

Foreword by  
**DR. SAMUEL  
D. PROCTOR**

# **THE ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION OF AFRICAN- AMERICANS**

**"Let the Church say, Amen"**

**BY RICHARD E. BARBER, SR.**



PENNY POWER PENNY POWER PENNY POWER PENNY POWER PENNY POWER PENNY



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
FOREWORD .....	8
PREFACE .....	10
INTRODUCTION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	12
A COMPASS OF OUR OWN.....	19
ECONOMICS AND POLITICS: An Agenda of Progress For African-Americans.....	23
THE ECONOMIC EMANCIPATION PLAN FOR AFRICAN-AMERICANS.....	30
The National Church Credit Union.....	37
The Self-Insurance Association.....	38
The 5-2-1 Development Fund.....	38
College and University Endowment Program.....	40
The Annual National Penny Campaign.....	43
AN APPEAL TO THE CHURCH COMMUNITY.....	63
CONCLUSION.....	72
THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW WORLD NATIONAL BANK "An Idea Whose Time Had Come".....	80
APPENDICES	
I. The Penalty of Leadership.....	123
II. Mind Food .....	125
III. Self-Insurance Association/Penny Party Information Packet.....	147
IV. Mel Blount's Letter to Athletes and Entertainers.....	148
V. Certificate of Commitment .....	151
VI. Mel Blount's Letter to Pastors & Church Leaders.....	152
VII. Power of Knowledge Pledge.....	158
VIII. Select List of Black Consumer Spending.....	160
IX. African Proverbs to Ponder.....	161
X. Dr. Robert Schuller's Quotations.....	167
INDEX .....	174

---

PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER

---

## FOREWORD

The Black church has been the center of the Black community since its inception in the closing decade of the eighteenth century. The church provided the leadership, the schools and the spiritual and moral support for persons who were destined to remain marginal in America for another two hundred years.

One problem always remained unresolved, however; that was the formation of capital for the financing of Black enterprises in business and industry. Small efforts were abundant and successful, but apart from Maggie Walker's beauty products and the insurance companies there was little else to show. We had handsome mortuaries, independent carpenters and masons, blacksmiths, barbers, caterers and draymen, but the big enterprises eluded us.

So, here we are with the churches, strong and well staffed and supported on the one hand, and on the other hand, a huge vacuum in business enterprises.

Richard Barber is a creative and industrious person. In Pittsburgh a new Black bank sprang into being under his guidance and direction. He is haunted by the dream of capital formation among Blacks, the churches primarily, looking forward to a serious change in the face of the Black communities in America.

---

PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER

---

With modest success this point could be made convincing, and momentum could grow and give this dream reality. Everything has a beginning with an idea, and Dick Barber's idea may be a true beginning.

Samuel D. Proctor  
Pastor Emeritus  
Abyssinian Baptist  
Church and Professor  
Emeritus, Martin Luther  
King Jr. Chair  
Rutgers University

One of the known Americans is the nation which has a climate of hostility, hopes, dreams, Let us remember for survival and environment is replete with exploitation, struggle against injustice. Yet, hope have kept and full participation experiment.

Once again we are challenging our These forces are hardship in our among the poor : these forces, we pleading with our responsibility for Booker T. Washington buckets where you and talents for : voice of Dr. Mary legacy she left : voice of Frederick there is no struggle

his point could be  
momentum could grow  
Everything has a  
Dick Barber's idea

l D. Proctor  
Emeritus  
nian Baptist  
1 and Professor  
us, Martin Luther  
'. Chair  
s University

## PREFACE

One of the key concerns of most African-Americans is the conservative mood of the nation which has resulted in an increasing climate of hostility and insensitivity to our hopes, dreams, and aspirations as a people. Let us remember, however, that our struggle for survival and full citizenship in a hostile environment is nothing new. Our history is replete with example after example of our struggle against racism, discrimination and injustice. Yet, our faith, determination and hope have kept us going toward a brighter day and full participation in the American experiment.

Once again we are witnessing sinister forces challenging our institutions and our progress. These forces are causing much suffering and hardship in our communities, especially among the poor and the elderly. In response to these forces, we hear voices from the past pleading with us to unite, organize and take responsibility for our destiny. The voice of Booker T. Washington says, "Cast down your buckets where you are; develop your resources and talents for self-sufficiency." We hear the voice of Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune echoing the legacy she left us. We hear the thunderous voice of Frederick Douglass saying, "where there is no struggle, there is no progress."

---

TER • PENNY POWER

---

PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER

---

Power concedes nothing without a demand, it never has and never will." The eloquent voice of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. calls upon us, "to straighten our backs because no one can ride your back unless it is bent."

Friends, we are indeed facing difficult and trying times. These times do not demand "summer soldiers nor sunshine patriots." These times require dedicated and firmly committed persons to the cause of 'economic emancipation' and meaningful progress. We need an army of volunteers who, day in and day out, week after week, month after month, will work untiringly and unselfishly on an agenda of progress on many fronts, facing possible obstacles and disappointments with a determined resolve.

I am grateful to those volunteers who have heard the voices out of the past of our fallen heroes and heeded their pleading. May we continue to work together diligently to improve the quality of life in our communities by solving some of the problems and difficult situations our people face on a daily basis. May we "walk together little children and don't get weary" on this historic journey toward Economic Emancipation. Remember:

"IF YOU ARE NOT PART OF THE SOLUTION,  
THEN YOU ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM."

---

PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER • PENNY POWER

---





**RICHARD EARL BARBER**, the son of a Trenton, North Carolina farmer, was born December 22, 1939. His determined efforts through undergraduate school at North Carolina A&T State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and graduate school at the University of Southern California with a Master of Science degree in Systems Management, with additional graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh in Business Administration, earned him numerous awards, accolades, and the reputation of having that unusual combination of sensitivity and courage.

His concern for others and a strong personal desire to improve the economic status of the poor and downtrodden serves as the great motivating forces in his life. These forces prompted him to give up a

promising corporate career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1969 to join the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) as Deputy Director. He considers Dr. Leon Sullivan his economic mentor. He co-founded Urban Talent Development (UTD) Inc., a management Development and Business Orientation Center, with Brady Keys, Jr., former Pittsburgh Steeler. During his seven (7) years as President, UTD trained and placed more than 1400 unemployed and underemployed persons in meaningful employment. The UTD story is a classic in manpower and management success and was cited in the Congressional Record in 1974 as one of the Nation's most effective manpower development programs. Under his dynamic, creative and inspirational leadership, New World National Bank, the only African-American owned full service commercial bank in Pennsylvania was organized in Pittsburgh. Referred to as the "Economic Evangelist", he organized 200 churches and raised \$800,000.00 to open the bank on March 17, 1975.

He served as Deputy Executive Director of the National NAACP with Dr. Benjamin Hooks in New York and as Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration in the Carter Administration. In this position, he was responsible for small business activities in the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. At the state level, he served as Deputy Secretary for Procurement for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

In 1984, he founded Penny Lovers of America, Inc., a scholarship and economic development organization and serves as National President.

Some of the numerous awards and recognitions he has received include the George Washington Freedom Medals - 1963 and 1964 for creative writing. Pittsburgh Jaycees' Outstanding Young Man of Pittsburgh - 1971; A&T State University National Alumni Achievement Award for 1971; one of the ten Outstanding Young Men of America for 1975 by the U.S. Jaycees; Man of the Year in Business by the Pittsburgh Business and Professional Women for 1975; Man of the Year by the World Wide Bible Deliverance Church for 1975. In March of 1990, he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of North Carolina A&T by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

Barber served his country as a military army officer rising to the rank of Captain.

Articulate, intelligent and dynamic, Dick Barber's many achievements are the result of his pragmatic and positive attitude to life. In whatever role he is placed, one can always expect devotion, dedication and total commitment.

*"This book presents an unparalleled challenge to the church community with a practical and comprehensive economic blueprint for African-Americans".*

**Dr. Manuel Dillingham**  
Pastor, Canaan Baptist Church  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

*"A creative and innovative road map for African-Americans seriously committed to entrepreneurship and economic independence".*

**Parren Mitchell**  
Former U.S. Congressman  
Baltimore, Maryland

*"An extraordinary book reflecting genius, vision and an inspirational message of economic self-reliance so necessary for these difficult times".*

**Wynona Lipman**, Senator, Newark, New Jersey

ISBN 0-9634704-0-X





ideas, trends  
& perspective

@issue

# CLOSER TO THE DREAM

Progress, but King would expect more



The Franklin (Somerset County) group at the Aug. 28 March on Washington included (left to right) Maxine Gorrell and Tamir, her 16-year-old grandson; Richard E. Barber Sr., organizer of the trip; Eva Carmichael, the photographer for the trip; Mary Smith; Freda Rhett, the trip coordinator; Carolyn Smith; and Kathleen Lyles. PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD E. BARBER SR.

**R**ichard E. Barber Sr. of Somerset is a former deputy executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), and he served as a regional administrator in the Small Business Administration under President Jimmy Carter.

He was co-founder of Urban Talent Development, a management development and business orientation center in Pennsylvania, and was also a leading organizer behind the establishment of New World National Bank, the only African-American-owned, full-service commercial bank in Pennsylvania.

As a deacon at the First Baptist Church of Lincoln Gardens in Franklin, Barber, 74, recently organized a community trip to the 50th anniversary commemoration of the March on Washington on Aug. 28. He talked to us about that trip and his views of civil rights progress over the last 50 years.

**Q: How would you describe the March on Washington commemoration?**

**A:** I observed it as a unique celebration honoring the courageous and inspirational leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. during the civil unrest and turbulent times of the '60s and his lasting legacy for unborn generations. A time when black Americans strengthened their backs and risked their lives to fight for freedom and justice long denied them for over 300 years.

That period included the 246 years of that "peculiar and evil institution of slavery," when our ancestors worked without a payday to build the economic foundation on which many American and European corporate entities rest even today.

The March on Washington provided a window of opportunity to showcase to the nation and the entire world community the progress that America has made in race relations, in the areas of social, educational, economic and political activities. We are not there yet, but tremendous progress and changes have been made toward that "more perfect Union."

**Q: What does Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech mean to you?**



Holding a photo of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Nathaniel Scott, 49, of Memphis, cries during a commemoration Aug. 28 of the 50th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, at the National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis. AP

## Pivotal events in civil rights movement recalled

Several key events in the 1950s and early 1960s helped to push the cause of civil rights forward and laid the groundwork for the 1963 March on Washington and the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I Have a Dream" speech. Here, Richard E. Barber Sr. of Somerset recalls some of those events, in his own words:

» The brutal murder, in August 1955, of 14-year-old Emmett Till in Money, Miss., for reportedly "whistling at a white lady."

"I was 16 years old at that time, and I still remember that gruesome cover of *Jet* magazine of young Till in his casket. His mother, Mamie Bradley, chose to have an open casket of her son so the entire world could see the horrors of his murder. I met Mrs. Till several years ago when she visited New Jersey and had pictures taken with her. She passed a year or so after her New Jersey visit."



# College tuition reform could ease debt burdens

By Sen. Steve Sweeney

College tuition in New Jersey has reached a state of crisis. Middle-class families are being priced out of quality higher education because they cannot afford it now, nor can they afford to take on mountains of debt in the future.

The residents of New

Jersey recognized their responsibility to address capital needs of our public higher education institutions by approving the Building Our Future bond last year. However, it is past time to begin a discussion on how we alleviate the debt our college students continue to bear.

New Jersey can set a national model for fixing

the current unsustainable system of student debt.

Nationwide, average tuition costs at four-year public colleges have more than tripled over the last three decades. The average student loan borrower also graduates with more than \$26,000 in debt. Approximately 7 million borrowers have defaulted on student loans.

Recently, we introduced legislation that would create a commission to study a newly proposed college funding system called "Pay Forward, Pay Back." If the commission determines that such a program is warranted, it would create the option of forgoing charging students tuition and fees for enrollment at

public institutions of higher education and instead allow students to pay back a percentage of their income upon graduation for a certain number of years. The money would be paid back interest-free, eliminating one of the biggest costs of the current tuition system.

"Pay Forward, Pay Back" may not hold all the

answers, but it will certainly get the conversation rolling on the issue of tuition costs. It's easy to say, "That won't work." The one sure thing that won't work is to continue on the path we're on.

Sen. Steve Sweeney, D-Gloucester, is president of the New Jersey Senate.

## RIGHTS

Continued from Page E1

On Dec. 1, 1955, Rosa Parks, a seamstress and secretary of the local NAACP branch in Montgomery, Ala., refused to give up her seat on a public city bus to a white man and refused to move to the back of the bus, as was the local custom.

Mrs. Parks was arrested and taken to jail. This

led to a 381-day boycott of the city buses by black people and gave rise to the national leadership of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

After the boycott ended, Mrs. Parks was unable to find work in Montgomery, and was harassed by death threats, so she and her husband, Raymond, moved to Detroit. She later worked for Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich.

"I met Mrs. Parks several

times over the years, and had a picture taken with her and C. Delores Tucker of Philadelphia, and actress Halle Berry at the 25th anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington in August 1988."

On Feb. 1, 1960, four black freshman students at North Carolina A&T College sat down at the whites-only lunch counter at a Woolworth store in Greensboro, N.C., after shopping for school sup-

plies and refused to move, even when the police showed up.

The four freshmen were Ezell Blair Jr., David Richmond, Franklin McCain and Joseph McNeil, my physics classmate and friend.

Unlike me, Joe remained in the Air Force for a career and retired as a major general. I, along with George McLaughlin (now a dentist in New Brunswick), were very ac-

tive in the sit-in movement during our student days at North Carolina A&T and are still active in the New Jersey State Conference NAACP.

We encourage visitors to Greensboro to go to the college campus for a photo at the Four Freshmen statue and the International Civil Rights Museum at the Woolworth store in the downtown area.

The bombing of the

16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., on Sept. 15, 1963, where "four little black angels" were killed by dynamite while sitting in a Sunday school class.

On Monday morning after that bombing, Sgt. Robert Jackson, my platoon sergeant, came to my office and informed me that a victim, Denise McNair, was his niece. He sat before my desk and wept — and I cried.

## PROGRESS

Continued from Page E1

A: The true and full meaning of Dr. King's "I Have a Dream" speech to me is that it provided a "non-violence framework, a vision and challenge" for all Americans to shake off the shackles of segregation and racial discrimination, both by laws and practices, and live in a nation where "one would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character."

His speech challenged American government at all levels to remove and eliminate restricted covenants and legislation that blocked persons of color from the full benefits and privileges provided under the nation's Constitution for all Americans, regardless of race, color, national origin or creed. His speech encouraged and motivated freedom movements across the globe.

As a young Army lieutenant stationed in West Germany in August 1963, I was encouraged as a part of the defenders of freedom during that Cold War era to stay strong and focused on my military mission, even though unjust and discriminatory laws were still firmly in place back in America, my native land.

Q: Other than that speech, what events do you believe were most pivotal in advancing the civil rights cause?

A: There were several events from August 1955 into the early '60s that collectively resulted in a greater focus on and advanced the civil rights cause. However, I believe that the single most pivotal civil rights event was the Greensboro sit-ins, for they spread to over 125 cities, North as well as South, over a three- or four-month period, and re-energized the civil rights movement nationally.

They contributed greatly to the activities leading up to the 1963 March on Washington, and the enactment of key civil rights legislation in

1964 and 1965. Dr. King would visit Greensboro during the lunch counter sit-ins to help raise bail money for the students that were arrested.

Q: Do you believe racism has substantially decreased since the 1960s? Or do you believe it just manifests itself in other ways?

A: I believe that overt racism has drastically decreased since the 1960s due to changes in public policy and civil rights legislation in 1964 and 1965. Although in many ways it has become more insidious and cunning, led by Jim Crow, Esq.

Q: Do you worry that the overturning of the law restricting changes in voting-rights laws in the old slave states will open the door to more voter suppression once again?

A: Yes, I do indeed. The new poll tax-type restrictions in the form of ID voter requirements and making it more difficult for certain segments of the population to register and vote is leading to more voter suppression.

Gen. Colin Powell was absolutely right when he spoke in North Carolina, my native state, in August and stated that "if voter fraud is so widespread, why is it not being detected?" So I continue to remind my fellow citizens that "eternal vigilance is the safeguard for a democratic society."

Q: Do you believe there is still a need for affirmative action?

A: There is still a need for credible and meaningful initiatives to address the inequalities in recruitment and training opportunities; the hiring and promotion/performance evaluation processes; and retirement benefits and rights.

Q: Do you think Dr. King would be pleased with how far civil rights have advanced today, or disappointed that more progress hasn't been made?

A: I believe and have concluded that Dr. King would be very disappointed and displeased that in too many areas we are

still fighting the civil rights battles of yesterday and that a larger percentage of the population, it seems, are not doing their share to right some of the past wrongs.

I strongly believe that if Dr. King had lived and returned to Washington in 1968 with the "Poor People Campaign and Operation Breadbasket," he would not have said "I Have a Dream," but rather he would have declared that "I Have a Plan," and I believe that plan would have been based on economics and politics.

That is precisely why I completed the Sullivan-King Economic Justice Initiatives of 2008. These initiatives are named for and honor the work and legacies of Dr. Leon Sullivan of Philadelphia and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to promote economic empowerment through public and private strategic partnerships, which foster greater self-help and self-reliance.

Q: When you were in your teens, could you have come close to imagining a black president? What else about today's society may have seemed forever unattainable to blacks back then?

A: When I was a teenager growing up on that tobacco farm in rural North Carolina, I could not have imagined a black county commissioner (freeholder), or a school superintendent, certainly not a state assemblyman or senator. But a black president? Please, get real.

But, thanks be to God, we had strong, hard-working Christian and faith-based parents who taught me and my five sisters and three brothers Christian values and the true value and purpose of a good education. One of my father's favorite sayings when we were facing difficult and challenging situations growing up on the farm (and there were many) was to say, "Children, the darkest hour of the night is just before daybreak."

Thank you, Papa, for your wisdom and caring.



The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. waves to the crowd on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 28, 1963, when he delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech. AP



**"THE ECONOMIC EVANGALIST IS COMING TO THE  
GENERAL BAPTIST CONVENTION OF NEW JERSEY "**



**Deacon Richard E. Barber, Sr.**

**ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR: "A PLAN AND STRATEGY FOR ECONOMIC  
EMANCIPATION OF BACK STREET AMERICA, AND THE ROLE OF THE CHURCH  
IN ITS IMPLEMENTATION"**

*"Effective Christian Leadership for Such a Time as This"*

**"Teaching Our Dollars To Have More \$ense"  
(Starting with the Penny)**

***Scriptural Guidance (Mind Food)***

**"WHERE THERE IS NO VISION, THE PEOPLE PERISH"**

Proverbs: 29:18

**"MY PEOPLE ARE DESTROYED, FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE"**

Hosea 4:6

**"SO BUILT WE THE WALL: AND ALL THE WALL WAS JOINED TOGETHER UNTO THE HALF  
THEREOF, FOR THE PEOPLE HAD A MIND TO WORK"**

Nehemiah 4:6

**Date & Time: Thursday, October 9, 2014; 2:00PM--4:00PM**

**Place: St. John Baptist Church, 2387 Morse Avenue; Scotch Plains, New Jersey 07076**

**Who should Attend: Laymen, Deacons, Trustees and Others with a committed heart  
Ready and willing hands for economic empowerment and progressive community  
Developments.**

**Remember: "If you are not part of the solution , then you are part of the problem"**

**DBARBER38@COMCAST.NET**

**(over)**





**RICHARD EARL BARBER**, the son of a Trenton, North Carolina farmer, was born December 22, 1939. His determined efforts through undergraduate school at North Carolina A&T State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and graduate school at the University of Southern California with a Master of Science degree in Systems Management, with additional graduate work at the University of Pittsburgh in Business Administration, earned him numerous awards, accolades, and the reputation of having that unusual combination of sensitivity and courage.

His concern for others and a strong personal desire to improve the economic status of the poor and downtrodden serves as the great motivating forces in his life. These forces prompted him to give up a promising corporate career with Westinghouse Electric Corporation in 1969 to join the Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) as Deputy Director. He considers Dr. Leon Sullivan his economic mentor.

He co-founded Urban Talent Development (UTD) Inc., a management Development and Business Orientation Center, with Brady Keys, Jr., former Pittsburgh Steeler. During his seven years as President, UTD trained and placed more than 1400 unemployed and underemployed persons in meaningful employment. The UTD story is a classic in manpower and management success and was cited in the Congressional Record in 1974 as one of the Nation's most effective manpower development programs. Under his dynamic, creative and inspirational leadership, New World National Bank, the only African-American owned full service commercial bank in Pennsylvania was organized in Pittsburgh. Referred to as the "Economic Evangelist", he organized 200 churches and raised \$800,000.00 to open the bank on March 17, 1975.

He served as Deputy Executive Director of the National NAACP with Dr. Benjamin Hooks in New York and as Regional Administrator of the Small Business Administration in the Carter Administration. In this position, he was responsible for small business activities in the states of Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. At the state level, he served as Deputy Secretary for Procurement for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and Director of Purchasing for University of Medicine & Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ). Executive Director & Founder of the Institute for Back Street America.

In 1984, he founded Penny Lovers of America, Inc., a scholarship and economic development organization and serves as National President.

Some of the numerous awards and recognitions he has received include the George Washington Freedom Medals - 1963 and 1964 for creative writing. Pittsburgh Jaycees Outstanding Young Man of Pittsburgh - 1971; A&T State University National Alumni Achievement Award for 1971; one of the ten Outstanding Young Men of America for 1975 by the U.S. Jaycees; Man of the Year in Business by the Pittsburgh Business and Professional Women for 1975; Man of the Year by the World Wide Bible Deliverance Church for 1975. In March of 1990 he was named a Distinguished Alumnus of North Carolina A&T by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education (NAFEO).

Barber served his country as a military army officer rising to the rank of Captain.

Articulate, intelligent and dynamic, Dick Barber's many achievements are the result of his pragmatic and positive attitude to life. In whatever role he is placed, one can always expect devotion, dedication and total commitment.



## N.C. A&T, CLASS OF '62

# 50 years ago, we saw promise of America — and today, too

In the fall of 1958, we, the Class of 1962, entered North Carolina A&T College to continue our post-secondary education and prepare for our chosen careers.

We came from farms and backwoods communities and larger cities and towns across the South; we came from urban communities in the North, including a large contingent of foreign students. We came with Emmitt Till's tragic death in Mississippi in 1955, and Rosa Parks and the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott fresh on our minds.

Most of us came from rigidly segregated and apartheid-like communities throughout the South. But we all came with one thing in common: a burning desire for a better life.

We participated in the Greensboro sit-ins led by Ezell Blair, Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeil and David Richmond, which re-energized the civil rights movement.

It sparked sit-ins, swim- and wade-ins, and read-ins across the nation.

We participated in extracurricular activities and campus organizations to sharpen our interpersonal and leadership skills. We embraced the "cause of education" in the words of Horace Mann and the "promise of America" in the words of Thomas Wolfe. Mann wrote:

*If ever there was a cause  
If ever there can be a cause  
Worthy to be upheld by all the  
toil  
or sacrifices that the human  
heart can endure,  
It is the cause of education*



RICHARD E. BARBER

Wolfe added:

*To every man (and  
woman) his chance;  
To every man regard-  
less of his birth,  
his shining golden op-  
portunity;  
To every man the right  
to live,  
to work, to be himself;  
To become whatever*

*his manhood and  
decisions combine to make  
him,  
That is the promise of America.*

A&T embraced us and transformed our lives — both as a "life changer and a life giver."

We left this institution in 1962 to become scientists, computer experts, engineers, lawyers and doctors, nurses, social workers, military officers, teachers, entrepreneurs, business persons and responsible citizens. For the wonderful A&T experience, we shall always be grateful.

So, as we gather this weekend to celebrate our 50th class reunion, let us be mindful as we reminisce and withdraw from our individual "memory banks" the many persons who played key roles in our development.

Let us remember the college administrators: Dr. Warmouth T. Gibbs, Dr. Samuel D. Proctor and Dr. Lewis C. Dowdy; the faculty and staff; and our parents and guardians for their supportive roles and guiding hands.

Let us remember our deceased classmates and their families. We salute and remember our classmates who went off on military missions across the globe, and to those who served in harm's way in the jungles of Southeast Asia, where ultimate sacrifices were

made for this country.

To our classmates Donald Brandon, Deanna Geter and Evelyn Williams, our class coordinators, the entire Class of '62 shall be eternally grateful for the outstanding efforts you have made through the years for us. Your reunion planning, coordination and work with the National Alumni Office was nearly flawless.

To Chancellor Harold Martin and your administration, we thank you for the support in making our 50th class reunion a historic and memorable occasion. It provides us the opportunity to renew friendships and to share our experiences, travels and journeys over the last 50 years.

Finally, I am hopeful that when we leave this joyous reunion this weekend to return to our homes and local communities, we go with a renewed faith, determination and commitment to continue to address the challenges of this nation, and with a firm resolve of support for this institution for the benefit of future generations.

Let us go with a greater sense of community and in the spirit of that biblical admonishment as written and recorded in Luke 12: 48: "... Much is required from those to whom much is given, and much more is required from those to whom much more is given."

North Carolina A&T State University has given us so much. May we continue to share that knowledge and wisdom with our respective communities and the world.

*Richard E. Barber is president, N.C. A&T Class of 1962, which is being honored at today's commencement.*