



# NEWS RELEASE

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## High Point Housing Authority

500 East Russell Avenue, High Point, NC 27260  
www.hpha.net

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**Media Contact:** Rachael Matthews

**Phone:** 336/878-2312

**Email:** Rmatthews@hpha.net

## High Point Housing Authority Honors Two Community Leaders in its Fourth Annual Pillars of Fame Award Ceremony

**High Point, NC** – The **Pillars of Fame Award** was established in 2006 by the Housing Authority of the City of High Point (HPHA) and was modeled after the Wall of Fame in Columbia, SC. The objective of this award is to inspire community youth with positive, encouraging images, and role models that are former HPHA residents of public housing and Section 8 who overcame obstacles and became successful leaders and pillars of the community.

The Selection Committee composed of Anisa Stone, High Point Housing Authority Public Housing resident; community volunteers, Joe Barnes and Scott Dunbar; and Housing Authority Commissioners Michael Ellerbe and Matt Witmeyer, had the difficult task of reading all the outstanding applications and making the final selections.

The *2009 Pillars of Fame Award* recipients are **Glenn Chavis** and **Bernita Sims**

**Councilwoman Bernita Sims** is a native of High Point, North Carolina and lived in the Daniel Brooks Community from 1956 – 1958. She attended High Point City Schools completing her senior year of high school at Central High School in Seat Pleasant, MD. Ms. Sims attended the University of the District of Columbia where her field of study was communications. She is a 2003 graduate fellow of the Institute of Political Leadership at UNC-Wilmington.

She has been a member of the High Point City Council since December 2003, where she has served as liaison to the High Point Museum Board and the Human Relations Commission, and current Chair of the Public Services Committee, member of the Special and Planning Committee and serves as liaison to the local Alcohol and Beverage Commission. She was elected Mayor Pro-

Tem in December of 2005 by her fellow council members and served a one-year term. She serves on the National League of Cities FAIR Committee, (Finance, Administration, and Intergovernmental Relations) and on the Finance and Administrative Legislative Action Committee for the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Her community service involvement includes co-chair of the Black Leadership Roundtable of High Point, workshop coordinator for High Point Racial Healing, Chair of the High Point Children's Cabinet (*the United Way of Greater High Point's 2009 Child Advocate of the Year Award recipient*), Secretary of the High Point Branch of the NAACP, serves on the Executive Committee of the Guilford County-Greensboro-High Point Workforce Development Board (chair of the Community Awareness Committee and the Incumbent Workers Grant Committee) , Chair of the Democratic Party's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and Chair of Welfare Reform Liaison Project, Inc. She also sits on the boards of Win-Win Resolutions (National Board), SCV Ministries, Inc., the High Point Workforce Alliance, and the Minority Business Council of the High Point Chamber of Commerce. Bernita- also serves on the Incubator Task Force for the High Point Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the Nussbaum Center of Greensboro.

Councilwoman Sims attends Williams Memorial C.M.E. Church where she serves as President of the Board of Trustees, President of the Pastor's Aide, member of the Chorale Ensemble Choir, the Children's Retreat Committee, the IT Committee and serves on the Board of RJW Ministries, Inc.

**Glenn R. Chavis** also lived in the Daniel Brooks Community as a child from 1941 – 1942. Born and raised in High Point, North Carolina, he is married to Gladys McBee and they have two sons, Rory and Trey.

During his early childhood and emerging adulthood, he cultivated a spirit which resulted in his love of people, his energetic perspective, and his contribution to the well-being of all with whom he has been associated. Glenn attended Leonard Street School, A.J. Griffin School, and William Penn H.S. through his junior year. He finished his senior year at Lutheran Junior College, Greensboro, N.C., and after graduation, enrolled in Johnson C. Smith University, Charlotte, NC, where he received a B.A. in English in 1963. While a student at Johnson C. Smith University, Glenn honed the skills that led to his extremely successful career as an accomplished writer, community spokesman, and civic activist.

After his graduation from Smith, he served in various capacities. First was his role as a Fingerprint Technician for the Federal Bureau of Investigation from 1964 – 1969. Second was his long alliance with Abbott Laboratories, Inc. from 1969 – to retirement in 2000. Over the years, he traveled far and wide as a representative and consultant for the company, often covering 50 states, working with colleges and minority based organizations. Some of his positions were Professional Pharmaceutical Hospital Representative, Minority Recruiter, Recruiting Consultant, Vision Specialist, Account Executive and District System Specialist. Through his work, the minority and women representation throughout the sales force were greatly increased.

Mr. Chavis continued to serve as a mentor as he became the #1 sales representative in the nation – twice. He reached out to young and more mature adults to take advantage of health issues. This love of his community and people and his intention to make a difference resulted in a kind of transition from a medical emphasis to a study of our heritage as a people and as individuals. Since 2000, Glenn has

published short stories and partnered with others to hold up African American culture as in the African American Heritage Guide for the City of High Point, NC, and the African American Exhibit at the High Point Museum. In his words, “My mission is to find, document, and make known the history and contributions of High Point’s African American community that has been long over looked.”

Due in large part his dedication to his people, Mr. Chavis has been singled out by a prestigious publication, *Editor & Publisher Magazine*, for his creative research and writing. His love of community, friends and writing led to his being named a *Distinguished Alumnus of Johnson C. Smith University* in May 2008.

Robert L. Kenner, Chief Executive Officer of the High Point Housing Authority, congratulates Ms. Sims and Mr. Chavis. “Both of our honorees this year are pillars of our community who exemplify strength, integrity and wisdom. It is an honor to recognize them with their induction onto our *Pillars of Fame* as we continue to strive to build a better future for leaders of the next generation.”

The *Pillars of Fame Award Ceremony* will be held at Astor Dowdy Towers, 701 E. Green Street, High Point, NC 27260 on September 23, 2009 at 12:00 noon and the entire community is invited to the event!

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