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*27TH ANNUAL GENTLEMEN'S BALL
HONORS 22 OUTSTANDING GRADS*

On Sunday, June 7, the Trenton Chapter of the Urban League Guild (of Union County) celebrated its 27th annual Gentlemen's Ball, honoring 22 outstanding Black male graduates of local high schools.

This year's cohort includes 11 varsity athletes in football, baseball, basketball, track and field, soccer, lacrosse, and fencing, and 12 musicians who participate in various bands and choruses. Four of the musicians compose their own music. Nearly half of the group is involved in other creative and performing arts activities: short story and poetry writing, photography, film production, and theatre. The Gentlemen represent 14 different churches, and volunteer their skills and time serving those church communities as well as various tutoring programs, nursing home residents, children's sports and recreation organizations, lodges, labor groups, and student clubs.

All of the honorees aspire to post-high school education, pursuing careers in medicine, engineering, criminal justice and law, business, communications, creative arts, and fashion design and marketing.

Sunday evening's highlights included the Gentlemen's formal introduction procession with their mothers into the Princeton Hyatt Ballroom, opening waltz with their escorts, and closing waltz with their mothers, accompanied by Inner Flight. The choreographer was Ben White.

Guest speaker was Eugene Marsh, one of Mercer County's great success stories, whose motto is "Tip the balance of experience to your side of the table." He advanced from a Mercer County College Associates Degree in Architectural Technology, to a Bachelor's in Business from the University of South Carolina, and an MBA in Executive Management and Development from Dartmouth University's Tuck School of Business. After 25 years working for others in the construction industry, Marsh became President and CEO of Construction Project Management Services, Inc., whose clients have included the School Construction authorities of New Jersey and New York City, and currently, the multi-million dollar Yale-New Haven Hospital North Pavilion Cancer Center. He is the recipient of numerous honors, including Top 100 Small Business of the Year 2009, and appointment in 2007 by Governor Corzine to the Minority and Women's Business Development Advisory Council of New Jersey. He is or has been a board member for the Mercer County Regional Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of Greater Mercer County, the Mercer County Community College Foundation, and the Trenton Public Education Foundation.

The 2009 Gentlemen and the high schools they represent are listed individually, below:

- ✓ Ewing High School: **Brian C. Gibson, Jr., Robin Jolley, Jr., Dylan Hilton McLendon, Mark Thomas Smith II, Kyree Robinson, Larry Wingate**
- ✓ Hamilton High West: **Brandon Hayes Evans, Isaac Jean Possible, Jordan J. Smith**
- ✓ Hamilton High School (Nottingham): **Jeffrey Godbolt, Jr.**
- ✓ The Hun School of Princeton: **Darrell Eure Washington**
- ✓ Lawrence High School: **Kalen Cleveland McCallum**
- ✓ The Lewis School of Princeton: **Trevor J. Little**
- ✓ The Pennington School: **Andre' T. Jackson**
- ✓ Trenton Catholic Academy: **Tyronn Walker**
- ✓ Trenton Central High School (Main Campus): **Nathan Bethea, Yahmnselah Tafari, Michael Williams, Momo Winnah**
- ✓ Trenton Central High School (Medical Arts): **Stacey Bennett, Jr.**
- ✓ Trenton Central High School (West Campus): **Franck David Nelson, Korey Thompson**