

2001 Co-Alumnus of the Year, MORRIS SMITH, Class of 1951.

Morris Smith not only graduated from HHHS, he has remained an active participant in its continued success.

Morris graduated in 1951 and went on to receive a BS in Chemistry from Michigan State University. After doing graduate work at Temple, he went on to serve in the prestigious Special Services Branch of the US Army.

After his time in the service, Morris worked in private industry for the Scott Paper Company where he held the position of Senior Research Scientist. In this role Morris was responsible for a team of twenty scientists and fifteen technicians. Morris is personally the holder of three U.S. Patents and has developed numerous others in the field of chemical and biological formulations.

After retiring in 1994, Morris furthered his career by starting his own consulting firm and serves as a professional speaker, has chaired an international convention for scientists, and is on the Board of Trustees for Virginia Tech.

Just as important as his professional success is Morris's civic contributions. He is the Chair of the YMCA Board of Directors and a member of the N.J. Supreme Court Committee on minority concerns. Morris is also active in Lawnside's 4th of July Committee and was a Commissioner for the Lawnside Little League Program.

Morris is in HHHS almost daily as a volunteer. He Co-Chairs the mentoring program with his life-long friend and fellow alumni of the year, honoree Dr. Ted Johnson. He serves on the Cooperative Education Committee and is on the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee. If you ever want to meet Morris in person just go to a HHHS athletic event and he will most likely be there cheering on the kids!

Morris currently resides in Lawnside where he is married to his wife, Alice, and raised three fine young men, Morris, Wesley, and Steven.

There cannot be a more deserving and well-rounded individual to accept this award but Mr. Morris Smith.

My relationship with HHHS began at an early stage of life when I was apprised of the fact that my mother (Tamar Holland Huggs-Smith) graduated from HHHS in the early 1920's, (I believe 1921) and knew Mr. Walton of the HHHS Class of 1925, one of the first recipients of the HHHS Alumnus of the Year Award.

As an avid sports enthusiast (participant and spectator), my relationship continued as a 10 year old, when my brothers and I journeyed to the 1943 Thanksgiving Day High School Classic between HHHS & Haddonfield Memorial High School, at HHHS. The next game between these two rivals, that remains vivid in my memory, is (was) the classic 1944 game at HMHS. HHHS was undefeated and unscored upon during that year and that game was a titan struggle involving HHHS' star running back, Tony Cervino and HMHS' Harry Rockwell, which ended in a 0-0 tie.

After having completed elementary school in Magnolia, as the American Legion Award winner representing the areas of Leadership, Scholarship and Citizenship, our family moved to Lawnside. When I arrived at HHHS in the fall of 1947, the institution, HHHS was not strange to me, only the tortuous path of my particular class rooms located on the three levels, and the ability to get to the correct class location within the allotted time frame.

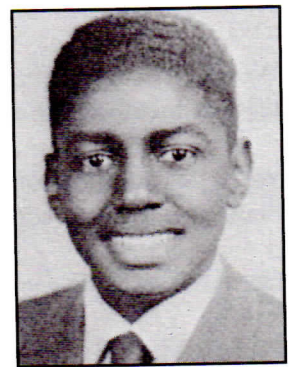
My belief, once becoming associated with an organization or institution, is to be present, provide meaningful contribution and to arrive on time. And so throughout my four years of high school, I took pride in never being late and only absent (excused) an average of three quarters of a day per year over the four year period.

As a HHHS 9th grader, I was exposed to a system whereby students who received a grade of B or better for all marking periods were exempt from taking the final exam for that particular semester and at the end of the school year. I remember experiencing disappointment during the first marking period of my first semester at HHHS, because I earned a "C" in Algebra after having received grades of "A" or "B" in all other subjects. As a result, I was required to take the semester ending final examination in Algebra. I recall that our Algebra teacher, Mr. Bordner, joined the HHHS staff as a "rookie" staff member that same year, along with all of us as incoming freshman. The happy part of this experience, I recall was that I received the highest score of students required to take the Algebra semester ending examination. That resultant experience encouraged me to make sure that during the second semester my performance was such that I received grades that would exempt me from taking all year end final exams and earn honor roll recognition at the end of my freshman year. The system of exemption was discontinued after our freshman year, 1947-48.

My HHHS years were composed of meaningful experiences combined with the support of my parents, church family, and concerned adult leaders of organizations (churches, YMCA, Boy Scouts) in the Lawnside community. Our parents and all of these support groups enabled me and other African American students from the Lawnside community to address and meet the challenges and attitudes of the times.

In conclusion as I reflect on my HHHS experience, the lesson of promptness and presence (including meaningful contribution) when part of an institution of organization, was reinforced and remains a strong part of my belief and commitment to this day. Because of the circumstances of the times, my only regret, during my high school years, is that I did not choose to be involved in more of the offerings provided by HHHS.

Sincerely,
Morris L. Smith



Personal Remembrances from Morris L. Smith