The background of the image features a large, faint, circular seal. The seal contains a central illustration of a building, possibly a school or town hall, with a steeple. The words "TOWNSHIP OF TEANECK" are visible around the perimeter of the seal, though they are very light and difficult to read. The seal is centered behind the main text.

**In commemoration of the honorary
renaming of Voorhees Street to
DR. HENRY J. PRUITT WAY
by the Township of Teaneck
on November 16, 2020**

**- Congratulations -
Voorhees Street Association**

TEANECK ROAD

VOORHEES STREET
★ Honorary Renamed ★
DR. HENRY PRUITT WAY



VOORHEES STREET

VAN CORTLAND TERRACE

RENSSELEAR ROAD

HAMILTON LANE

In commemoration of the honorary
renaming of Voorhees Street to
DR. HENRY PRUITT WAY

by the Township of Teaneck
on November 16, 2020

- Congratulations -
Voorhees Street Association

PROGRAM

~ MUSICAL OPENING - REGGIE PITTMAN ~

WELCOME.....COUNCILWOMAN GERVONN ROMNEY

MASTER OF CEREMONIES.....ODEIN KARIBI-W

INVOCATION.....REVEREND DR. MICHELLE W

REMARKS FROM DIGNITARIES.....

IMPETUS FOR TODAY.....SCOTT PLEAS

COMMUNITY REMARKS.....

DRUM SELECTION.....TSCHAKA TONGE - Minisink Tribal Me

~ STREET SIGN REVEAL ~

PRESIDENT, VOORHEES ST. BLOCK ASSOCIATION....TONIETTE H. DUN

GUEST OF HONOR REMARKS.....DR. HENRY J. PR

CLOSING REMARKS.....ODEIN KARIBI-WI

BENEDICTION.....REVEREND DR. MICHELLE W

~ MUSICAL FINALE - REGGIE PITTMAN ~



Dr. Henry J. Pruitt Way

A submission was made by Scott Pleasants to request the council rename Voorhees St. to Dr. Henry Pruitt Way. Below is the submission for the request by Scott Pleasants for this important street renaming. At the November 10, 2020 the council passed the street renaming unanimously.

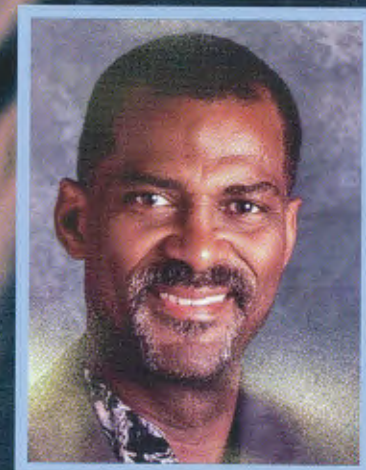
For the residents of Teaneck and Bergen County, Dr. Pruitt, for many years, has been a tireless advocate for our community on a wide range of important issues. He is a lifelong exceptionally accomplished educator and has been an outstanding resident of our township since 1963. Along with his wife of over 60 years, Dr. Zita Pruitt (former Teaneck Bryant Elementary School Principal), they serve as role models and mentors throughout the community and in particular to those residents in the northeast. He is the father of four children, all of whom went through the Teaneck school system and he has 11 grandchildren and three great grandchildren. Many of our residents have benefited from Dr. Pruitt's involvement and selfless efforts and he is recognized as a pillar in the community and most certainly one of Teaneck's octogenarian living legends.

When most people decide to move their life into a slower pace, Dr. Pruitt continues to find this unique energy to persevere and push to the forefront on bevy of social and community issues. To place this in context, he began to receive professional and community lifetime achievement awards in 1994 and over 26 years later he continues to give back. At the seasoned age of 69 he entered into service as an elected official on Teaneck's Board of Education. At the accomplished ages of 78 and 80 respectfully, he entered into service as our Teaneck Council member and Deputy Mayor. These accomplishments are most certainly notable and special in their own right, however combined with his abundance of life experience; this undoubtedly separates him from his peers.

His community involvement, professional accomplishments and associate recognition are also layered in tremendous significance and longevity. He began his teaching career in 1961 and was the longest serving board member in the modern history of William Paterson University, at which he has received a honorary doctor of humane letters degree. In addition, he has been inducted into the Hunter College (NYC) Hall of Fame. He has received countless awards and has served the Teaneck and Bergen County community in various capacities.



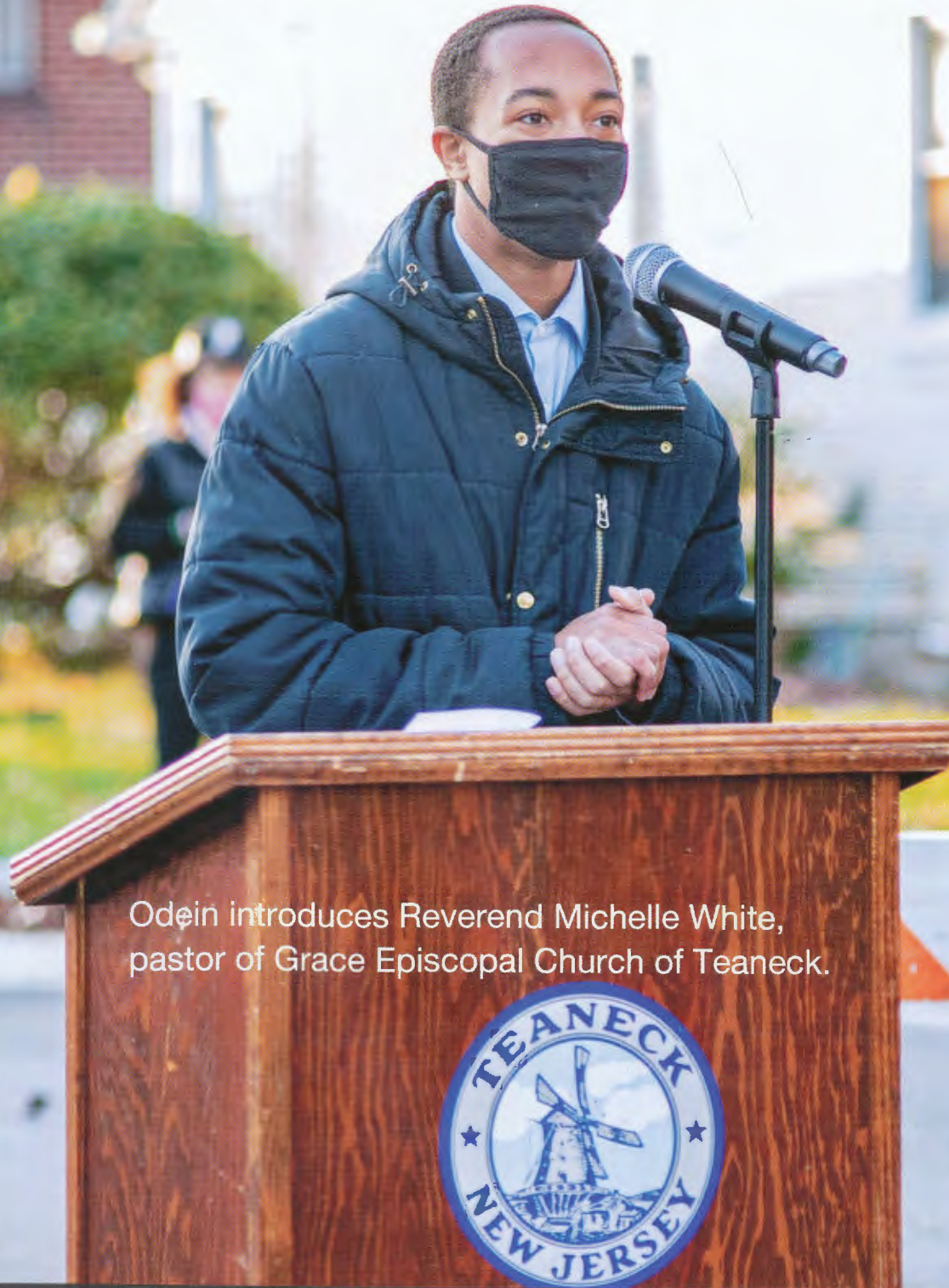
Township of Teaneck, NJ; "Call to Attention" by Reginal Pittman





Council Woman Gervonn Rice introducing the master of ceremonies Odein Karibi-Whyte, he is one of Dr. Pruitt's grandsons.





Odein introduces Reverend Michelle White,
pastor of Grace Episcopal Church of Teaneck.





Reverend White provides the invocation for this event.



Flowers are presented to Dr. Eunice Zita Pruitt by Gervonn Rice from the committee. Dr. Zita Pruitt is Dr. Henry Pruitt's wife.



Mayor Jaames Dunleavy talks about Dr. Pruitt.





Teaneck Deputy Mayor 1 - Elie Katz

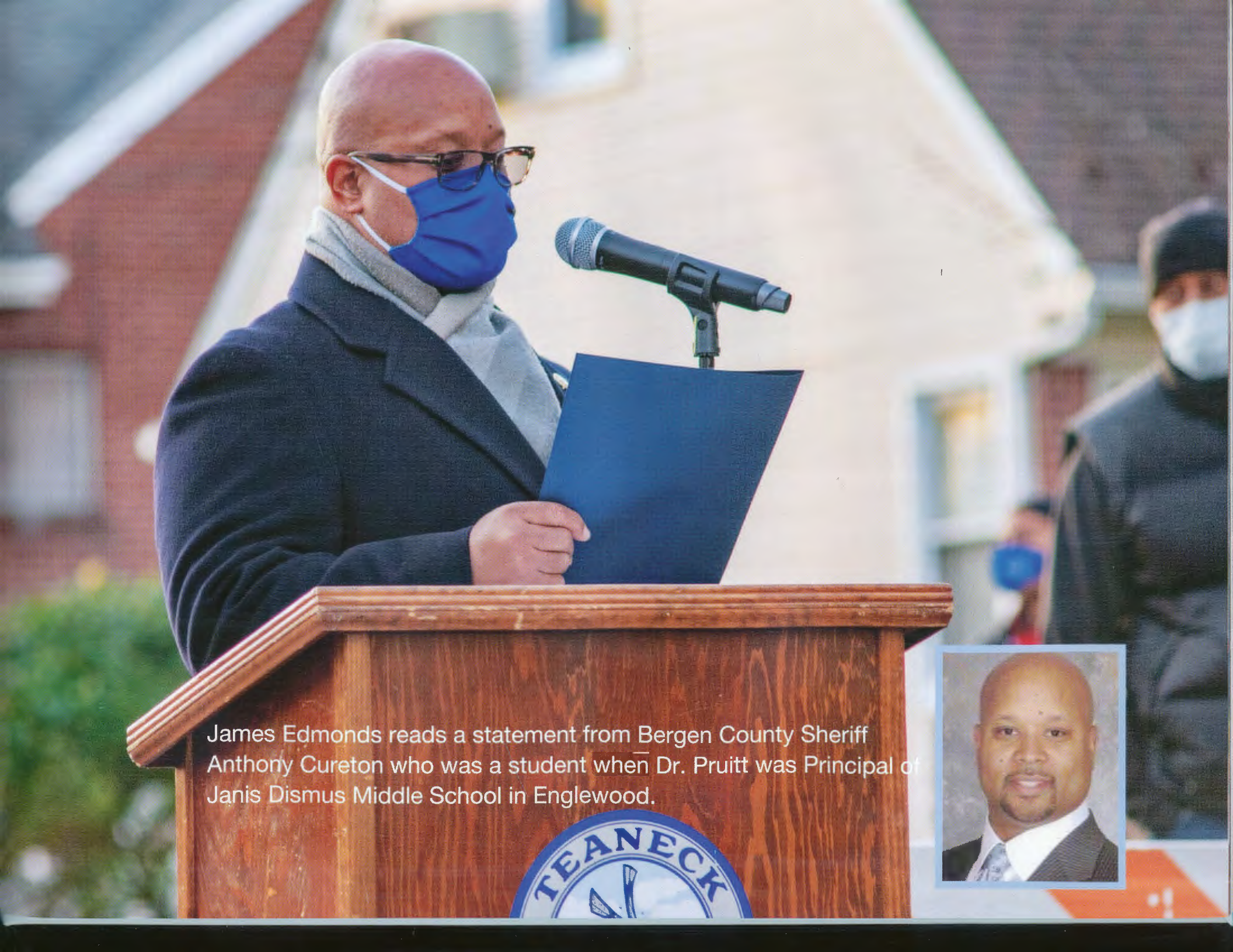




Odein Karibi-Whyte reading a statement from
Deputy Mayor 2 - Mark Schwartz



Proclamation from U.S. Representative Josh Gottheimer, read by Kady Toledo.



James Edmonds reads a statement from Bergen County Sheriff Anthony Cureton who was a student when Dr. Pruitt was Principal of Janis Dismus Middle School in Englewood.





Scott Pleasant: the person who nominated Dr. Pruitt for the street naming recognition.





Jayson S. Murray pays tribute to Dr. Pruitt.





Jayson S. Murray is wearing a jacket showing the Order of the Feather logo. This fraternity began at Camp Minisink. Dr. Pruitt became a member in 1949.



Jayson Murray and Dr. Pruitt's favorite oldest daughter, Karen Harrison and the youngest son of Gervonn Rice, Jullian are hanging out together.

Renee Karibi-Whyte, Dr. Pruitt's daughter, talks about her father.





Jacqueline Wilson - President of The Northeast Teaneck Block Presidents Association.





The Trophy is presented to Dr. Pruitt by Jacqueline Wilson.



Lamarr Thomas - Principal of Janis Dismus Middle School in Englewood talks about Dr. Pruitt. He was a student when Dr Pruitt was principal of the same school.



TIDE



Ardie Walser, PhD. - President of the Teaneck Board of Education, talks about Dr. Pruitt and then he sang a song: "To Be Young At Heart" - Everyone enjoyed his rendition.





Dr. Pruitt's favorite middle daughter Sherilyn Pruitt arrives on the scene.





Damien Carpenter pays tribute to Dr. Pruitt. He was a student when Dr. Pruitt was Assistant Head Master at Harlem Preparatory School in New York City.



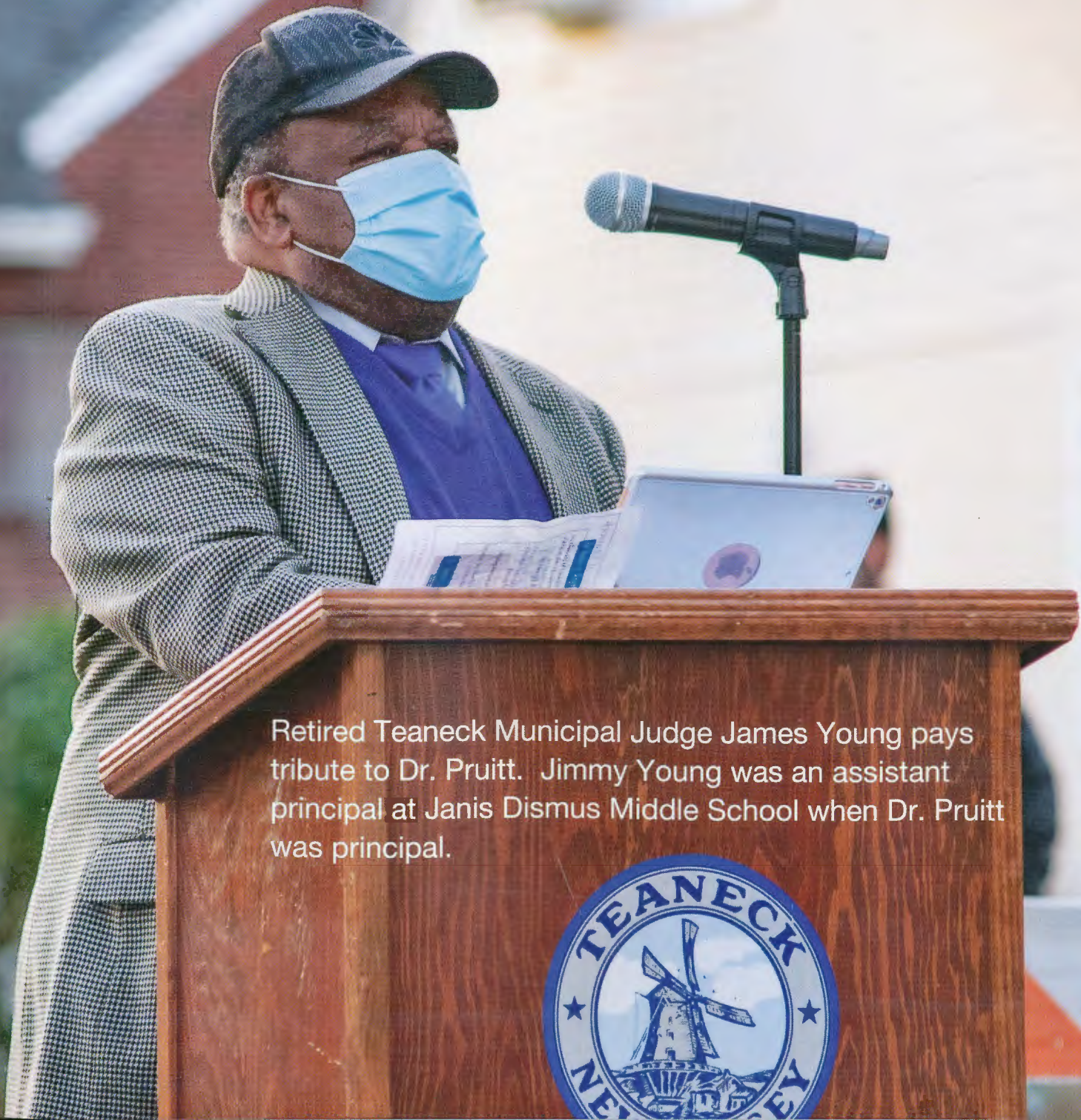


Dr. Pruitt's sister, Harriett McFeeters and Loraine Livingston enjoy the proceedings.

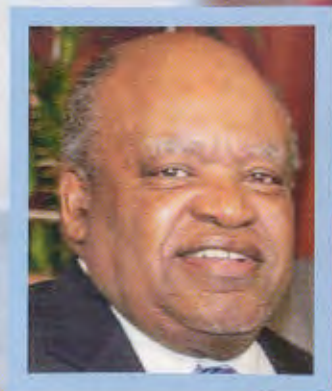


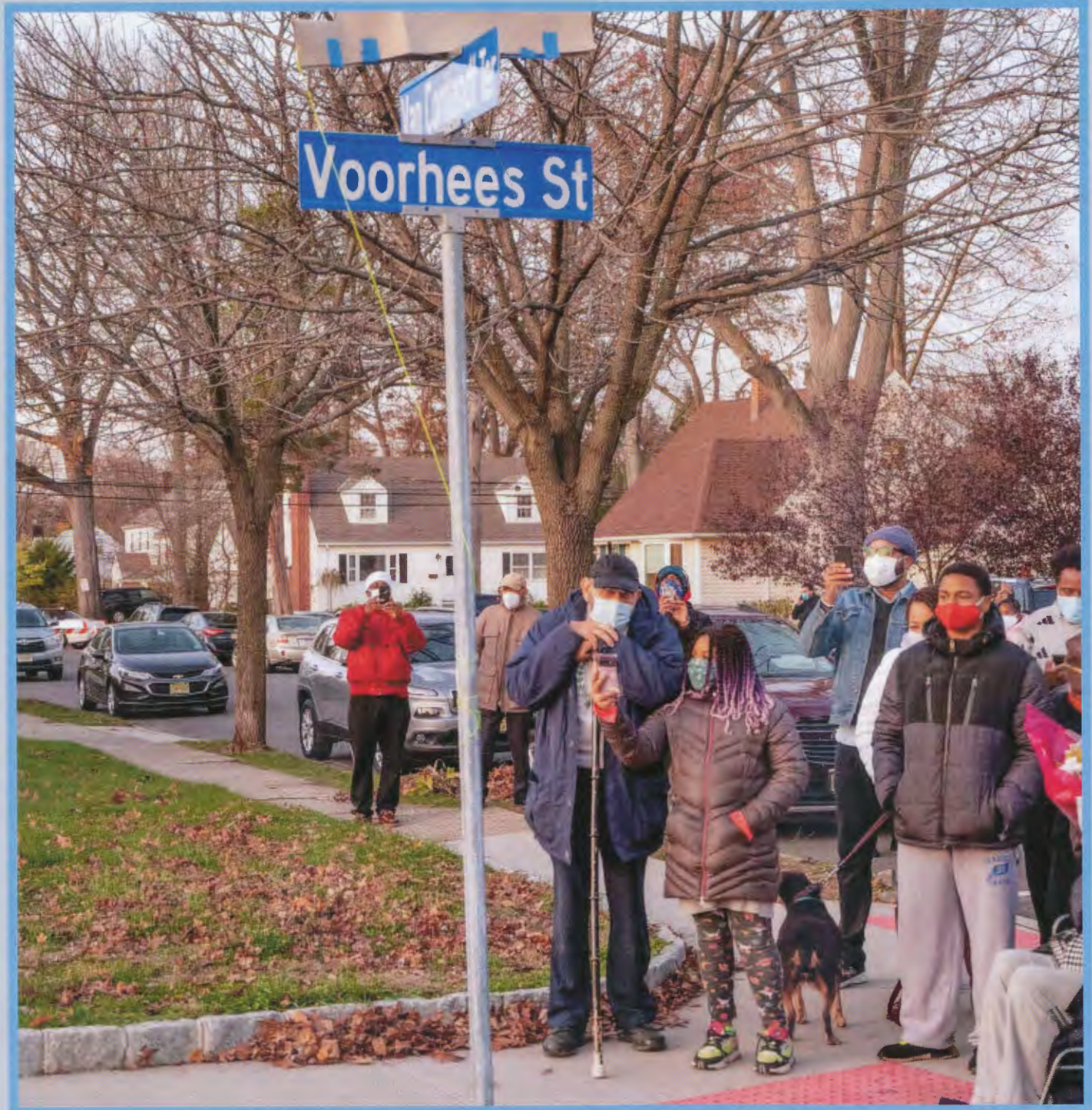


Odein welcomes Judge Young to the Podium.



Retired Teaneck Municipal Judge James Young pays tribute to Dr. Pruitt. Jimmy Young was an assistant principal at Janis Dismus Middle School when Dr. Pruitt was principal.



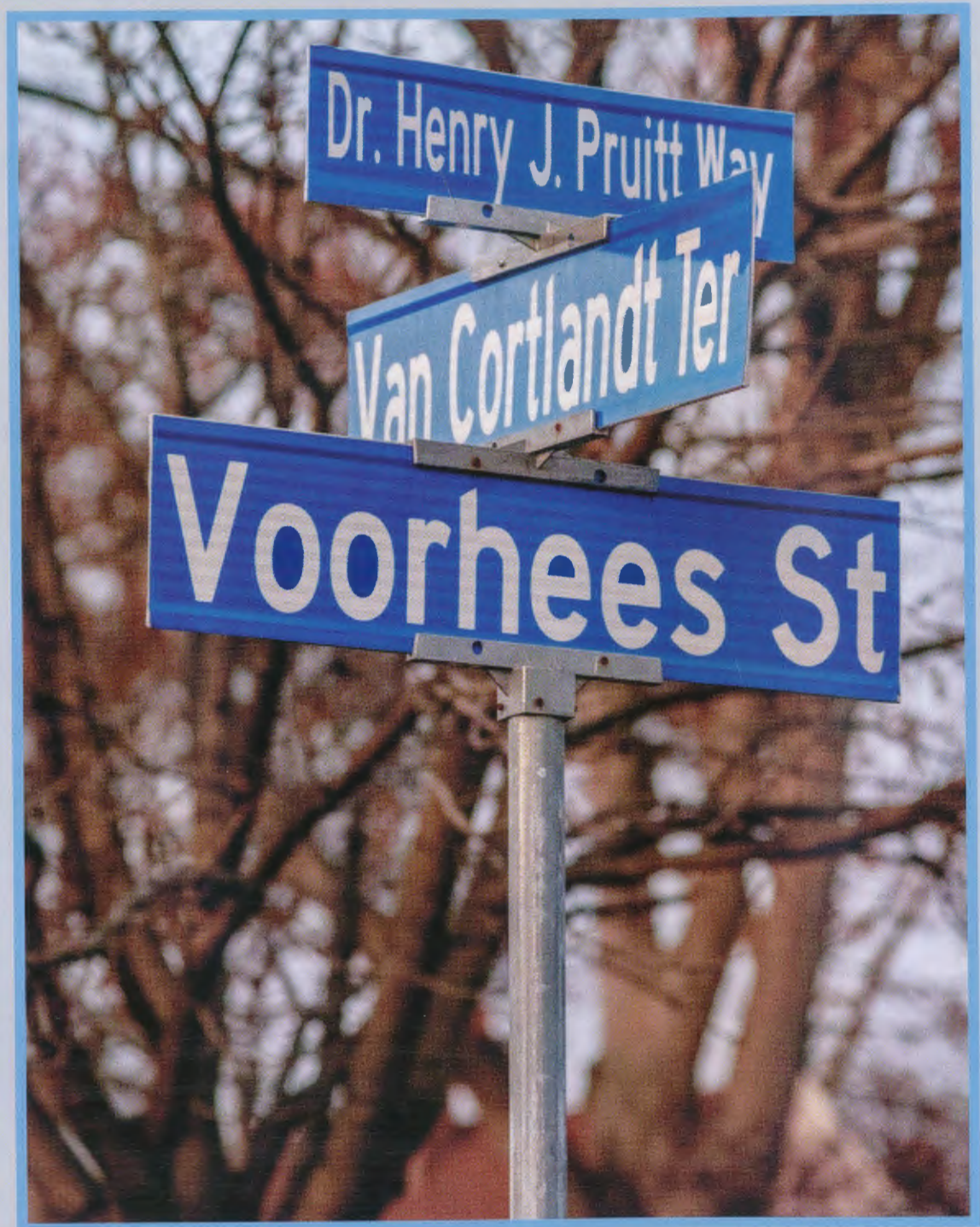


Dr. Pruitt is standing next to the street sign along with two of his grandchildren: Daye, and Lolita Karibi-Whyte.

Coco, the family dog, is also in this photograph.



Dr. Pruitt unveils the street sign while Tschaka Tonge plays the Cona Drum.



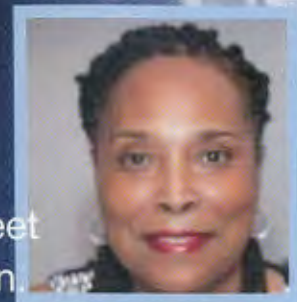
This is the view of the sign
from Van Cortlandt Terrace.



Dr. Pruitt shows the "Dr. Henry J. Pruitt Way" street sign.



Toniette Duncan, President of the Voorhees Street Association presents Dr. Pruitt a Framed Citation





This is another view of the Voorhees Street Framed Citation.



Dr. Pruitt has a conversation with Lawrence Duncan as Dough Ruccione, the Teaneck Township Clerk, look on.





Dr. Pruitt makes his way to the podium.



Dr. Henry J. Pruitt responds to the occasion. At the end of his response Dr. Pruitt presents his Teaneck Leadership Staff to his grandson Odein Karibi-Whyte.

Dr. Pruitt's Response
November 16, 2020

I would like to thank Scott and Mark and the Township Council for honoring me in this way. Thanks, are also in order for Gervonn, Dean, Toinette, Scott, Odein and my wife Zita for putting this event together. Reggie Pittman and Tschaka Tongee are owed a special debt of gratitude for their musical contributions. I want to thank all of those who said nice things about me and everyone else for attending this event on a cold November evening.

What did it take for me to be able to stand here today and receive this kind of recognition?

- A. The first component is a supportive family
- B. The second component is made up of life's experiences.
- C. The third component is made up of Teaneck Community Involvement.
- D. The last component is my hope for the future of the Teaneck Community.

A. Family:

My parents were married for more than fifty years and my mother stayed home to raise five children while my father worked in the Post Office. Outside of attending to family concerns they both were heavily involved in community relations. For many years my father was the Chairperson for the Manhattan Committee to certify Eagle Scouts. And my mother was the Chairperson of the Camp Minisink Cooperative Fund Committee.

My four siblings were all teachers: One sister taught English, one sister taught Physical Education and ran a National Performing Arts management company, my other sister taught science but eventually became the assistant superintendent in a large Bronx school District. My brother taught Social Studies and eventually became the director of a very successful Upward Bound Program at Fordham University.

My Wife of 63 years, Dr. Zita Pruitt was an elementary school teacher and principal of five schools in Teaneck. My four children have also lead very successful lives.

Karen is a Homemaker

Henry is Project Manager: Enterprise Architecture at New York University,

Sherilyn is Chief: Infrastructure and Innovation, Branch Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington D.C.

Renee: is Vice President of Marketing Communication and Thought Leadership for the Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors.

All of my eleven grandchildren and three great grandchildren are also doing very well.

B .Life Experiences:

The most overarching influence in my life has been my relationship to the Camp Minisink Organization. My first year at camp was in 1943 and I have remained connected to the Hills of Minisink for seventy-seven years. The Camp Program is gone but the Hills of Minisink still hold a special place in my heart. The Order of the Feather and "FOME" Friends of The Minisink Experience remain alive and well.

I attended Hunter College and it took me nine semesters to complete my degree and I received an academic warning because of a low-grade point index in five of the nine semesters. Forty-three years later they put me into the Hunter College Hall of Fame where I joined my wife and two of my sisters.

Another very important component of my life was my 33 year relationship with the William Paterson University Board of Trustees. I served three presidents during that period and one year after I left they awarded me an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

A life changing event happened while I was Assistant Head Master of Harlem Preparatory School when Lenora Tait knocked on my door one day and paved the way for me to get my Ed.D. from Teachers College Columbia University at no cost to me.

The most fun time for me was the 18 years that I spent as Principal of Janis E. Dismus Middle School in Englewood. Jim Young, Saul Bethay, Leora Robinson and many others on my team made this learning space a wonderful place for Englewood's Middle school students. Bergen County Sheriff Cureton, Janis Dismus Middle School Principal Thomas and Englewood Police Chief Suffern are products of this experience.

C. Teaneck Involvement:

We came to Teaneck in 1963 at the height of the Block Busting component of Teaneck history. NECO North East Community Organization in the east and the Teaneck Political Assembly in the west worked diligently together to heal this community. I served a term as President of the Voorhees Street Block Association and subsequently became President of the North East Teaneck Block Presidents Association. I remember the year long battle we had with the township to keep a check cashing business from locating on North Teaneck Road.

I ran for Board of Education three times and Township Council twice and won every time due to excellent campaign management from: Zita Pruitt, Pat White, Gervonn Rice and Kimberly Parson twice.

D. My Hope for the Future of Teaneck:

In my opinion a significant unsolved American problem has and continues to be white supremacy. Take a moment to think about it. A black or brown president that had served the country as poorly as the present president would have been removed from office a long time ago.

As we continue to analyze the presidential election we must take into account the significant impact of the national miss management of the covid 19 virus and the knee on George Floyds neck. These actions woke up a significant number of Americans who normally do not vote at all.

Teaneck has had its own challenges with this problem over time. Examples are: Segregated Schools, Block Busting incidents, and racial unrest due to the Pannell shooting in 1990.

Our community has gone through a successful healing process and, although there is plenty of political discourse, white supremacy is not an issue here today. Teaneck is the only community in Bergen County that has allowed the Black Lives Matter mural to be painted on the ground. We as a community must continue to work hard to preserve this condition and continue to model it for Bergen County and the rest of America. Martin Luther King had it right: The people of Teaneck do not judge each other by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.

Thank you all for this wonderful RECOGNITION SIGN.

Call Odein back to the podium.

I want all of you to meet my grandson Odein Karibi Whyte. I am extremely proud of his Teaneck leadership over the past several months. Leadership is in his blood. His other grand father was a supreme court justice in Nigeria. He served in this capacity for approximately 20 years. He was the Nigerian representative to the World Court in the Haig during the Bosnian War crimes tribunal.

At this time I am going to give Odein my symbolic staff of Teaneck Leadership.

All of us will be watching him as he moves around the township and Moorhouse College and the world in the future.



Odein Karibi-Whyte responds to his grandfather and addresses the assembled gathering



Reverend Michelle White provides some closing comments and the benediction.



Reggie Pittman ends the program with a musical selection.

accomplishments:

- Member: Board of Trustees at William Paterson College
- Member: Educational Opportunity Board at Fairleigh Dickerson University
- Past Principal: Englewood Middle School, Englewood, New Jersey
- Hunter College Wall of Fame
- Member: Phi Beta Sigma
- Member: The Order of the Feather
- Member: The Order of the Bonnet
- Member: Friends of the Minisink Experiences, Inc.
- Member of the Teaneck Township Council
- Member of the Teaneck Board of Education
- Deputy Mayor: Township of Teaneck, New Jersey



Photographs and Book Design:
Complements / Jim Collier Photo

