

MS. SENIOR DC PAGEANT

VISION



June 2021
Washington, DC

Presented by
The DC Department of Aging and Community Living
and the Senior Service Network

DC Seniors Cameo Club
Seabury Resources for Aging



Ms. Senior DC Pageant 2021

Presented by

**The DC Department of Aging
and Community Living**

**Model Cities Senior
Wellness Center**



Ms. Senior DC Pageant 2021 Contestants



VISION



Greetings

DC Senior Cameo Club

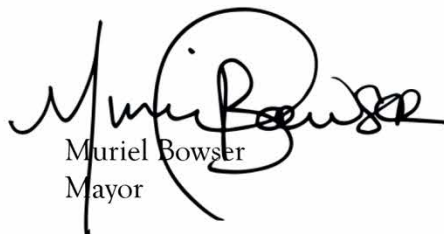
Ms. Senior DC Pageant

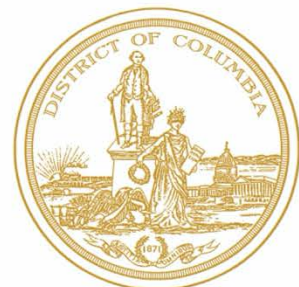
As Mayor of Washington, DC, it is my honor to congratulate the DC Senior Cameo Club for hosting its first-ever, virtual Ms. Senior DC Pageant. I am incredibly proud of this year's eight contestants, not just because they exemplify elegance, grace, and healthy aging, but because they have remained resilient during one of the most unprecedented times our city has seen.

For more than a year, each of you have continued to live well and thrive in the communities you know and love, despite the COVID-19 pandemic. You serve as pillars of wisdom and role models for all Washingtonians, teaching us how to serve our fellow neighbors and how to live boldly at every age.

I would also like to acknowledge Ms. Senior DC Trinette Chase, who has been a true ambassador for Washington, DC for the past two years, serving her community proudly and advocating for her fellow seniors. Thank you for representing the District on a national stage and showing that DC's greatest generation is living longer, safer, and stronger.

No matter who prevails and becomes the next Ms. Senior DC, I know that each of you have what it takes to represent our city with poise and sophistication. On behalf of the nearly 700,000 and growing residents of Washington, DC, I again offer my congratulations and best wishes for a successful and enjoyable pageant. And, I am confident that our next Ms. Senior DC will continue to represent our DC values and lead our city to victory at the Ms. Senior America Pageant this fall.


Muriel Bowser
Mayor





A Message from Laura Newland Director, DC Department of Aging and Community Living



Welcome to the Ms. Senior DC Pageant 2021! The DC Department of Aging and Community Living is proud to host the first ever virtual competition with the DC Seniors Cameo Club and Seabury Resources for Aging. I want to thank the planning committee for your unwavering commitment to making this year's pageant happen. It's been an honor to support you and to bring your vision to reality. Many thanks to the entire team at Seabury, particularly this year's Pageant Director, Stacie Mack. We couldn't have made this year's pageant happen without you!

Today, we're incredibly grateful for the opportunity to bring together eight talented District women who will compete for the title of Ms. Senior DC. After an unprecedented challenging year, we're finally seeing a light at the end of the tunnel, and I can't think of a better way for us to show true examples of what resiliency, elegance, and grace looks like. Our contestants embody each of these qualities and more! They've raised families, built the very communities we all know and love, taught generations of students, and supported their neighbors. They've seen our city through its highs and lows and continue to be examples of how to overcome whatever challenges life has in store for us. Now, that's how you **live boldly!**

Finally, many thanks to our Ms. Senior DC contestants. Thanks for having the courage to show all of us how you live boldly and for sharing your talents with the District. No matter who is crowned Ms. Senior DC 2021, I know each of you will continue showing and sharing your love of Washington, DC. Continue to live boldly and best of luck to each of you!

Sincerely,

Laura Newland
Director, DACL



Dawn Quattlebaum
Chief Executive Officer, Seabury



Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure and honor for Seabury Resources for Aging to host, for the first time, the 2021 *Ms. Senior DC Pageant* as an inaugural virtual event. In a year with so many challenges, it is wonderful to see a tradition continue, even if in a new format. We are proud to showcase these admirable contestants that represent the District of Columbia. You embody the qualities of independence and

dignity that everyone deserves to realize as they age.

Congratulations and bravo to the Pageant's Director, Stacie Mack, and her team for coordinating this event. Thank you to the DC Department of Aging and Community Living for your sponsorship and guidance. Thank you as well to the illustrious DC Seniors Cameo Club for lending their knowledge and experience to help make this event successful.

I have always enjoyed attending the *Ms. Senior DC Pageant*. Hearing your stories and seeing your gowns and talent presentations always brings me much joy. You are incredible representatives of the District and an inspiration to residents of all ages.

And while we won't be together in the same room this year, the Pageant will be as enjoyable as ever. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you in person soon.

Take good care,

Dawn Quattlebaum
Chief Executive Officer

Master of Ceremonies Carroll H. Hynson Jr. aka “Mr. C”



Carroll H. Hynson Jr. aka “Mr. C” has been the host of 96.3 WHUR-FM’s Time Tunnel for almost twenty years, the longest reigning “Old School” show in the DMV. His background in radio and television spans well over 50 years in the Washington market, including the original WOL Soul radio and WRC TV channel 4.

He is President and Chief Executive Officer of Image Power Inc. a gaming, marketing, and public relations firm. He also serves as CEO of Carroll H. Hynson & Son, a family business. He is a Board member of “Historic Annapolis” and the Park Advisory Commission for the State of Maryland.

Mr. Hynson previously served over 14 years as Deputy Secretary of the Maryland Lottery and prior to that was Director of the Marketing Department at BWI Marshall Airport. Prior, he was Group Vice President at Provident Hospital in Baltimore.

In 1997, Mr. Hynson received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Anne Arundel County Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America. He is a graduate of Morgan State University with a degree in Sociology and Psychology.

His motto is “If I can help somebody, then my living is not in vain.”



**Featuring the Ms. Senior DC Dancers,
The MC Steppers, and
Their Choreographer Monica Carroll**



In memory of Rosemary Giles and Sareta Brown



Ms. Senior DC 2021 Planning Committee

Stacie Mack	DC State Pageant Administrator, Seabury Resources, Director, Model Cities Senior Wellness Center
Toni Jackson	Assistant State Pageant Director, Ms. Sr. DC 2014 Hospitality Chairperson, Administrative Committee
Wendy D. Bridges	President, DC Seniors Cameo Club, Ms. Sr. DC 2015 Hospitality Committee
Vernelle Hamit	Past President, DC Seniors Cameo Club
Ann N. Thomas	Mentor Chairperson, Ms. Senior DC 2006
Sandra Bears	Contestant Chairperson, Ms. Senior DC 2005
Mary McCoy	Assistant Contestant Chairperson, Ms. Senior DC 2012
Sandra Hunter	Judges Chairperson, Model Cities Senior Wellness Center
James Thompson	Logistics Chair, Stage Design, Terrific Inc.
Monica Carroll	Choreographer, Model Cities Senior Wellness Center
Shirley Rivens Smith	Chairperson Budget Committee and Parliamentarian, DC Seniors Cameo Club
Margaret Winston	Make-up Consultant, DC Seniors Cameo Club
Sheila Poole	Ms. Senior DC 2010, Vice President, DC Seniors Cameo Club
Margaret Carter	Treasurer, DC Seniors Cameo Club
Selma R. Dillard	Photographer, DC Seniors Cameo Club
Robin Gantt	Food, East River Family Cooperative
Rebecca Washington	Chairperson, Publicity Committee, DC Seniors Cameo Club



Queen Trinette Janice Chase Ms. Senior District of Columbia 2019-2020





Queen Trinette Janice Chase Ms. Senior District of Columbia 2019-2020 Farewell Address

It has been a great pleasure to serve as Ms. Senior DC 2019 and 2020. It seems like yesterday that I made my acceptance speech. In my speech, I spoke about my commitment to create a platform that would help seniors heal, grow, and thrive to transform ourselves, families, and Washington, DC.

When I was chosen to be Ms. Senior DC in 2019, I never imagined that I would be in this position for an additional year. Due to the public health emergency and social distancing requirements, the 2020 pageant was canceled and I became the 2nd Ms. Senior DC to wear the crown for two years. I extend my heartfelt compassion to those who experienced the tragic loss of loved ones during the public health emergency. I know that for many of us, this past year has raised concerns about our own wellbeing in the areas of health, finances, and the traumas of isolation. We continue to pray for our senior family members who have been affected by COVID-19.

Over the past 2 years, I have served the District determinedly as Ms. Senior DC, being a source of encouragement for all District seniors and a witness of hope for many. I've had the honor of serving the community by participating in local activities such as the back-to-school giveaways at Kenilworth, Rosedale, Greater Southwest (SW), and Stoddart Terrace recreation centers. I've also helped distribute meals to residents of Kenilworth, Lincoln Heights, Bennington Park, and the Greater SW community.

I have been privileged to experience amazing art exhibitions. I visited Union Station with my Court to view the exhibit "One Hundred Years of Women's Right to Vote." I attended the ASALH Annual Conference, bringing greetings to the African American Civil War Museum. Also, I was a speaker at the S.A.M.H.S.A National Older Adult Mental Health Awareness Day event. But one of my proudest moments was viewing the "Breaking the Glass Ceiling" painting on the National Mall, honoring Vice President Kamala Harris, the first woman, and person of color, to be Vice President.

I've had the honor of participating in a variety of senior events throughout the city – one of my biggest honors was being named a "Service Champion" by the Mayor's Office on Volunteerism and Partnerships. Additionally, I attended Mayor Bowser's 9th and 10th Virtual Senior Symposium, held each year by the Department of Aging and Community Living, giving me the opportunity to speak with District seniors to learn more about their interests, concerns, and how they age gracefully and in place. Plus, I've also enjoyed being a part of the



phenomenal DC Seniors Cameo Club.

I've even enjoyed serving even when times were a bit more challenging. Over the past two years, we have seen a rise in political and civil injustices, which put the world in a place of unrest. But while we faced such challenges, we have been able to witness beautiful changes, and I am so thankful to be a part of them.

Throughout my journey as Ms. Senior DC, I've found District seniors to be resilient, engaged, and strong advocates for their communities. I am so honored to be a founding member of our organization "Seniors Offering Unconditional Love" – SOUL. With SOUL, seniors have the ability to build bonds together, even those who have experienced devastating losses. It provides seniors with a safety net – a place to learn, heal, and support each other through love and compassion. So, as I relinquish the crown to the next Ms. Senior DC, I present a challenge for us to look at ourselves, families, our city, and the world in an entirely new way. We must continue to share wisdom, exhibit elegance, leave a legacy to our children and grandchildren, and celebrate our brilliance, creativity, and beauty. I want you to know and understand today how blessed I have been to serve you as Ms. Senior DC. I hope that I have served in such a way that inspires you to love and be loved, heal, grow, thrive, and transform seniors who are aging in grace and with SOUL.

And my final request – I ask you to embrace the **love more** affirmations:

- *Love like you have never been judged. Affirm your desires until they self-fulfill prophecies.*
- *Dream like you never had a nightmare.*
- *Energize your life's spirit like a magical solar panel.*
- *Reflect light like your spirit was your mirror and smile so hard that you blind those who don't believe.*

Trinette J. Chase
Ms. Senior DC, 2019-2020

Contestant No. 1 LaVerne Adams



Dr. LaVerne Adams, born a triplet, was raised by her single parent mother of six, in Brooklyn, New York.

After being told by her high school guidance counselor that she would never get into architecture school, Dr. Adams applied anyway and got in. She completed her degree in Construction Management at the Pratt Institute School of Architecture. Serving others through her faith as an ordained minister, she holds a Master of Divinity and a Doctor of Ministry degree from the Palmer Theological Seminary where she studied Psychological Systems Theories that focuses on the optimization of interdependencies of personal and professional relationships.

Dr. Adams has spent decades creating safe spaces and programs helping those who have been socially disenfranchised. As an Executive Director, she founded the Motivational Achievement Program, specifically designed to serve hundreds of

underprivileged children who were educationally marginalized. For her dedication, she has received the coveted Community Service Commendation from President Barack Obama for 20 years of service, as well as numerous citations from the Pennsylvania Governor, Senate, House of Representatives, and City Council of Philadelphia.

Currently, she is the Project Coordinator of the Ward 8 Community Economic Development Plan, and her work helps to positively advance the mission of the organization to maximize resident awareness and engagement in wealth building strategies. She has spent a lifetime as an entrepreneur and is the Chief Executive Coach of Total Life Consultancy, LLC.

After 60, Dr. Adams created the Rich Coaches Academy which trains participants to be highly effective at getting clients results, as well as the "Your Royal Highness" program to help raise the self-esteem and self-worth of young women and girls of color.

As the President of the DC Chapter of the International Association of Women, Dr. Adams is intentional about supporting women in their personal and professional development. She is a member of the International Coaching Federation DC Chapter, and a lifetime member of the NAACP DC. She is also a volunteer social media and technology instructor at Congress Heights Senior Wellness Center.

Contestant No. 2

Vanella Alise Jackson-Crawford



Ms. Vanella A. Jackson-Crawford is a native Washingtonian. She attended DC public schools and was a cheerleader, activist, and writer. She loves to learn. As a high school student, she was very interested in art and music, and was encouraged by her school counselors to attend college to further develop her passions, so she did just that and over time graduated with three degrees.

Ms. Jackson-Crawford's professional life includes a vast career in providing mental, emotional, physical, and spiritual services and support to communities throughout the country and abroad. She has owned a successful fitness center for women, a private clinical therapy practice for children and adults, and has a thriving evidence-based, life changing training program that she continues to share throughout the District of Columbia and beyond. She has published research articles and encourages young people to do the same.

She views life as a continued adventure and journey. This can be seen in her commitment to wellness, health, and fitness, which reached a peak in her 50's when she became a grandmother and won a body building competition in the same year. Her successes were documented in an ESPN article, and she continues to weight train and coach others today.

Never allowing her age or the views of others to define her, Ms. Jackson-Crawford continues to pursue new ventures, challenges, and dreams. Even though she's no stranger to public speaking, she took up the huge challenge of Stand-Up Comedy in her 60's and became sought after for her talent. Her most recent journey is the June 2021 launch of her new Podcast on being mentally and spiritually well.

Ms. Jackson-Crawford's devotion to her city and its people fulfills her political activism and heart. Her family fulfills her life and soul and is a source of endless joy and comfort for her.

Contestant No. 3 Annetta Hampton Nicholas



Ms. Annetta Hampton Nicholas was the first member of her family to graduate college, receiving a BS degree in Business Education at the University of Pine Bluff in Arkansas and a MA degree in Education from Trinity University in Washington, DC.

Ms. Nicholas has worked on many academic programs – The Odyssey Program, the English Composition and Rhetoric from the University of the District of Columbia, the creative writing program from George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and the Cities and Schools Programs from 1977-1981. She has also been recruited by the Carter Administration to work as an Education Specialist.

Her career began at the University of Arkansas, Pine Bluff, where she was employed as a student accountant in the business office from 1970 to 1972 and the Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) as an Administrative Assistant from 1972 to 1973. She then became a teacher in DCPS from 1973 to 2018.

For 32 years, Ms. Nicholas has served as an English teacher to Middle and High School students in Washington, DC and Monticello, Arkansas. As an educator, she encourages students to enter contests on local and national levels to share their talents.

Since retiring in April 2018, Ms. Nicholas continues to have an active role in her community, and presently serves as Board member on the Bates Area Civic Association Board. She has worked as a community activist and was responsible for planning and preparing their Annual Community Day, as well as organizing and delivering developmental and meaningful activities to the youth of the community. As a Ward 5 resident, she is an active member and volunteer of the Model Cities Senior Wellness Center, a member of the "Seniors Speaking Out and Up" (SSOU) group, and a member of the MC Steppers Senior Dance Group.

For 42 years, Ms. Nicholas has been a member of the historic Metropolitan A.M.E. Church. She is a member of "The Pearl P. Cooke Senior Citizens Club, member of their Bible Study Group, and a member of their Prayer Group. She has also spent time volunteering at the Church Food Bank and the Ambassador Group.

Contestant No. 4 Elynore Hooker Herron



Ms. Elynore Hooker Herron was born at Garfield Hospital in Washington, DC. She attended Catholic elementary school and was their only black student for the first 4 years. She later attended boarding school in Philadelphia and Mother Drexel from 6th to 8th grade. She began high school at St. Mary's Academy in DC, but graduated from Calvin Coolidge High School in 1963.

Ms. Herron graduated from Antioch College, Baltimore Campus in 1975. Through a concurrent BA/MA program, she graduated with both degrees. She also attained a counseling certification from Trinity College.

She has served as a representative to the Court system, advocating for juveniles to be tested for special needs assistance and to also be provided with essential programs that help them meet their educational needs. She has won more than 25 cases in over 4 years while employed with Yetta Galiber and Judge Fauntleroy. While

there, she helped raise attendance from 79% to 96%.

Ms. Herron has represented various organizations. She is the treasurer of the American Federation of Democratic Women and is also a member of the first African American Women's Political Organization – Metropolitan Democratic Women Club, which just celebrated their 60th Anniversary.

Ms. Herron began a "Share the Warmth" Project for the Unsheltered Homeless and has raised more than \$3,000 over the past 4 years.

She is the mother of two sons and an adopted daughter, the grandmother of five, and the great-granddaughter of one. Additionally, she currently has custody of an eleven-year-old boy, who was five when he entered her life. She is now his legal guardian, and he is very grateful for his "Grandma".

Contestant No. 5 Vene' La Gon



Ms. Vene' Antoinette La Gon is a third generation Washingtonian. Upon graduating from Eastern High School, she furthered her education earning a bachelor's degree in Urban Studies from the University of the District of Columbia and a Military Officers Commission from Howard University ROTC. She has worked in various positions as a Federal and District Government employee before becoming a sworn Law Enforcement Officer with the District of Columbia Metropolitan Police Department (MPD).

While assigned to the Special Operation Division and for 90 percent of this assignment, Ms. La Gon served as a lead, providing high security escorts to the United States President, Vice President, Dignitaries, DC high ranking city officials, and celebrity visitors. Before retiring after 27 years of service, Ms. La Gon provided instructional training to other MPD employees, doctors, nurses, engineers, firefighters and caregivers as a Certified Child Passenger Safety

Seat Instructor, and delivered press releases on behalf of the Major Crash Unit. She continues to volunteer her services to *SafeKids* Worldwide, the DC Department of Transportation, and as an area Caregiver to ensure that child passengers are safely traveling in motor vehicles. Currently, Ms. La Gon is an investigator for a local construction corporation, ensuring that staff are safe on active jobsites and while operating vehicles and machinery.

In 2016, Ms. La Gon represented the District of Columbia as the American Classic Woman, reigning Queen. This allowed her to attend numerous events, political galas, fundraisers, and community celebrations. She has been featured in several city papers, participated in radio interviews, and has even shared the red carpet with known celebrities. She returns to the American Classic Woman Pageant yearly to serve as commentator during the Formal Gown segment.

Ms. La Gon continues to serve her community through volunteering her talents as a balloon artist and event decorator, providing meals for the homeless, and participating in community fundraisers. She is an active member and usher at Beracah Baptist Church, and is the proud mother of a 36-year-old daughter, Yarné Glascoe, who she loves "to the moon and back".

Contestant No. 6 Ann Rollins



Ms. Ann Rollins is a native Washingtonian. As a Licensed Minister, Certified Christian Counselor and Worship Leader, Ms. Rollins is the founder of three (3) ministries:

- Worship Wear & SoMore – designs worship garments and flags
- Exodus – domestic violence/housing
- 60 Something - for seniors

Ms. Rollins served as the second elected Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner for Ward 6-B and as a national spokesperson for one of the nation's political advocates for the Civil Rights Movement.

As a breast cancer and domestic violence survivor, Ms. Rollins is committed to advocating for victims. After a brutal divorce and a ten-year court battle to keep her home, she has opened her home to victims of abuse to help restore their lives. This nurturing environment, called "Exodus", helps survivors recover and become reestablished.

Her passion for seniors inspired "60 Something," a program designed to empower seniors who have lost their zeal for life. The goal of 60 Something is to give hope to seniors so they can live stronger, longer lives, and embrace this new season with new reasons to enhance their golden years. 60 Something provides advocacy, mentoring, and resources to seniors throughout the District of Columbia.

Ms. Rollins is a retired Social Service Representative for the Department of Human Services. She is also a licensed cosmetologist, established artist, seamstress, fashion designer, and interior designer. She is currently developing her very own line of dance wear and worship flags.

Ann is a proud mother of one daughter and has seven grandchildren. She prides herself as a woman of distinction and humility, who serves her community and cares for the welfare of others.



Contestant No. 7 Teresa Anne Smith



Ms. Teresa Anne Smith was born in Philadelphia, PA, but is a product of Washingtonian parents. Her formal school education and subsequent BA are from The George Washington University, and has qualified her to work as a Grants Specialist & Editor, US Civil Service Commission staff member, and as a legal research specialist at Muldoon Murphy & Faucette, LLP – her dream job.

She has received certifications from the American Junior Bowling Congress, DC Pop Warner, and the Capital Area Food Bank. These community service roles have made it easy for her to give back to her community. She has also worked in food & clothing banks and provided Thanksgiving Baskets & Christmas gifts for families in need, along with school supplies.

In addition, the American Legion Auxiliary afforded Ms. Smith the opportunity to empower veterans on a local/national level by supporting legislation in the areas of housing, health & welfare.

Ms. Smith has worked alongside Assumption Catholic Church as an advocate ranging from elementary school students to college students, served at the Acolytes of Christ Youth Minister, taught Scripture, and promoted exercise and fun through positive words and deeds. She has also received commendations, plaques, and trophies from several groups including the American Legion & Auxiliary, the Johnny Award for community service, from the Mulholland Foundation, and a Proclamation from the late Mayor Marion Barry, Jr. on exemplary volunteer service and commitment to DC residents.

She has always loved to play the piano/keyboard. She has even created her own sheet-music by using white paper and black crayons, with a goal to read and play music. Her determination made the dream a reality.

Ms. Smith's love and knowledge of God, herself, and others has made her "life enjoyable."

Contestant No. 8 **Janice Talley Trent**



Ms. Janice Talley Trent is a native Washingtonian from the Trinidad neighborhood. She is considered a survivor after being born 6 months premature. She is the product of a two-parent household with one sister, now deceased.

Ms. Trent attended the "Pride of Capitol Hill" – Eastern Senior High School. Her degrees are (undergrad) Social Welfare/Sociology and (grad) Education. Armed with a degree in the social sciences, she became Director of Howard Gardens' Child Development Center in SE, DC and began her journey as an educator. As director of the Enrichment School at the Hospital for Sick Children, she organized their first parent involvement program.

One of Ms. Trent's proudest achievements was when she received a million-dollar grant to support the District-wide Homeless Program in

her proposal to the US Department of Education for DCPS.

In retirement, she started J Talley's Consulting Services. Additionally, she trained parents and teachers, worked as a home-hospital teacher, became an Adjunct Professor at Bowie State University, and also served as an Election Worker.

Ms. Trent joined the Washington Senior Wellness Center at age 60 and learned to swim at 65. Her hobbies include traveling, dancing, singing, swimming, acting, and entertaining family and friends. Dearest to her heart is the work she does with the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated. She has served in many capacities – as President, Vice President, mentor, and as an advisor.

One of Ms. Trent's proudest moments was when Dr. Dorothy Height of the National Council of Negro Women asked her to bless the food at a Conference Luncheon.

Ms. Trent married Garland Ernest Trent Jr. in 2011. They have two children, Deidra and Lateef, three grandchildren, DeShay, Rome, and Michael, and one great-grandchild, Royalty.

Our Judges



Judge Sandra A. Hunter, Chairperson

Ms. Sandra A. Hunter is a native Washingtonian and a retiree of Verizon. She currently works for Seabury Resources for Aging: Ward 5. She believes that she has been truly blessed and spends much of her time providing volunteer services to others. Ms. Hunter has been a volunteer for various senior organizations for many years. As an event planner, she utilizes her creativity through community events.



Judge Dana M. Johnson

Ms. Dana M. Johnson was born in Lynchburg, Virginia and raised in Washington, DC. She is a member of the Ft. Lincoln Wesley House Senior Apartments and serves as President of the Wesley House Tenant Association. She loves to cruise, dance, spend time with the Red Hat Society, and of course – shopping. She worships at Greater Faith Kingdom Ministries in Greenbelt, MD. She retired from the federal government and US Department of Education with over 30 years of service.



Judge Demetrius "Dee" Jones

Mr. Demetrius Jones has over 14 years of experience in professional Home Care Services. He's spent the past seven years as Vice President of Client Relations for Caringgivers, LLC, which is a family-owned business that delivers home care services to Seniors in the DMV. Providing home care services to seniors has been the most rewarding position he's held over his career tenure. He has made caring for seniors his priority while collaborating with many senior organizations in the DMV to ensure families are cared for with dignity and respect.



Judge Sheila Pannell

Ms. Sheila Pannell is a native Washingtonian. She graduated from Woodrow Wilson High School and Howard University's School of Social Work. She is an ombudsman with the Office of the DC Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program, where she advocates for the rights of seniors. She enjoys participating in community outreach activities and is an active member with senior ministry at Providence St. John Baptist Church. She is married with one daughter and two adorable grandsons.



Judge Julia Michelle Spraggins

Ms. Julia Spraggins was born in Danville, Virginia. She attended Johnson C. Smith University where she received a degree in Marketing. She later graduated from Southeastern University with an MBA in Marketing. She is the Owner and Founder of "It's A Wrap Project, LLC". The project teaches the "Art of Head Wrapping." For over twenty-five years, she has worked in the fields of fashion, marketing, retail, public relations, and education. She enjoys travel, fashion, horseback riding, cycling, and reading.

Tabulators:

Ms. Rebecca Dortch Brown, a native of Camden, Alabama, graduated from Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina with a BA in Accounting and Economics. Upon graduating from college, Rebecca began her career as an Accountant with the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, DC.

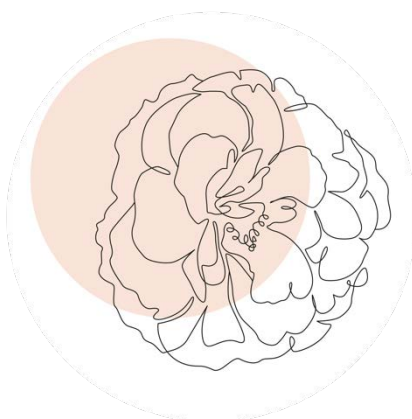
Mr. Aniekan Okon was born in Lagos, Nigeria to a Nigerian father and an American mother. He came to the US in 1996 and attended Howard University in 1997. He then began working for the US Census Bureau in 2002 to present.



Ms. Senior District of Columbia Previous Pageant Winners

*Mignon Coates, 1980
Ruth Nelson, 1981
Ruth Nelson, 1985
*Princess Josephine Simons, 1986
*Gladys Elliott, 1987
*Lois Ward Robinson, 1988
*Mildred Skipper Austin, 1989
*Lillian Brown, 1990
Lovelean Powell, 1991
*Doris Thomas, 1992
*Dorothy Jackson, 1993
*Alice Scott Kelly, 1994
*Carlous F. Burrell, 1995
*Mary Young Johnson, 1996
Vivian Fields, 1997
Elaine S. Terry, 1998
Thelma Morgan, 1999
Jaquetta Patrick, 2000
*Myrtle Smith Gardiner-Church, 2001

Daisy J. Savage, 2002
Ellen Odellas Van Edwards, 2003
Barbara Newman, 2004
Sandra Bears, 2005
Ann N. Thomas, 2006
Lucille H. Watson, 2007
*RC Turner, 2008
Shirley Rivens Smith, 2009
Sheila Poole, 2010
Emma P. Ward, 2011
Mary L. McCoy, 2012
*Nancy A. Berry, 2013
Toni Jackson, 2014
Wendy Bridges, 2015
Billie LaVerne Smith, 2016
Frances Curtis Johnson, 2017
Phyllis Jordan, 2018
Trinette Chase, 2019
Trinette Chase, 2020



*Deceased



Ms. Senior District of Columbia Pageant Judging Procedures

Each Ms. Senior District of Columbia Pageant Contestant is a winner. In order to choose which elegant lady will wear the crown, impartial judges are chosen by the pageant committee. The judges select Ms. Senior DC by using criteria established by Senior America, Inc. The criteria are as follows:

The Interview

One of the most important aspects of the pageant is for all judges to have an opportunity to meet with each contestant individually. It is during this personal interview that the judges have an opportunity to select the woman whose charm, personality and conversational ability will best represent the District of Columbia at the Ms. Senior America Pageant.

Philosophy of Life

The Ms. Senior District of Columbia Pageant recognizes that every contestant has physical beauty. The pageant seeks to emphasize that true beauty is a matter of insight as well as eyesight. Each contestant is given the opportunity to present a statement which conveys her "philosophy of life," thereby giving the judges a window into her soul where her true beauty lies.

Talent

The talent presentation is an integral part of the Ms. Senior District of Columbia Pageant. It is designed to encourage talent from music, to arts, to homemaking and demonstrate that this gift does not diminish with age.

Evening Gown

It is the philosophy of the pageant that the clothes do not make the woman, but rather it is the woman who makes the clothes. During this event, the judges will seek the contestant whose poise and grace display not only her clothes style, but also her lifestyle.