



# RELIGION

Scripture of the Week

James 1:19-20

## Richardson Receives Nomination for Jefferson Award

by Mattie Ann Callier-Spears

In the midst of the hustle and bustle, the crime and violence, the chaos and carnage--there is still hope for the

covetous award can be paid employees or volunteers, of any age. They can not be and elected official or a well-known

nia. In 1972, James F. Richardson, a mental health worker, at that time, wanted to begin a drill team that would promote positive behavior, poise, academic excellence and an ability to follow directions.

Following seven months of discipline and hard work, the 42 member drill team was ready to perform in one of the biggest parades in the nation, the Christmas Parade in Watts, California. The parade was televised in Los Angeles with the Jackson Five singing group serving as judges. Television personality, Redd Foxx, was the grand marshal. James Richardson was asked, "Why an all-girl drill team?" Richardson responded, "A young lady has to have herself together at all times. The girls learn poise and proper behavior through the drill exercises. If you can get the girls together to function as young ladies, then they will get the guys to shape up."

Richardson was a professional drummer and has also served in the Armed Forces. Through his involvement in these areas and after seeing other drill teams, in the general area, he noticed that the young people were greatly interested in becoming involved. In his mind, he began developing routines. Progress was slow, at first, but, "We got started just like the Army," Richardson said. "The girls had to learn how to place one foot in front of the other. Boy! Was that a hassle!"

### You Cannot Drill if You Have No Respect for the Property of Others

Portland acquired Richardson in 1980. He immediately began a drill team, after viewing the overall unrest among the young people. "All I have been hearing the young folks say since I've been here is, 'There's nothing to do

around here,'" Richardson shared. After recruiting and formulating, the STARS AND STRIPES drill team was the largest drill team in the entire state of Oregon. Since then other drill teams have been formed in other communities throughout the Portland community and the state.

James Freeman Richardson is truly a special person. Through his involvement with the youth of the community, he has turned many young people

with many, many others.

Parent participation is very important. Currently, there are approximately eight parents taking an active role in the functions of the drill team. The parent board is presently planning fund raisers for the 1990-1991 year. Richardson cited Mrs. Audrey Henry as being one of the parents who went over and beyond the call of duty. She held a barbecue dinner at her home, to raise funds.

so that when they are not drill they can sing songs of praise, participate on programs throughout the community. The young ladies are in great demand. Just this weekend, they were seen strutting their stuff in the African American Festival parade.

"My goal continues to be that I should have a group of 200 girls. All marching for the Lord." Richardson beams as he shares. "You know, the drill team is an excellent avenue for



The Stars & Stripes Drill Team

human race through people like James F. Richardson.

The Jefferson award is a prestigious national honor that recognizes individuals, throughout the country, who perform great public service, but largely without recognition. The American Institute for Public Service, Washington, D.C., sponsors the national competition. Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis and Senator Robert Taft are national co-founders; Samuel S. Beard, a former associate of the late Senator Robert Kennedy, is President.

Persons nominated for this

individual. The nominee must also be willing to have his/her activities videotaped' a broadcast. If the nominee should refuse, they are not eligible.

James F. Richardson was nominated by Mrs. Arleen Wilson, mother of Shannon Wilson, a student at Catlin Gabel High School. Now--the question arises, "How did she come to nominate him and why?" Well, James F. Richardson or Reverend Richardson, is a drill master, in his own right. This soft-spoken, gentle man has a way with young people. He first began working with the drill teams in Tulare, Califor-

"My goal continues to be that I should have a group of 200 girls. All marching for the Lord."

around. Instead of stealing or prostituting, or killing or gangs there's the drill team. There are many incentives built into the very fabric of the drill team's system. You cannot drill unless you earn a "C" or better. You cannot drill if you are causing problems in your home. You cannot drill if you have no respect for the property of others. You must enter the practice room, sign in, be seated, speak softly and no running. If you are unable to follow these simple directions, you cannot perform with the team--no matter how long you have practiced. Improper behavior during a public appearance will result in expulsion.

### Parent Participation is Vital

"I have found that without the parents participating and reinforcing the same concepts and objectives that I have set for the girls, my work is very difficult," says Richardson. The parents are welcomed to become involved and active. It does not hinder but helps.

Mrs. Wilson, the nominator, has a daughter in the drill team. She was so impressed that she felt the Rev. Richardson's efforts should be shared



Rev. James F. Richardson

witnessing. We will begin conducting Youth Witnessing Workshops."

Richardson is a man with a vision on a mission, not for himself, but for the Lord.

"Let the children come to me, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as they. Don't send them away! I tell you as seriously as I know how that anyone who refuses to come to God as a little child will never be allowed into his Kingdom."

Mark 10:14-15

## Let's Set the Record Straight

□ The final part of a four-part series

excerpted from the book "Your Church and You" by A. Lee Henderson

The boldness of calling together the first National Negro Convention fell to Bishop Richard Allen who convened its meeting place at Mother Behtel Church in Philadelphia on September 15, 1830!

Gayraud S. Wilmore, a director of the United Presbyterian Church's program in race relations and a Professor of Social Ethics at Boston University points out that Black pride and power, Black nationalism, and Pan-Africanism had no past without the Black church and Black religion.

Wilmore also warned that without them we may forego any enduring future!

His research and writing on "The Secular Advance of the Church" bears our attention. The scholar speaks out with a resounding sharpness:

"Allen believed that the Black community had to be organized to deal responsibly with its won problems as long as American prejudice and indifference refused to erase the color line; and he also believed that an independent Black church, which made every aspect of life its field of witness, was the most widely accepted and the most effective instrument among Black people with which to pursue the twin goals of spiritual holiness and civil freedom.

"In the 1970s, he will doubtless be reappraised by Blacks for the pioneering and prophetic role he played in Black church history in the United States and his relevance to the antebellum Black church freedom movement..."

And now, please bear careful witness yourselves to these incredible words

and share them far and near:

"Young Blacks who tend to regard the church and its leaders of the past as historical oddities having little to inspire the present generation, need to catch the spirit of this man as it was caught by the writer of the obituary notice of his (Richard Allen's) death on March 26, 1831--the year of the Nat Turner revolt--recorded in the pages of *The Genius of Universal Emancipation*:

*When the humble African was even dragged from the altar of God by the inhuman Whites who disgrace the land, rendered sacred by the glowing recollections which arise at the mention of the name William Penn, Richard Allen stepped forth as their defender and protector, built at his own expense and upon his own ground, the first African Church in America. It was that through persecution, through malice and through envy, walked like the savior upon the troubled waters, in favor of African Religious Independence.*

The foundation for the greater

freedom movement is at hand.

That is the movement which concerns your life and what you do with it.

The beginnings of African Episcopal Methodism are auspicious.

But no less auspicious to us are your own beginnings in the church and the impact it will leave upon your life in its day-to-day workings.

We feel more comfortable having introduced you of the family tree of the African Methodist Episcopal Church and your distinguished forebears.

You are grafted into the tree itself as a lifetime member, to grow and prosper, flower and bloom, reseeding through all the early Springs and by nurturing your own life, contributing back to ours.

By accepting our first challenge: to learn more about the beginnings of the African Methodist Episcopal Church you have re-inforced yourself.

Congratulations!  
You've only just begun!  
The best is yet to come...!!!

### THE WARREN FAMILY 1990

THE WARREN FAMILY  
SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF...  
SATURDAY JULY 28, 1990  
COLUMBIA PARK  
10am-5pm

HATS & T-SHIRTS ORDERS-The hats look good and are going fast

Committee Chairperson:Jeddy Beasley Ph: 283-3832

RAMBLIN ROD WARREN KID'S SHOW July 17th

Coordinator:Derek Warren Ph: 644-8977

FOOD Bring enough for your family and friends

Committee Chairperson: Geneva Burton Ph: 284-5533

FAMILY HISTORY-How did we get her?? The chronicle

Committee Chairperson: Ernie Warren Jr.Ph: 649-5511

KIDS EVENTS-Have some fun things planned

Committee Chairperson: Derek Warren Ph: 644-6977

ADULT ACTIVITIES-Volleyball & Softball to Dominoes & Cards

Committee Chairperson: Don Lincoln Ph: 284-5533

FAMILY CHURCH SERVICE-Sunday, July 29th-Mt. Sinai

Coordinator: Regina Warren Ph: 282-1334

HELP TO MAKE THIS EVENT  
...SOMETHING WE CAN BE PROUD OF...  
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12:30 P.M. - WORSHIP SERVICE

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BIBLE STUDY  
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