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Liberian Embassy Honors 11 Citizens During 166th Independence Celebration in Washington D. C.

Embassy of the Republic of Liberia in the United States , Tue, Aug 13, 2013

As part of activities commemorating the 166th Independence Anniversary of the Republic of Liberia on July 26, 2013, the Embassy of Liberia in the United States was pleased to honor 11 personalities for their sacrificial contributions to the welfare of their country. Below is a brief bio of each of honorees.



Amb. Sulunteh Presents Certificate to Dr. Leroy Z Boakai

Dr. Leroy Z. Boakai

As a two-term president of Liberians in Columbus, Inc., Dr. Boakai worked with the Governor's office and the Ohio State Legislature to fly the Liberian flag at the Ohio Statehouse every year since 2008. His administration shipped backpacks to two elementary schools in Liberia; shipped medical supplies to JFK Medical Center in Monrovia; and has been part of a group that provided scholarships for Liberian students. Dr. Bokai has encouraged volunteerism, which took his daughter, Jartu, and some young nurses to work in Liberia.

AMBASSADOR CHRISTOPHER T. MINIKON : Ambassador Minikon has served for over 50 years as a public servant of the Liberian Government



and people in many capacities. He is one

of the finest in the Foreign Service of Liberia, who appears to be retired for the moment, but his wealth of administrative knowledge in that area lives on, in the like of many young diplomats in various Liberian Embassies around the world including the Deputy Chief of Mission at this Embassy in DC. This distinguished honoree has traveled extensively around the world in the interest of his country. He is a devoted Christian married to Mrs. Bernadette Mamakor Sandie and they are blessed with 6 children and 9 grandchildren.



Honourable Gurley served the Liberian

Embassy in Washington, DC as a local employee from 1967 to 1973. In 1974, she was appointed Third Secretary/Attaché and served until 1980 when the coup d'état began. In 1984 she was again appointed Minister/Counselor at the Embassy in Washington DC and remained until 1990 when the civil war began. Honourable Gurley has an unflinching love for the Embassy in DC and most of all for her country. She will celebrate her 80th birth anniversary on July 30, 2013.



Amb. Sulunteh Presents Certificate to Hon. Winifred J. Massaquoi, Former education Consul

HONOURABLE WINIFRED MASSAQUOI

A devoted educator, Honourable Massaquoi served as Principal of Sinoe High School in Greenville, Sinoe County. She ably represented her country as a Delegate to the United Nations 8th General Assembly of the Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Montevideo, Uruguay. She served in the position of an Administrative Assistant for Telecommunication at the Ministry of Posts and Telegraphs as well as Assistant Director of Civil Aviation at the Ministry of Education in Liberia. Honourable Massaquoi later served in Washington, DC.



Amb. Sulunteh Presents Certificate to Hon. J. Urias Nelson Sr.

HONOURABLE J. URIAS NELSON,

SR.

Honourable Nelson served the Liberian Embassy in DC from 1968 to 1976 as First Secretary/Consul. While in that position, he also acted as Ambassador. He served at the Liberian Consulate General in New York, and was thereafter sent to London in 1976 where he served as First Secretary/Consul and Head of Chancery until 1978 when he returned to Liberia.



Amb. Sulunteh Applauds as former Foreign Affairs Minister, Momolu V.S. Sirleaf accepts Certificate of Recognition

Honourable Momolu Varfee Sackor

Sirleaf, an engineer, a journalist, a lawyer, a devout Christian, and a Liberian businessman, has served the Liberian community and Nation in many capacities. He served two terms as Liberia's Foreign Minister: first from 1993-1994 and again from 1995-1996. Honourable Sirleaf is married to the former Elouise Richardson and they are blessed with two children.

HONOURABLE CATHERINE LEONA TUCKER-CHESSON



Amb. Sulunteh Presents Certificate to Hon. Catherine Leona Chesson-Tucker

A lawyer, affectionately called "ONA", worked at the University of Liberia as professor of mathematics. Liberia will always be grateful for the role she played when she represented Liberia at the ILO meeting in Geneva and worked to get Liberia exonerated of the charge of "Forced Labor" which had been argued over and again for

some twelve years. She represented Liberia at many international conferences, including the United Nations and was elected Deputy Secretary General of the Pan African Women's Organization 1968 in Algiers, Algeria. This Honoree was appointed by Legislative approval as Assistant Minister of International Cooperation Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the law creating that position was not written, so she wrote it. It was her mission each and every two-week period to bring in supplies to the Embassy, then located at 5303 Colorado Avenue, for the staff. This is a testament to her dedication and hard work. The Honorable Isaac S. Zawolo is blessed with 5 children, 8



HONOURABLE ISSAC S. ZAWOLO

Isaac Saye-Lakpoh Zawolo is an award-winning teacher with the Arlington Public schools in Arlington, Virginia. He is also Professor of Mathematics at Montgomery College in Rockville, Maryland. Professor Zawolo is a philanthropist, community servant and activist who has served the Union of Liberian Association in the Americas in various positions. This dedicated honoree is married to Mrs. Hawa Siryon Zawolo and they are blessed with three children and two grandchildren.



**Former Liberian Vice President
Bennie D. Warner**

His Excellency Bennie D. Warner was the Bishop of the United

Methodist Church of Liberia before he was chosen to become Vice President to President William R. Tolbert. He served as Vice President of the Republic of Liberia from 1977-1980. Among other responsibilities after he settled in the United States, Bishop Warner taught at the United Methodist Oklahoma City University in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, before being appointed District Superintendent of the Camden District of the United Methodist Church in Arkansas.



**Catherine Nmah
2nd Secretary /Vice Consul**

Madam Catherine J Nmah: Second Secretary/Vice Consul at the Embassy of Liberia in Washington, D.C., Madam Catherine Nmah is presently the longest-serving staff at the Embassy. She is a dedicated public servant, who does not hesitate to go above and beyond the call of duty to assist someone or help where necessary. Ms. Nmah was one of those that made tremendous sacrifices to keep the doors of the embassy open during the years of Liberia's civil upheaval. Her institutional memory continues to serve the embassy well. **INVESTITURE: HONOURABLE PARTHENA LAURA GRAHAM ASKIE**

Mother Parthena Laura Graham Askie, dedicated Liberian public servant and centenarian, was awarded and decorated by the Directive of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf the grade of DAME COMMANDER in the most venerable Order of knighthood of the pioneers of the republic of Liberia. On that day, she was permitted to hence forth, use and wear publicly the insignias of the order in the Grade named.

Finally, congratulations to all of the honorees for your contributions and sacrifices for the common good of



INVESTITURE: HONOURABLE

Award from President Sirleaf, presented to Honoree Parthena Laura Graham Askie, by Ambassador Jeremiah C. Sulunteh

PARTHENA LAURA GRAHAM ASKIE

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