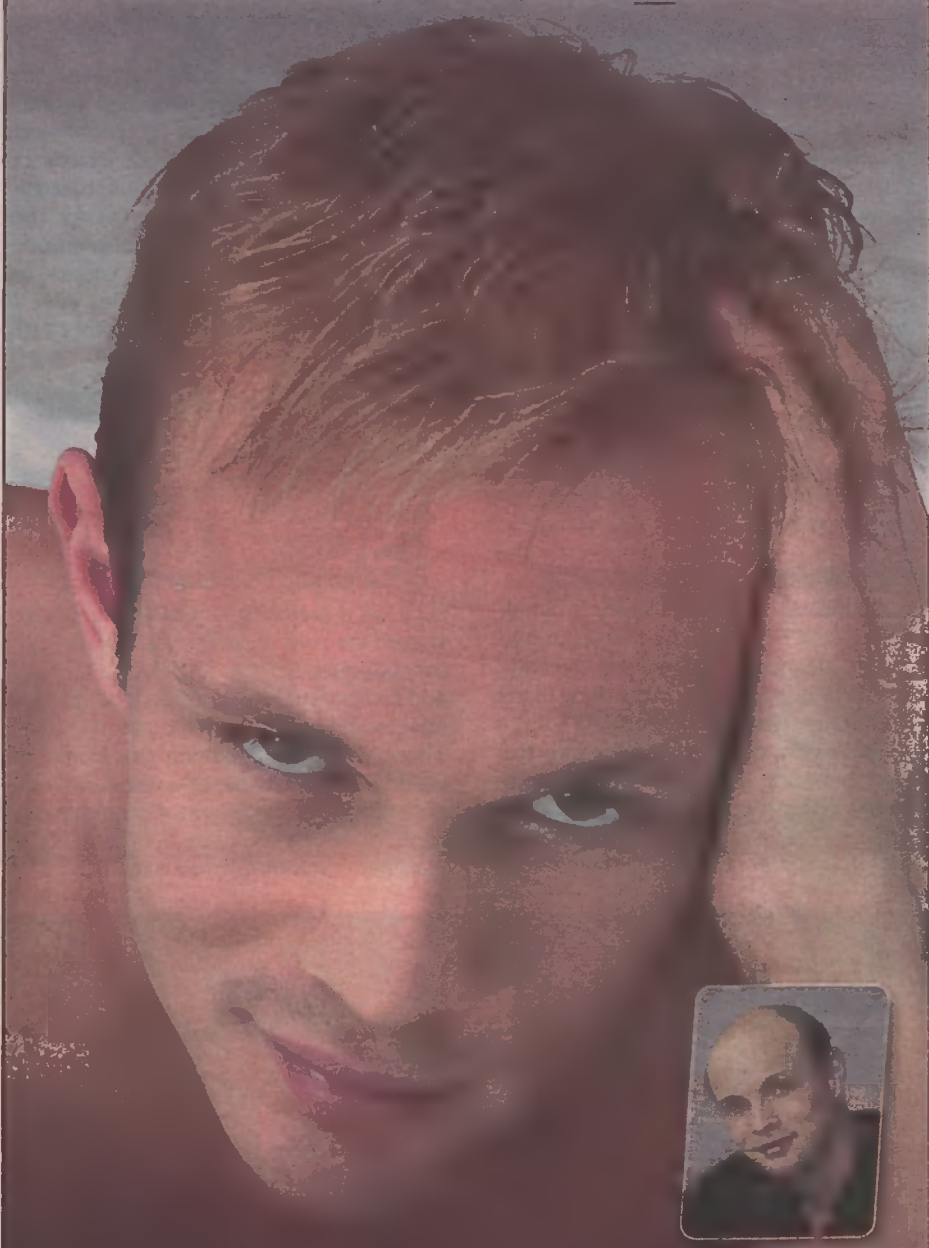


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For Black History Month: HRC Carolinas boasts long history with African-Americans

A look at HRC's stellar line up of LGBT African-Americans who have been involved with the event over the years

by Shane Windmeyer

In 1998 Rep. Eva Clayton was invited to address the Carolinas Dinner audience and did. She has continued to attend on several occasions in the ensuing years.

In 1999 Rep. Mel Watt was honored and recognized on stage at the Carolinas Dinner for his support of equal rights and federal legislation affecting the LGBT community. Watt has continued to make an appearance at the dinner since that time.

In 2003, Dan Blue, former speaker of the N.C. Senate, was invited to speak at the dinner and accepted.

At the 2004 dinner, Rev. Tonyia Rawls was presented with the HRC Equality Award for Community Service. Her work was featured on film during the program and she accepted the award on stage.

At the 2003 dinner, the Imani Ensemble of Imani MCC in Durham opened the evening's event with music and song.

Also in 2003, Rev. Wanda Floyd and Sheryl Griffin were featured in a film segment about LGBT families and their life experiences. Griffin serves on the HRC Carolina Steering Committee and is co-chair of the second annual "Gospel and Unity Celebration" event in Raleigh, planned for October 2005. Floyd has been a frequent guest on town hall discussion panels sponsored by HRC in the Triangle area. Both Floyd and Griffin are featured in HRC's national media communication program highlighting LGBT families, their lives and the issues they face.



Eva Clayton



Mel Watt



Dan Blue



Rev. Tonyia Rawls



Imani MCC



Rev. Wanda Floyd & Sheryl Griffin

