

Charlotte's rich history and abundance of African American residents who have made a difference over the years were in the spotlight on Tuesday August 27th during Who's Who in Black Charlotte's publication release and celebration. Among this year's honorees are the publication's deemed Living Legends who contributed greatly to the forward movement of Blacks in Charlotte, and the nation as a whole.

"We're really excited about this year's Living Legends," said Rhonda Caldwell, Charlotte Publisher.

The public event was hosted by Hiram Jackson, CEO of Real Times Media, at the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Real Times Media invited the public to the free 5th anniversary unveiling ceremony. The event served as a networking opportunity, as well as an opportunity for Charlotte-area residents to learn about and honor the lifelong work of the Who's Who Living Legends.

This year's designated Living Legends included Franklin McCain, Bishop George E. Battle, Jr. and Ella Scarborough. Each made their own unique contribution to Charlotte in various social and political climates.

Senior Bishop of the Piedmont Episcopal District of the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church, Bishop Battle is involved in multiple facets of the Charlotte community. As a former chairman of the Charlotte Mecklenburg School Board, he lent his skills and passion to the education sector.

His professional achievements include acting as CEO of the Battle Corporation. He now sits on several boards of directors, offering his support and expertise to better those organizations. Now presiding over the Piedmont District of the AME Zion Church, which includes Charlotte, Gastonia, Salisbury, Concord, Statesville, Asheville, Winston-Salem and Greensboro, in addition to Jamaica and East and West Angola conferences, Bishop Battle leads the most expansive district of the AME Zion Church.

Another Living Legend being recognized in this year's Who's Who in Black Charlotte publication has a name often seen in the history books, Franklin McCain. McCain first garnered attention as one of the Greensboro Four who organized and carried out the Greensboro sit-ins that began on February 1, 1960.

After completing graduate school, McCain worked as a chemist for the Celanese Corporation in Charlotte. Once here, he became involved in several local causes and served as a member of a wide range of boards. He continues to share the oral history of the civil rights movement and first-hand accounts of his own involvement.

Ella Scarborough is also named as one of this year's Who's Who Living Legends for her contributions to Charlotte through her political career. Scarborough was the first Black woman to win an at-large seat on the Charlotte City Council. During her time on the city council, Scarborough fought for funding for housing and other

necessities like water and sewage for her constituents. Scarborough also acted as president of the Black Women's Caucus of Charlotte-Mecklenburg. She continues to work in the community and fight for a number of causes in the Charlotte community.

Sponsors for the networking reception were prominent companies that operate in the Charlotte area, including TIAA CREF Financial Services, Carolinas HealthCare System, Snyder's-Lance, Piedmont Natural Gas, Belk, Coca-Cola Bottling Company, Fifth Third Bank and NewellRubbermaid.

While the Who's Who in Black Charlotte publication includes information on this year's Living Legends honorees, it also explores other important people and organizations that are actively making a difference in the Charlotte area.

Who's Who in Black Charlotte is part of a series of books published for cities across America by the Real Times Media and Who's Who Publishing, based in Ohio. In 1989, the Who's Who Publishing Company was founded to highlight and emphasize achievements of African Americans across the country. It also works to create networking opportunities within communities.

Caldwell invited the public, especially Charlotte-area residents, to use the publication as a networking resource and a teaching and learning tool.

"There is an abundance of helpful information in the book this year. We believe that that the community will find it useful in several different ways," Caldwell said.

Those interested in purchasing Who's Who in Black Charlotte can contact Caldwell at rcaldwell@themaineventnc.com or call (614) 481-7300.