

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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Oscar J. Frazier Inducted into Town's Wall of Honor

Town Council members will posthumously induct former Mayor Pro Tempore Oscar Frazier into the Town of Bluffton's Wall of Honor July 12th at 5: 30 p.m., prior to the Town Council meeting. The public is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Oscar Frazier

1956-2005

The poet laureate of Bluffton, a mayor pro tempore and a beloved town councilman, Oscar Frazier used his limitless energy, his love of people and his positions in the community to better his hometown. Frazier published two volumes of poetry and a children's book. He was appointed Bluffton's poet laureate. In this role, he composed poetry for the Town-sponsored events. Oscar James Frazier was born on January 21, 1956 and graduated from H. E. McCracken High School. After serving in the U. S. Army for three years, he returned to Bluffton where he continued to serve his community for the rest of his life.

Frazier worked as an entrepreneur and managed numerous types of businesses which included construction, roofing, landscaping as well as operating Bluffton's first food truck, or red caboose, known as "Oscar's Barbeque."

He was first elected to Bluffton Town Council in 1998. During his tenure, he helped negotiate with developers which began the town's exponential growth from one-square mile to today's 54-square miles. Frazier was also a strong advocate for the town to annex Buck Island and Simmonsville Roads so residents could benefit from town services. Frazier was re-elected in January 2005.

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Frazier devoted his time and energy to also advocating for the children of Bluffton, serving on the boards of directors of the YMCA and the Boys and Girls Club of Bluffton. He also volunteered with Beaufort County Parks & Leisure Services (PALS) for more than twenty-six years, during which he helped design Shults Park.

Frazier was the deacon chairman and co-founder of The Bible Missionary Baptist Church. He also founded the Bluffton Poets Society after attending the International Society of Poets symposium in Washington, D.C. in 2000. He later renamed the group as Poets & Writers-Storytellers Society (PAWSS), as a way of including more people and spreading literacy throughout local area schools. Frazier died on August 22, 2005 at the age of 49-years-old, just a little more than a week after he found out he had a rare form of liver cancer.

At Frazier's funeral, Rev. Paul Hamilton summed up Frazier's dedication to making Bluffton a better place. As reported in the *Beaufort Gazette*, Hamilton said, "I would pray, 'Lord, let the sun go down so we can go home' and Frazier would be praying, 'Lord, give us a few more hours of light to get the job done'."

On August 22, 2005, Mayor Hank Johnston and Town Council proclaimed August 28, 2005 as *Oscar J. Frazier Day* in the Town of Bluffton for his exemplary citizenship. The Town of Bluffton and Beaufort County Council memorialized Shults Park in his honor. Now, the Oscar J. Frazier Park hosts literally thousands of youth baseball and softball games every year, as well as being home to several Dixie Youth Sports World Series events.

Frazier's widow, Marcia Renea, and his four children, Jacqueline, Oscar James Jr., Bridgette and Joshua all live in Bluffton. Two of his children have followed his path in public service. Oscar James Frazier, Jr. serves the community as a sworn officer at the Bluffton Police Department.

"Dad loved Bluffton. He put his heart and soul into this community. This is an amazing honor and I wish he was still here to see what a great town Bluffton has become," Oscar Frazier, Jr. said. Bridgette Frazier, who is on the ballot for Beaufort County School Board in November, is also a chef and a caterer like her Dad.

"It's extraordinary to say the least that a person's life, legacy and existence can transcend them so much that they perpetually live forever. I'm blessed and honored to utter the words that Oscar J. Frazier Sr. is my father. I put emphasis on the 'is,' because he's never left me."