



## CHESTER MCKINNEY

Chester McKinney was born June 7, 1943 in Whiteville, Tennessee. He is the 10th out of 11 children born to Henry and Emma McKinney. Soon after his birth, his family moved to Jackson.

Chester was educated in the Jackson public schools and developed an interest in music at an early age. He played the trumpet in Merry High School band and after high school he studied other brass instruments. Mr. McKinney attended Tennessee A & I State University in Nashville where he majored in Music Education. He graduated with a B.S in Music Education in 1965 and in 1972 received his Masters degree in Music Education.

Mr. McKinney has 42 years of teaching experience. He taught band for 3 years at Rosenwald High School in Trenton, 5 years in Camden, New Jersey, 27 years in Jackson Public Schools, 1 year part time at Caywood Middle in Lexington, and 6 years part time at Bemis Intermediate School in Jackson.

Mr. McKinney is now retired, working in his church and playing trombone in a local Jazz/R&B band in Jackson, Tennessee.

## JAMES GODSEY

James Monroe Godsey was born in Richie, Maryland on January 12, 1935 and was raised in Haleyville, Alabama. He graduated high school in Florence, Alabama and attended Murray State College where he received a Bachelor of Music Education and later a Masters of Music Education.

In 1955 he married Nancy Joan Reaves. They made their home in Dyersburg, Tennessee where he was the band director for 28 years. In 1983, the Dyersburg High School Band was awarded the Grand National Championship at the Northeast Mississippi Jr. College contest in Booneville, MS. While in Dyersburg, he taught in the choral department at Dyersburg State Community College for a number of years. He was the organist and choir director at the First Presbyterian Church and was the choral teacher at Dyersburg High School. Mr. Godsey was the founder of the Dyersburg Little Theatre, which endured a 21 year span of musicals for the community. Jim was the creator of the Dyersburg High School Marching band Contest which 38 years later is known as the Annual Jim Godsey Symphony of Sound Marching Band Contest.

In 1986, he went to Obion County High School where he was the band director for 6 more years. During this time, his bands won countless honors and traveled all over the country. Obion Central High School Band went to claim the Single A State Championship in 1992, which is among his highest honors.

Jim Godsey died in 1993 at the age of 58 after a battle with cancer. He taught up to 6 weeks prior to his death with his wishes fulfilled of finishing the last band camp he would attend in August 1993.

He was a husband of Nancy Godsey and father of Debbie Godsey Randolph and Millette Godsey Gathright. He is a grandfather of 5 grandchildren and a great-grandfather of 3 boys with 2 more boys on the way in June.



## KARLA PHILIPP

Karla Philipp holds the B.M. in Music Education from the University of Arizona, and the M.M. in Double Bass performance from Memphis State University (now the University of Memphis). An active performer, she has performed with the Tucson Symphony, the Arizona Light Opera, the Memphis Symphony, the Tupelo Symphony and is currently in the Jackson, TN Symphony. In addition, she is a freelance performer in the Memphis area.

Ms. Philipp is a 1998 recipient of the Rotary Award for Teacher Excellence. She is also a three time recipient of the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Governor's School for the Arts. Karla has had the privilege of doing clinics, summer music camps and workshops around the country including the American Suzuki Institute in Stevens Point Wisconsin, and the Intermountain Suzuki String Institute in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 2009 Karla retired after 30 years of teaching strings for the Memphis City Schools. She is currently the conductor of two Memphis Youth Symphony Program Orchestras, the Memphis Youth String Ensemble and the Memphis Youth String Sinfonia. She maintains a private studio of double bass players. She is also the director of the Calvary Ringers, the handbell choir at Calvary Episcopal Church in downtown Memphis. In addition she is an adjunct instructor in music education at the University of Memphis where she teaches the strings method class and supervises student teachers.



## GREG STOVER

Greg Stover is an accomplished musician and teacher who began his career in music in 1961 in the public schools of Memphis, TN. He was a member of the Georgian Hill Junior High and Frayser High School Bands. At the age of 15, Greg began performing in numerous garage and club bands in the Memphis and Arkansas areas. By his senior year, Greg was serving as Director of the ROTC Band and was selected as the official drummer for the Memphis Cotton Carnival Royalty.

After high school, Greg entered Union University where he studied music under the direction of Dr. Gerald Welker and Mr. Charles Huffman. At Union, Greg performed in both the stage and symphonic bands and was an active member of Phi Mu Alpha and the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternities. He earned his Bachelor of Music degree with a major in Percussion Performance in 1972.

While attending Union University, Greg had the opportunity to perform in backup capacity with many well-known performers including Gary Collins, Mary Ann Mobley, Rosey Greer, and Phyllis George. He was also the warm-up drummer for Ed Shaughnessy of the Tonight Show. For several years, Greg performed with the Glenn Miller Orchestra, the Jimmy Allen Orchestra, and the Miss Tennessee Orchestra.

In 1972, Greg began his teaching career as Assistant Director at Ripley High School. Two years later, he transferred to McNairy Central High School where he taught for 5 years. In 1979, he accepted a position at Humboldt High School where he remained for 23 years. Greg was an active member of MENC, TMEA, WTSBOA, and NEA. While at Humboldt, his band was selected to perform at the TMEA Conference where he was awarded the Citation of Excellence by the TBA.

Under his direction, Greg's bands consistently earned superior ratings at concert festivals and marching competitions, and he always had student in the All-West and All-State Honor Bands. One of Greg's greatest accomplishments was the many students he taught. This included two of his nephews, who have chosen careers as band directors.