

# *Hall of Fame*

## **Charles Newborn, Sr.**



*Charles Newborn, Sr. is a proud 1956 graduate of Peake High School. He is best known as an accomplished, beloved educator who had a career that spun more than 15 years in four school districts. However, he's probably most appreciated for the help and service that he provided the community in the aftermath of the infamous Tornado on March 1, 1997. This tornado struck Arkadelphia (Clark County) around 2:40 p.m., causing F4 damage, indicating winds between 207 and 260 miles per hour. Much of downtown Arkadelphia was destroyed, with sixty blocks of the city taking severe damage. In one trailer park, fifty-six out of fifty-seven mobile homes were destroyed. Overall, the tornado damaged or destroyed about 250 houses, ninety mobile homes, and forty-five businesses in the Arkadelphia area. The community knew Mr. Newborn as a gifted electrician who provided electrical work for the community, many pro bono. Mr. Newborn was called upon during this crisis to wire many buildings in the community including businesses, homes, and churches.*

*Upon graduating from high school, Charles decided to further his education; he enrolled in and attended Arkansas AM&N College in Pine Bluff, AR (now UAPB) and graduated with a B.S.E. - Bachelor of Science in Education with an emphasis on Industrial Education, which is a four year laddered academic program designed to prepare students for teaching technical courses in secondary and college levels, including vocational schools. After graduating college in 1960, Charles enlisted in the United States Army. He served two years active duty and four years in the reserve and earned the rank of Sargent First Class E7. Newborn began learning electrical work while in college and gained more training in the army. After practicing as an electrical technician, Newborn pursued more education at Saint Cloud University in Saint Cloud, Minnesota and additional training for electrical techniques in Tulsa, Ok. He received his Master's Electrician License after working many years in the field. Upon passing the Master's Electrician Test, he became one of the first black Master Electricians in Arkadelphia. Mr. Herbert Snowden influenced Newborn, and he still has many fond memories of Mr. Snowden.*

*After serving in the military, Mr. Newborn wanted to give back to his community, so he trained and taught for the Job Corps. Afterwards, he began teaching school in Delight, Arkansas at a Rosenwald School. He taught science, industrial shop and history. He also held positions of lead teacher and principal in Delight. He was honored in a celebration in early 2000 for his contributions to Delight Schools. After teaching for four years in Delight, Arkansas, he began a teaching career in Malvern, then Arkadelphia - totaling a 15-year teaching career teaching science and industrial educational courses. Evidently, he made a great impact on the students he taught, because till this day, his former students greet him and remind him that he was their teacher.*

*Newborn is a member of the Arkansas Retired Teachers Association, NAACP- Arkadelphia Chapter, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff Alumni, and a Sunday School Teacher Assistant at Davis Memorial COGIC. Charles loves participating and volunteering with the Peake High Alumni events and donates his time and money to the organization as well as other causes.*

*Newborn met his beautiful wife Barbara in 1964; by 1969 they were married. They have two children: Charles II and Jennifer (Brian Thomas); and three granddaughters: Lydia, Emory, and Joi.*