

## Former Legislator Bernard Allen Inducted into NCAE Hall of Fame

Greensboro, NC - Former NC Legislator Rep. Bernard Allen has been inducted into the NCAE Educational Hall of Fame. Allen, the only



inductee this year, was a former staff member of the North Carolina Teachers Association and the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE). At NCAE, he served as a field staff representative and later worked as an Association lobbyist in the Government Relations Department.

His induction was officially announced at the annual NCAE Awards Banquet held Thursday, March 22, at the Sheraton Greensboro Hotel, where his widow, Vivian Allen, accepted the award. She was accompanied by sons, Bernard Allen, II and Andre Allen.

The Awards Banquet was held in conjunction with the NCAE State Convention which ran Friday, March 23 and Saturday, March 24 at the Greensboro Coliseum.

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) is the state's largest education association, representing 65,000 active, retired and student members.

### BERNARD ALLEN SR.

Bernard Allen Sr. was born to James Allen Sr. and Louise Hoover on August 24, 1937. He was raised by his grandmother in Allendale, South Carolina. Following his graduation from high school, he attended and completed two years of study at Voorhees Junior College in Denmark, South Carolina. His family moved north to New York and New Jersey, and later settled in Raleigh, North Carolina where Bernard continued his education at St. Augustine's College. He graduated in 1962, earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in secondary education.

Following his graduation he served as a classroom teacher in the Vance County Schools. It was in Henderson that he met and married Vivian Sneed. They had two sons, Bernard Jr. and Andre. Mr. Allen attended North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina and in 1979, earned a Master of Science degree in public administration and supervision. He then went on to serve as assistant superintendent in Vance County.

Mr. Allen later worked for the North Carolina Teachers Association, advocating for African-American educators across North Carolina. When the North Carolina Education Association and the North Carolina Teachers Association joined to form the North Carolina Association of Educators, he became a lobbyist for the newly merged association. He spent twenty-five years advocating for better salaries and working conditions for public educators.

In 2002, Bernard Allen successfully ran for the House seat that had

been vacated by Dan Blue and went on to serve two terms as the representative of southeast, downtown Raleigh, and some of the surrounding suburban area of Wake County. Representative Allen was the primary sponsor of over twenty-five bills; nine of which had a direct impact on public education and its employees, supporting pay raises for education employees, retired teachers returning to work, and one bill pertaining to students with disabilities. He was one of four sponsors of the bill to create a state education lottery and later advocated for a nine-member oversight committee to ensure lottery profits are used for education. He was unopposed and reelected to his seat in 2004, and at his death was seeking reelection for a third term.

During his tenure in the General Assembly, Representative Allen served on several committees, including State Personnel; Pensions and Retirement; Finance, Select Committee on the Lottery, Select Committee on the North Carolina State Employees Disability; and the Full Appropriations Committee that passed a budget to protect public education and provide aid to private colleges and universities in North Carolina.

Representative Allen served as chairman of the North Carolina Central University's Board of Trustees for two years. He also served on the Board of Trustees for Saint Augustine's College and was elected as national representative by the national alumni membership. He was a member of the National Education Association's Task Force on the Dismissal of Black Educators in the South and a lifetime member of the NAACP. Representative Allen was also a member of the Raleigh Wake Citizens Association, a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, a founding member of the Saint Augustine's College Falcon Foundation, and an active member of several other national, state, and local organizations.

Representative Allen will be remembered as an advocate for education, as an advocate for his constituents, a man who dedicated his life to public service and improving the lives of people in Wake County and North Carolina, and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

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