



African
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Committee

“OUR STORIES”

Mary Cunningham Bishop

The Late Mary Cunningham Bishop

Mary Bishop was born in Yuma. Her father drove a school bus and worked on an ostrich farm. Her mother did domestic work. Mary attended kindergarten through second grade at Second Avenue School, and third and fourth grade at Mary Elizabeth Post School, both in Yuma. Her family moved to Phoenix in 1941 where Mary attended fifth grade at Booker T. Washington. She went on to graduate from Carver High School. Mary Bishop earned her Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education from Arizona State Teach College (now Arizona State University) in 1953. She completed 29 years of teaching in the Phoenix Elementary School District #1 and served one year as an exchange teacher in the Department of Elementary Education at Arizona State University (ASU) teaching Social Studies. Mary retired in 1983 after 30 years of teaching. Mary moved to Tempe in September of 1967. She married Arblee Bishop, also an ASU graduate, in 1968. When they bought their house, they became one of the earliest African American homeowners in Tempe.

After her retirement, Mary was actively involved in the National Education Association (NEA). She served as a member of the Board of Directors representing retired NEA members from 1990 to 1996. Mary also served on the Credential Committee, which certifies delegates to the National Annual Representative Assembly, from 1996 to 2000.

From 2002 to 2007, she was a member of the Human and Civil Rights Committee which gives several awards and sponsors the annual awards banquet. Mary was also a 50 year member of the Le Dames Charments Social Club and was co-chair of the African American Advisory Committee for the Tempe History Museum.

Commander Jeffrey D. Glover

Commander Jeffrey D. Glover began his career with the Tempe Police Department in October of 1999. He has steadily worked his way through the ranks; serving the department in a variety of capacities. He has worked as a Field Training Officer providing new recruits with mentorship and insight into the department, a Narcotics Detective, Crime Prevention Detective, Media Relations Sergeant, Patrol Lieutenant, Detention Manager, Acting Commander over 21st Century Policing, Commander over Organizational Services Division and currently serves the department as Commander over Criminal Investigations, which incorporates Homicide, Sex Crimes, Narcotics and the police department Swat Team.

From this rich work experience, Jeffrey has been able to assist the department by providing diversity training and firsthand knowledge of the African American perspective on community policing. Jeffrey has placed an emphasis on promoting community involvement and education; and provides instruction on various topics including leadership, ethics and professionalism, team dynamics, Fair and Impartial Policing, cultural awareness and diversity. Jeffrey also holds the distinction of being the first African American to hold the rank of Lieutenant and Commander for the Tempe Police Department. Jeffrey holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from Northern Arizona University and a Master's Degree in Public Administration through the University of Phoenix. Jeffrey is a graduate of the FBI National Academy Command School Session 265, He is a graduate of, and currently instructs at, the Arizona Peace Officers and Standards Arizona Leadership Program (ALP). Jeffrey is the past Arizona Chapter President of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and immediate past Regional Vice President for NOBLE over 12 western states. He is also a member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) and sits on both IACP's Crime Prevention Committee and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Committee. Jeffrey serves on the Executive Board for the Arizona Women's Initiative Network (AZWIN), which is dedicated to developing leadership courses and assessments for women in law enforcement. Additionally, Jeffrey has been appointed by Governor Doug Ducey to serve as a State Commissioner on the Arizona Commission of African American Affairs and is the current Chairman of the Commission.

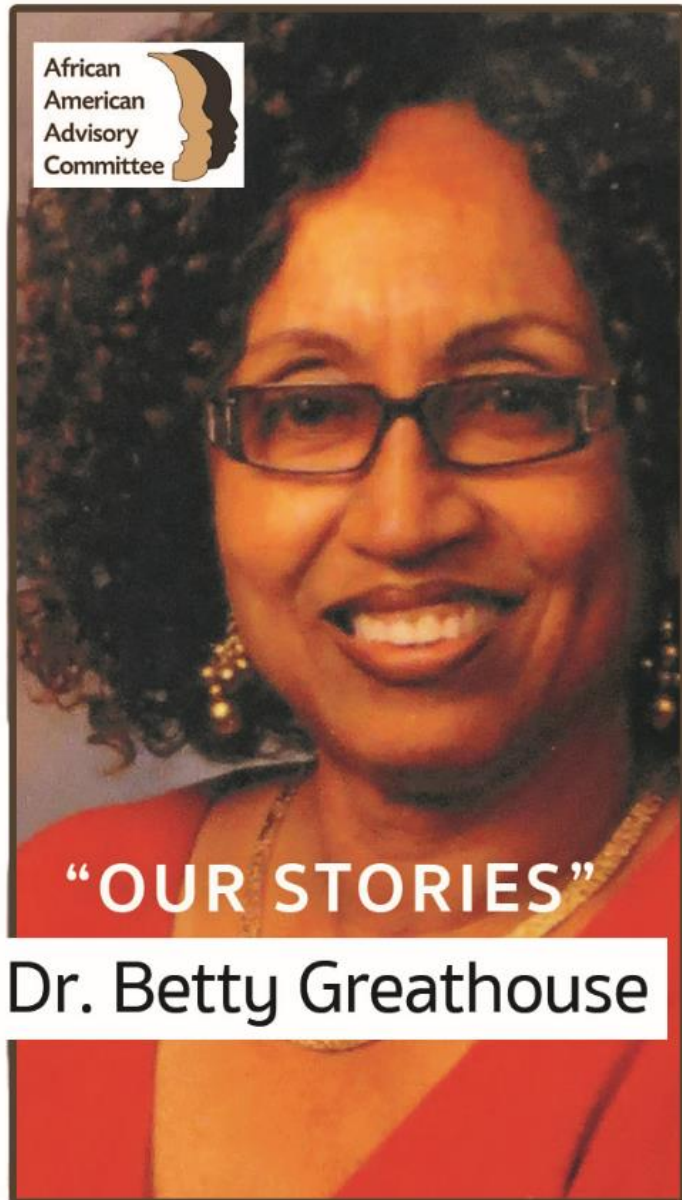
When he is not working, Jeffrey enjoys spending time with his wife Tracy and two children Noah and Jonathan.



"OUR STORIES"

Jeffrey D. Glover

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Dr. Betty Greathouse

Dr. Betty Greathouse

Dr. Betty Greathouse was born to Mae L. and Oliver Harris in Mesa, Arizona in 1939. Her family moved to Phoenix in 1943. She was raised in Phoenix and attended Dunbar and Mary Bethune Elementary Schools, which were segregated. Betty completed three years at Phoenix Union High School and graduated from Tempe High School. Due to the 1954 Brown vs. Board of Education Decision, both high schools were integrated.

Betty earned a BA, MEd and PhD from Arizona State University (ASU). She joined the ASU faculty in 1972. Her leadership positions included Program Coordinator, Assistant Chairperson, Assistant Dean of Minority Affairs and Admissions in the Graduate College, and Director of the Division of Curriculum and Instruction.

Betty served on numerous student and faculty boards and organizations, including the Black Student Union, the Women's Athletic Board, the Intercollegiate Athletic Board, and Faculty Senate. She was Dean of the School of Education at California State University Bakersfield from 1990-1997. Betty returned to ASU in 1997 and retired at the rank of full professor in 2000.

Her significant professional and civic contributions garnered many awards, including induction into the Phoenix College (2003) and the ASU, Mary Lou Fulton College of Education Halls of Fame (2008).

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Mary Green

Family of Mary Green

Mary Green

Mary Green was the first African American known to have purchase land in what is now known as Tempe. Mary first resided in Phoenix. Mary homesteaded 160 acres in 1888 near the intersection of what is now Rural and Warner Roads.

Members of the Green Family were probably the first African Americans to live in Tempe on a long term basis. Ada, Mary's youngest daughter moved to Tempe in 1894. Mary Green grandson, Archie Lewis, son of Ada Lewis is the first African American child known to be born in Tempe.

By May 1896 Mary sold the last of her original acres and returned to Phoenix.

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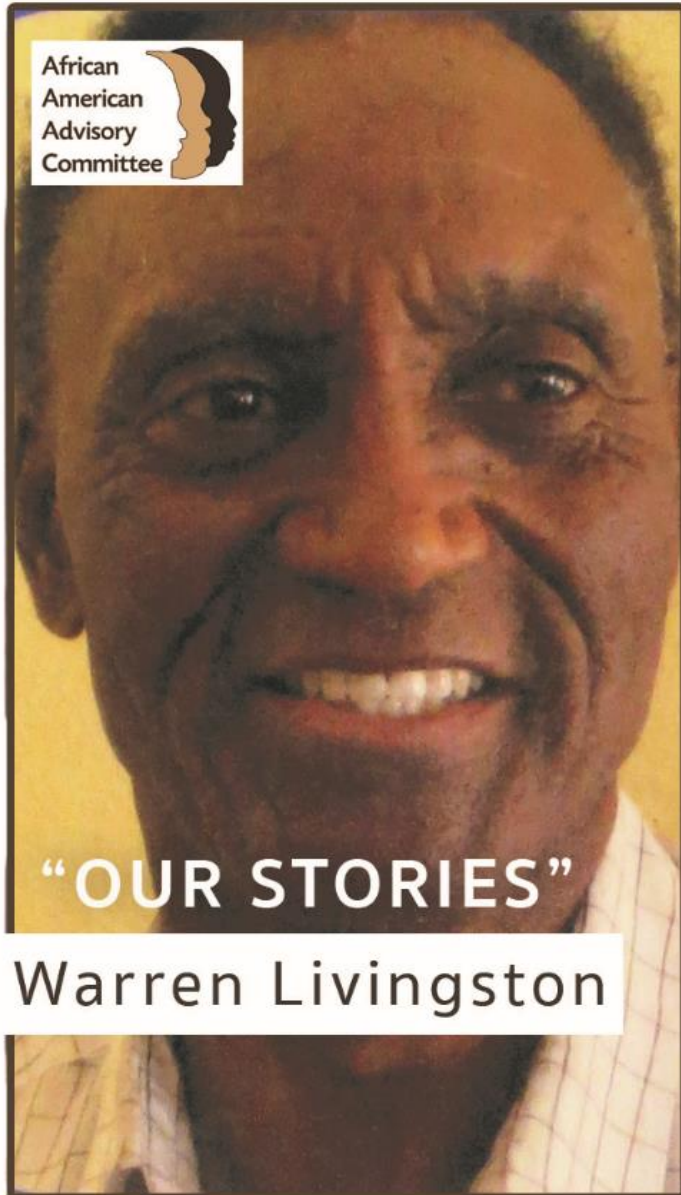
Berdetta Hodge

Berdetta Hodge

Berdetta Hodge serves as the President of the Tempe Union High School Governing Board, she also is the East Valley NAACP Educational Coordinator and is a co-treasurer for the Booker T. Washington Child Development Center. She was the first African-American woman elected in the city of Tempe with her election to the TUHSD Board.

Berdetta has spent her life advocating for the less fortunate. She has worked for candidates, campaigns and organizations that share her desire to see a better and more equitable city and world.

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Warren Livingston

Warren Livingston

Warren Livingston was born in Eufaula, Oklahoma. He first came to Arizona on a cotton truck from Oklahoma at the age of 9. His family made Arizona home in 1948-when Warren was 10. They first lived in Casa Grande, then Coolidge, then Queen Creek, and finally Mesa. As a result, he went to 5 different elementary schools. His family moved to Mesa in 1952 when Warren was 14. He attended Mesa Junior High and then Mesa High School and graduated in 1957.

After graduating high school, Warren attended the University of Arizona on a football scholarship. He also participated in track. Warren received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Arizona in 1961, after which he went to play for the Dallas Cowboys as a defensive cornerback. He played for six seasons.

Warren began working for Motorola in the off-season in 1964. He and his wife, Carol, bought their house in Tempe in 1965. Warren retired from football in 1966 and worked for Motorola from 1964-1995. Carol and Warren have two children, Carla Yvette Livingston and Karen Livingston. Both of the Livingstons are very active in Union Institutional Baptist Church in Phoenix.

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Edward Smith

The Late Edward Smith

Edward Smith was born October 11, 1939 in Phoenix, Arizona. Edward's father was a cotton farmer and plumber while his mother was a housewife. He grew up in an adobe house, which had no electricity or running water, just north of the Salt River.

Edward went to Dunbar, an all-black elementary school, and then attended Mary Bethun Middle School, which was also segregated. He enrolled at Phoenix Union High School in 1953, the first year it was integrated. Ed then went to Phoenix College on a track scholarship and traveled around the Southwest to compete against other teams. He attended Arizona State University, but had to leave because he had to take care of his family.

Edward later became interested in psychology and education, and worked as a psychiatric aid as well as a teacher in the Mental Health Hospital. He also worked to ensure employee diversity for the City of Phoenix, including firefighters and police officers. Edward became the Deputy Director of the Greater Phoenix Urban League and later founded the Urban League in Southern Illinois. After living in Illinois for a number of years, Edward moved back to Tempe in 2000. Edward was the visionary and founder of the African American Advisory Committee for the Tempe History Museum. He served as the first chair for the committee.

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Chris Snow

Chris Snow

Chris Snow grew up in Los Angeles California and moved to Arizona just before high school. He graduated from Desert Vista High School in the Tempe Union High School District. Upon graduation he was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers where he played Baseball for four years until he was injured in a car accident.

After leaving Baseball, Chris worked as a Vice President for Countrywide Bank's Consumer Banking Department until 2008. He attended Phoenix and Mesa Community Colleges as well as Northwestern University.

Chris was hired by the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department in 2008 and was promoted to Fire Captain in 2015. He was the first African American promoted to the rank of Captain with the Fire Department in Tempe.

Chris is currently serving as the Interim Deputy Chief of Training and Professional Development with the Tempe Fire Department. Chris is also the first African American to serve as Interim Deputy Chief for the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department.



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La Vern Tarkington

Dr. La Vern Tarkington

Dr. La Vern Tarkington is a retired educator after more than 30 years of active professional services. She is the first African American and female to serve in leadership positions of Teacher, Principal, and retiring as the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources of the Tempe Union High School District, she was selected to return as the Interim Superintendent.

Although born in Texas, Dr. Tarkington perceives herself as an adopted native of Arizona having lived in Phoenix since one year of age. She attended elementary and high school in Phoenix. Upon graduation, she attended Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee, one of the Historically Black Colleges and Universities recognized for producing outstanding leaders. Dr. Tarkington graduated from Arizona State University with a B.A. in Elementary Education, a Masters in Counselor Education, and a Doctorate in Educational Administration. For four years, Dr. Tarkington served on the Executive Board of the Arizona School Administrators Association, Inc., first as the President of the Educational Services Division, secondly as Chairman of the Regional Advisory Board, and finally as the first African-American elected as President of the Association. She held memberships in both the Arizona Executive Board of the North Central Accreditation Association and Tempe Community Council Board of Directors. She has been appointed by three State Superintendents of Public Instruction to serve on advisory committees such as the State Board of Education Advisory Committee for Special Education, the Arizona Board of Regents minority Education Access and Achievement Cooperative and the Arizona Financial Summit for Public Education.

Dr. Tarkington has been involved with many community activities, including the Phoenix Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for more than 48 years. She has been extensively involved in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority serving as President of her chapter, Regional Representative to International Standards Committee, Heritage Committee Team Leader and served as the 23rd Far Western Regional Director.

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Corey Woods

Corey Woods

Corey Woods is the Chief of Staff at ASU Preparatory Academy. He is responsible for assisting the CEO with day-to-day operations and strategic initiatives. Woods previously served as the Chief Operating Officer for the Greater Phoenix Urban League, Director of College and Career Articulation for the Phoenix Union High School District and Director of Government Relations for the American Lung Association of Arizona.

His personal commitment to community service extends to board memberships for many organizations including Newtown Community Development Corporation, Children's Action Alliance, Landings Credit Union, Mulligan's Manor and the Downtown Tempe Foundation. Woods is also an emeritus board member of Equality Arizona, active member and past president of the Kiwanis Club of Tempe, and former two-term board president of the Tempe Boys and Girls Club - Ladmo Branch.

Woods served as a Councilmember for the City of Tempe from July 2008 – July 2016. He was elected to the Tempe City Council in May 2008 and reelected in March 2012. Woods was instrumental in guiding city policy that led to Tempe's perfect score in the Human Rights Campaign's "Municipal Equality Index." He championed initiatives in the areas of affordable housing and human services while working tirelessly to improve community development standards to attract business investment and protect neighborhoods.

Woods graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in April 2000 with a B.A. in Political Science, and a minor in African-American Studies. After college, Woods was a teaching assistant at ASU for three years. In May 2018, Woods earned a Master of Arts in Educational Policy from ASU's Mary Lou Fulton College of Education.