



# Hall of Fame

## Attorney Larry D. Williams

Attorney Larry D. Williams was born in Gum Springs, AR where he lived before entering the first grade at Peake Elementary. He has been a life-long and dedicated supporter of Greater Pleasant Hill Baptist Church once serving as Superintendent of the Sunday School. In 1964, he graduated from Peake High School as Salutatorian and Student Council President, then immediately enrolled at Henderson State Teacher's College, now Henderson State University (HSU) where he graduated three years later, 1967, with a BSE Degree in Biology and Teacher-Certified. He also received an ROTC Commission as Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

The 1960's were tumultuous times for Blacks - considering the Civil Rights struggle. During the Summer 1964, as a freshman at Henderson and following passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Bill, a few African Americans and he integrated the old Royal Theater's lower-level; Blacks had previously been relegated to the smaller, upper balcony section. Moreover, Spring 1965, while still an ROTC student, the Henderson Administration, for the first time, permitted African American students to attend the ever-popular Annual ROTC Ball. During Williams' entire college period, he worked for \$0.35 an hour in the office of Dr. Cecil W. Thomason, Chair, Dept. of Psychology and Education. Thomason was also a mentor. Following graduation and a short teaching stint at a Prescott Elementary School, he was ordered to Fort Sill, Oklahoma where he entered and successfully completed the US Army Field Artillery Officer Basic Course.

After a tour of duty in West Germany as an artillery officer with a nuclear-capable battalion, he was promoted to the rank of Army Captain. He is a 1970 Viet Nam/Cambodian veteran where he served as an artillery officer with the 25th Infantry Division. While in Viet Nam, and during rare quiet times, he took the Law School Admissions Test and was accepted at the University of Arkansas School of Law, Fayetteville, AR. He entered law school in January 1971 and completed all graduating requirements in less than three years. Williams was admitted to the Arkansas Bar, then returned to the US Army as a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAG). He served as Corps Staff Judge Advocate/Deputy General Counsel, General Counsel, Branch Chief, Prosecutor, Defense Counsel, and Division Chief. While in the JAG Corps, he was promoted to the rank of Major and Lieutenant Colonel. He also received an LLM in Military Law and graduated from the US Army Command and General Staff College. His military awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (MSM) and several Bronze Stars. He retired as Lieutenant Colonel after 23 years of active military service.

Following a successful military career, in 1995 Williams established his law practice in the military courts and the state and federal courts of Virginia and Washington, DC. His practice areas continue to be in military law, family law, juvenile law, criminal law and major traffic law. He is an active member of numerous bars/associations including the Arkansas Bar, Virginia Bar, DC Bar, The US Supreme Court Bar, National Bar Association, Old Dominion Bar Association, Fairfax Bar Association, Northern Virginia Black Attorneys' Bar Association, and the US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. He is a past Guest Lecturer at the FBI Academy, the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology and a presenter at the National Bar Association Annual Convention. He has also published articles in the American Journal of Forensic Medicine and Pathology as well as Military Medicine. Williams is the 1994 recipient of the HSU Distinguished Black Alumni Award and a 1996 Recipient of the HSU Distinguished Alumni Award. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated.

Williams is a great believer in the value of education and what a positive impact it will have on those willing to stay the course; believe in one's dreams; always remember those upon whose shoulders one stands, and believe that "God is Great and Greatly to be praised." Indeed, it is these core beliefs that prompted Williams and his wife of over 44 years to establish a scholarship fund at HSU to assist deserving students. They have also contributed generously to other scholarship funds.

He is married to the former Viktoria Eggert of Augsburg, Germany and they reside in Springfield, Virginia. They have one adult son, a daughter-in-law, and a 16-year old granddaughter.

**The Buffaloes' Foundation, Inc. 2017 Inductee**

