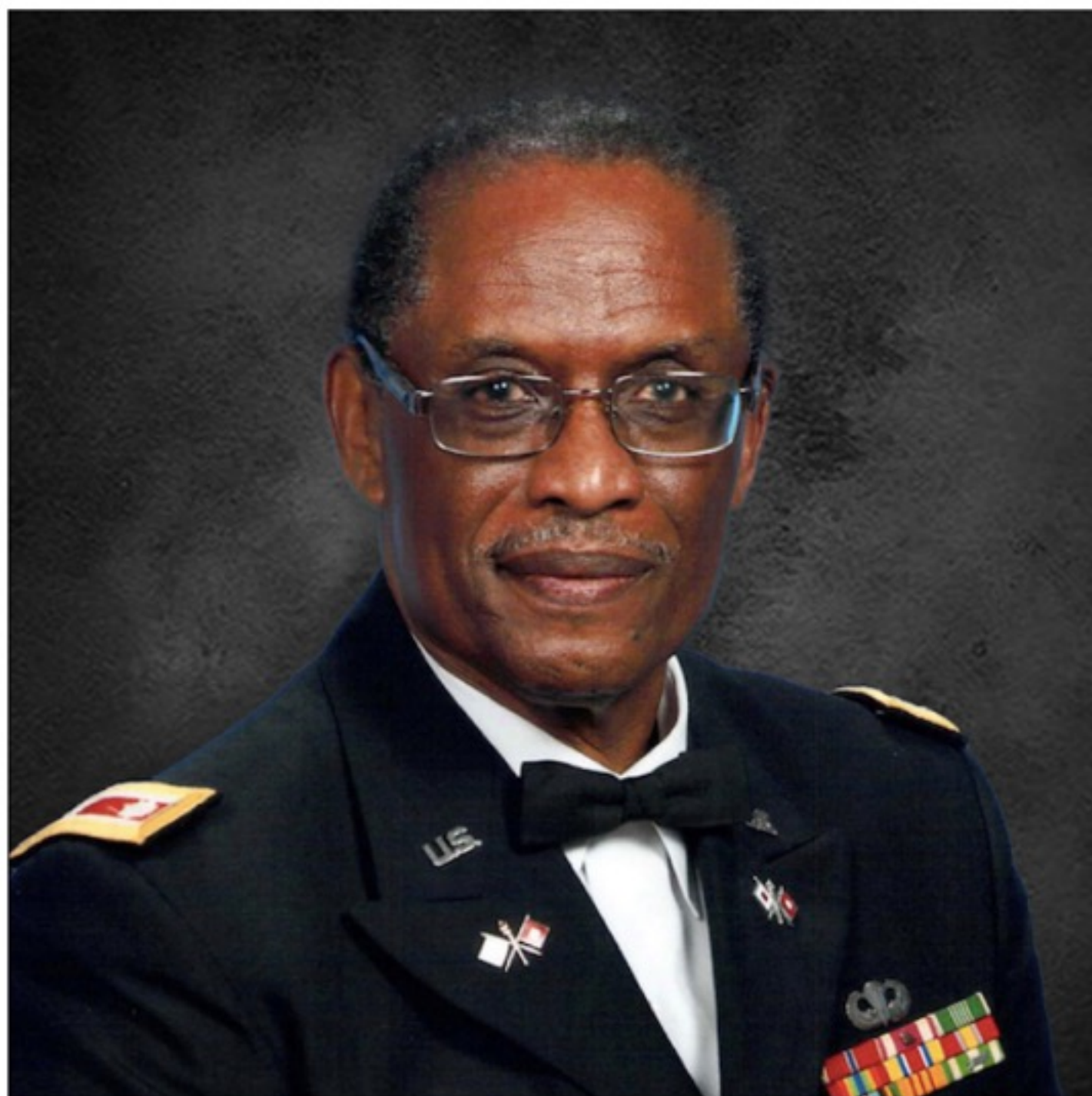


Panther Legacy

Alumni Affairs Newsletter



THE MEASURE OF A PV MAN

By Tramyra W. Simmons

The Measure of A Man has taught men from the Church, the Barbershop, the Fraternity, and also the teachers, the doctors, the engineers and the janitors how to live according to God's divine order.

When I think of Lieutenant Colonel Benny Lockett, I also think of Sidney Poitier. Like Mr. Poitier, Mr. Lockett loved meeting new people. He longed to experience all of life and at the same time, he was not tied down to any one area. Mr. Lockett, as I called him, was a man of purpose, focus, and structure. Mr. Lockett was a man of strong faith: loving and faithful to his family and friends. Mr. Lockett was the President of the PV Houston Alumni Chapter and Treasurer of the PV National Alumni Association. Within these roles he demonstrated all of the finest qualities that we have seen on the screen with actors such as Sidney Poitier. Although presenting to an audience smaller than that of Poitier, Mr. Lockett was just as impactful.

Mr. Lockett had an impact on our entire membership by his calming yet authoritative spirit. He was a man of presence, honesty, and loyalty. His spiritual existence impacted all those around him with the highest honor and respect. As I reflect on Mr. Lockett, he was *that* member that all Chapter Presidents would love to have.

Coming
Up Next

Panther Legacy

Celebrating the life of Jaida Payne

Panthers on the
Purple Carpet

featuring Terrence Spivey

His commitment to the PVAMU Family was aligned with our membership purposes: To promote closer fellowship among the Alumni of our community; To serve and support the University in the advancement of higher education; To keep Alumni informed concerning our Alma Mater; and To provide undergraduates scholarships to support students.

Mr. Lockett not only focused on one of the purposes, but he put all into action. He gave his time, knowledge, leadership, and financial backing. Knowing this and much more, it was brought to the attention of the Houston Chapter members and, unanimously, the Executive Board and all its members approved to honor Mr. Lockett's memory by offering a four-year scholarship to a deserving student.

Prairie View student Deborah Osemwingie was honored to be the first recipient of this scholarship and has demonstrated much integrity while upholding Mr. Lockett's legacy.

I recall one year; Mr. Lockett was not able to attend our annual Mardi Gras Scholarship Luncheon. In prior years, he was always one of the first to pay for an entire table and it was customary to have a special table for Mr. Lockett and his guests.

During the day of this particular event, I arrived early and there were two adults and several students sitting at Mr. Lockett's reserved table. Due to illness, Mr. Lockett was not able to attend our annual Luncheon. However, the Lockett family made it possible to have teachers and students attend this event from Booker T. Washington High School's School of Engineering.

Those students were sitting at the front of the venue with pure excitement. It was the cutest thing and it appeared many of the young men and women had yet to experience the opportunity to sit at a three-course meal luncheon before. They had a speed round lesson on fine dining and style and most of them nailed it.

And with Mr. Lockett's generosity, they were able to partake in a great experience with our seasoned alums and our young students receiving their scholarship awards. Four of those students are currently enrolled in PV Today.

Another example of Mr. Lockett's generosity is that he was a faithful supporter of the National Alumni Association. Aside from attending the annual convention and supporting our Hiltopper fundraiser (Yearly!), Mr. Lockett would make an additional donation to the National Alumni Association specifically to assist with operations to the National Alumni Association office. With the thousands of PV Alumni, this was, and is, not the norm. This also certifies who Mr. Lockett was and his blessings were touched and received by many.

During a football game, it was asked of Mr. Lockett, by a fellow Alum, about how to encourage more engagement between the University and the Alumni Association. To this, Mr. Lockett humbly responded "It is because of the opportunity and the education I received from Prairie View that I am able to give back and this is the least I could do" and when he was able to do more, he would. These are just a few of the many intimate stories of Lieutenant Colonel Benny Lockett.

As I close:

Mr. Lockett was a devoted Chapter Member.

Mr. Lockett was a Lifetime National Member.

Mr. Lockett had an inspiring personality.

Mr. Lockett had a way with words and an uncanny ability to motivate others.

Mr. Lockett opened his heart to many.

Mr. Lockett was a Proud PV Man.

Questions about upcoming events? Suggestions for alumni recognition?

Email alumni@pvamu.edu