Kimberly Clarice Aiken - During Miss America in 1994, she became the first crowned African American Queen from, SC. She is founder, president of HERO (Homeless Education and Resource Organization)

Charles P. Austin, Sr. - Columbia's first African-American Chief of Police

Clayton "Peg Leg" Bates – born in the small town of Fountain Inn, SC, he began tap dancing, despite an accident that left him with one leg, at the age of 12.

Mary McLeod Bethune - founded Bethune-Cookman College, National Council for Negro Women

Septima Poinsette Clark - Civil Rights leader who was involved in efforts to allow Blacks to teach in public schools in Charleston.

Honorable Merl F. Code- the first African American to serve as a Municipal Court Judge in Greenville, South Carolina

Viola Davis - Tony award winning actress, from St. Matthews, SC, who has starred in the movies, The Help and Antwone Fisher, and is lead actress in How to Get Away with Murder.

Reverend Joseph Armstrong DeLaine - Civil Rights leader from Summerton, SC, who helped end segregation in South Carolina schools.

Willie Earle - A mob seized him from jail and he was thought to be the last African American person to die by lynching in South Carolina.

Marian Wright Edelman - Born in Bennettsville, SC, she founded the *Children's Defense Fund*.

Raymond Felton - Latta, SC native who plays in the NBA, for Los Angeles Clippers.

Joe Frazier - Professional heavyweight boxer, also called "Smokin' Joe", who was born in Beaufort, SC.

Althea Gibson - born in Silver, SC, was first Black player to win the Wimbledon singles title and the first to win the U. S. national title.

Vonnie Holliday - Free agent NFL, Defensive Lineman, from Camden, SC, who last played with Arizona Cardinals.

Alice Wyche Hurley - Renaissance woman, of Columbia, SC, working on many committees and boards.

Jesse Lewis Jackson - Assistant to the late Martin Luther King, Jr.; founder of Rainbow Coalition; founder of Operation PUSH, and minister from Greenville, SC.

Mamie "Peanut" Johnson - Native of Ridgeway, SC, and only woman to pitch for Negro Major League.

Jonas Thomas Kennedy - A farmer and philanthropist, from Bennettsville, SC, who helped to enrich the field of education from the United States to Africa.

Eartha Kitt - Both singer and actress, born in North, SC.

Isaac Samuel Leevy - Kershaw County native and entrepreneur of a department store, a funeral home, a service station, an automobile repair garage, a barber shop, a beauty shop, a real estate development company, a dressmaking operation, a burial association, and even a commercial hograising enterprise.

Isom Bartrone Lowman, **Jr**. - Graduate of Spring Valley High School in Columbia, SC, before graduating Morehouse College and owner of Fame Sports, Athlete's Foot, and Supreme Footwear.

Wes Mackey - Blues musician born in rural, SC.

Benjamin Elijah Mays - Teacher and Civil Rights leader born in Ninety-Six, SC. He was president of Morehouse College, dean of Howard University's School of Religion, and the first black president of Atlanta's school board.

Ron McNair - Lake City, SC, native, who was an astronaut and physicist, who was one of the seven killed in the explosion of the Space Shuttle *Challenger*.

Pearl Moore - Native of Florence, SC, holds the women's basketball point record and inducted into *Women's Basketball Hall of Fame*.

Dr. Maceo Nance - Graduated from South Carolina State University, and served as president of the college for 19 years.

Reverend I. **DeQuincey Newman** - Born in Darlington County, SC, Civil Rights leader who led NAACP through turbulent 1960s. He later was elected as the state's first African-American state senator since 1886.

Horace Ott - Record producer, arranger, conductor, composer, and pianist, was born in St. Matthews, South Carolina.

William "Refrigerator" Perry – Former Chicago Bears defensive lineman, key player in Superbowl XX, born in Aiken, SC.

Robert Purvis - Born in Charleston, SC, home became a vital waystation for escaped slaves on the way to freedom in Canada and elsewhere.

Willie Larry Randolph, Jr. - Born in Holly Hill, SC, and a former professional baseball player for New York Yankees.

Sarah Reese - Soprano opera singer, from Greenville, SC.

Donnie Shell - Residing in Rock Hill, SC, a former NFL player for Pittsburgh Steelers and recently chosen by ex-teammate Tony Dungy for his introduction into Hall of Fame.

Robert Smalls - Beaufort, SC, slave who hijacked a Confederate steamship, disguised himself as a white captain, and sailed to Union safety. He later became a captain in US Navy and a representative in the US Congress.

James E. "Patch" Talley - Former mayor of Spartanburg, SC.

Irene Trowell-Harris - Aiken, SC native who became first African American general of the National Guard.

Denmark Vessey - One of the founders of Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, SC, organized a slave uprising in Charleston, SC.

Dr. Clemmie E. Webber - Former National Mother of the Year recipient from orangeburg, SC.

Dwight E. Woods - Former Director of Phillis Wheatley Repertory Theater in Greenville, SC.

Matthew A. Zimmerman, Jr. - Native of Rock Hill, SC, appointed by President Bush as former Chief of Chaplains of the US Army.