

Don't forget to  
donate your  
memorabilia to the  
RG Museum

## 25th RGAA Reunion

Holiday Inn — Koger Center  
Fri., Aug. 31 and Sat., Sept. 1st  
Registration and Details  
to follow

For newsletter  
information, questions or  
submissions, contact Sylvia Hicks at (804)  
561-0535. Email Us:

[RussellGroveNews@aol.com](mailto:RussellGroveNews@aol.com)

### Next RGAA Meeting:

May 12th at 7:00 p.m., at the Russell Grove  
Museum, 8701 Otterburn Road, Suite 103

NEWSLETTER FOR MEMBERS OF THE RUSSELL GROVE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION. APRIL 16, 2012.

# Russell Grove News

## The Winning Combination: Spirit of the Falcons, Heart of the Raiders

Go Johnson! Way to Go Wilkerson!

Are these cheers for the RG Falcons or the Amelia Raiders? It's both! Back in the day, Ronald Johnson '65 and Kermit Wilkerson '68 were star players for the Falcons. Their families roots in the Russell Grove tradition date back to the '40s. The athletic skill set has been passed on to their brothers, Mark and Glen. After playing many outstanding football seasons for ACHS themselves, these young men continue to spur Amelia athletes onto victory.

This year's Amelia County High School football and basketball teams exploded with an unprecedented winning season. The Raiders football team won the district, regional and sectional championships. The outstanding record was 14-2. The basketball team won 18 of 20 games and the James River District regular season championship and placed second in the state championship game. The success of ACHS teams are due, in part, to the sports expertise, enthusiasm and unwavering dedication of Glen Wilkerson and Mark Johnson. Their coaching and mentoring abilities have played a key part in laying the foundation for this historic season.



**Mark Johnson, ACHS '87**

**Family Ties:** mother Rebecca B. Johnson, sisters Ora Woodley, RG '63; Gloria Booker, '73; and brothers, Ronald, RG '65, and Clifton, '74.

**Sports Played:** ACHS Offensive Lineman in football, freshman year. Football manager and basketball manager for three years.

**Why is sports important to you?** "It gives me an chance to interact with the kids in our community and sports, in general, helps teach kids about life." As a coach, I like being a part of that and just being there for the kids. Half of it is about football, but mostly it's teamwork and the relationships you help them build."  
—Tanisha Spratley

Wilkerson, '74, who currently serves as Director of Parks and Recreation, believes that sports is a great teaching tool and that you should approach sports with a threefold perspective: athletic ability, academic focus and putting God first! He believes that is the winning combination.

Many of Amelia's winning athletes got their start in sports when they first played flag and junior football, and basketball for Parks and Rec. "I feel a special connection with these guys because they did come through our programs," Wilkerson said. "I knew they would do well, I saw it coming."

Wilkerson encourages players to have fun, and play to win, but tells them that you won't always win; and explains— that's what competition is all about. He continues to stress, "if you want to be good at something, you have to

*(Continued on page 2)*



### Scholarships Available

Three \$1,000 scholarships will be available for high school seniors graduating at the end of the 2011-2012 school year. Eligible applicants must be "affiliated" with a former student, graduate, faculty or staff member or employee of Russell Grove Schools.

Beginning this year, two \$500 book scholarships will be awarded to students currently enrolled in college.

To request an application, get additional information or eligibility guidelines, call Brenda Hicks Johnson at 804.561.2722 or email her at [bhicks52@aol.com](mailto:bhicks52@aol.com).

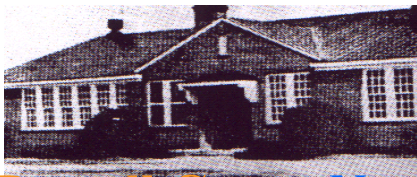


**Glen Wilkerson, ACHS '74**

**Family Ties:** mother Amelia M. Wilkerson, brothers Kermit, RG '68, and sister Alnette Mayfield, '73, other siblings, Gerrard, Kenneth, Michael and LaTasha.

**Sports Played:** ACHS Basketball, Football and Baseball for four years. Named District Running Back in football.

**Why is sports important to you?** "Sports gives you a sense of responsibility and discipline. You have to do certain things at certain times. These sports principles, along with the right attitude and practice, go beyond the athletic field into principles to help shape your life."



## Russell Grove News

Russell Grove Alumni Association, Inc.  
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Newsletter made possible by **RogJon Photography & Design**, Sylvia Hicks, President/CEO



### Greetings from the President

Dear RGAA Members and Friends,

As we plan an exciting event for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Association, we are reminded of our purpose to continue the legacy of Russell Grove through scholarships and outreach programs for the future generations. You can help us do that through membership, especially in reaching a younger group of alumni, by becoming a member and inviting family, classmates and friends to join, for only \$15 a year. Membership has privileges! You may also send your email address to [RussellGroveNews@aol.com](mailto:RussellGroveNews@aol.com) and include email addresses of others who would like to be added to our email directory. Thanks for your continued support. See you at the reunion.

*Henry J. Featherston*

### Exciting 25th Reunion Planned

This year marks the 25th year of the Alumni Association's Annual Reunion. The celebration will be held at the Holiday Inn—Koger Center in Richmond. The 25th Anniversary Reunion Committee is busy finalizing details for a very exciting event.

Friday afternoon, August 31st, and mid-day Saturday, we will host a Meet-n-Greet. Saturday evening, we will have a program and banquet with entertainment for all ages. A block of rooms have been reserved under the name of Russell Grove. Details and registration forms will be distributed next month. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Reunion Committee chairperson, Brenda Hicks Johnson '70 at (804)561-2722 or email her at [BHicks52@aol.com](mailto:BHicks52@aol.com).

### Winning Combination *continued from page 1*

practice' and give it your best.

Mark Johnson '87 loves this football team. As the previous coach, he began working with the team as freshmen. "As their coach, I listened a lot," he said, "but would always tell the guys that football is like life, you have to take one day at a time. Take one play at a time and keep your head up." He thinks it helped his players to know that he walked the same halls of ACHS that they walked, played on the same field with a Raider jersey, and experienced many of the same things they did as students and athletes. "I have always tried to be a positive role model in their lives," Johnson added.

He watched the games this year with mixed emotions. "I was glad to look from the outside in, to see them play, win or lose, but mostly win," he said with a smile and pride. "I think the winning combination was loyalty to our school, respect and pride. I stressed to the guys to believe in the green and gold (the Raiders school colors) and believe in the athletes who came before you. Remember those brothers, uncles, and fathers who fought hard and cherish the memories of playing football as much as we do today," said Johnson. "And always take pride in where you come from and never forget!"

With a motivating spirit, Johnson and Wilkerson have inspired athletes to believe in something, the green and gold, the team and most importantly, themselves. Wilkerson often counsels youngsters to find something that you like to do, and are willing to do for free. Work at it as hard as you can, that way you will give it your all. Johnson mentored his team about football and life and shared his favorite motto: "Champions are made when no one is watching."

Wilkerson and Johnson stand on the shoulders of Russell Grove athletes, alumni, and friends and believe in the motto "it takes a village to raise a child." They acknowledge the helping hands that saw something in them and strive to give back. They both have strong family and faith-based values. Johnson is an active member at Branches Runn Baptist Church where he is a drummer and sings in United Voices Choir. He is married to Queneva Banks Johnson, '92. Wilkerson is a deacon and Sunday School teacher at Good Hope Baptist Church where he attends regularly with his wife, Debra Perkins Wilkerson, '75. The Wilkerson's have two adult children, Monica and Sean.

RGAA will join other local groups in a celebratory event being planned for Amelia's athletes on May 19th in ACHS gymnasium at 5:00 p.m.

#### Correction:

*In the last issue, we inadvertently listed the late Connie Miles Monroe as grandmother of the nursing scholarship recipient, Andrew Monroe. His grandmother was instead the late Polly Monroe.*

*Russell Grove Alumni Association was organized in 1984 to promote the public welfare through the preservation of the spirit and pride of the alumni of the former Russell Grove Schools, to cooperate with the Amelia County School Board and other organizations in matters of mutual interest and advantage to public education; to provide scholarships for qualifying graduates of Amelia County Public Schools and to promote cordial and friendly relations among members and the public.*