



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Firsts in Medicine and Business, Civil Rights Activist, Army Veteran, NFL Star among Six inducted into Arkansas Black Hall of Fame**

Little Rock, AR (Sept. 16, 2021) — The Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Foundation (ABHOF) announced on Thursday the six inductees who will enter into the Hall of Fame as its 28<sup>th</sup> class. The induction ceremony, annually held on the third Saturday of October, will be postponed until a later date when it is safe to return for an indoor, in-person event, at which time the 28<sup>th</sup> class will be formally inducted.

The 2021 inductees include:

- *Sherman Banks*—International Citizen Diplomat, Honorary Ambassador to Ghana, Arts and Education Patron
- *Dr. Joe L. Hargrove*—Scientist, Educator, Philanthropist and Medical Practitioner
- *Hattie Hill*—International Business Consultant, Entrepreneur, & Philanthropy Leader
- *Ketty Lester*—TV & Motion Picture Actress, Singer, Song writer & Recording Artist
- *Dr. Gertrude Newsome Jackson*—(Posthumous) Educator, Social Justice and Civil Rights Leader
- *James Thrower*—NFL Star, Business, Philanthropy & Civic Leader

“Our 28<sup>th</sup> class of inductees continue the tradition of showcasing the tremendous talent that Arkansas produces,” said Charles Stewart, ABHOF chairman. “While our Foundation made plans to return to an in-person ceremony this year after a hiatus in 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has again paused those plans. We look forward to producing an amazing ceremony for our inductees, their family and friends and Arkansans to enjoy when it is safe to do so.”

Despite not having an induction ceremony in 2020, and with the generous support of our corporate partners, the ABHOF Foundation awarded \$127,000 through 75 mini-grants for COVID-19 relief and 16 mission-related grants to improve education, health and wellness, youth

development, and to strengthen families in Black and other underserved communities throughout Arkansas. These grants, awarded both in 2020 and 2021, ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

**About the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Foundation**

The Arkansas Black Hall of Fame Foundation, in its 29<sup>th</sup> year, aims to provide an environment in which future generations of African-American achievers with Arkansas roots will thrive and succeed. The Foundation honors the contributions of African-Americans through its annual Arkansas Black Hall of Fame induction ceremony and awards grants to support charitable endeavors in the black community. Throughout its history, the Foundation has sought to correct the omissions of history and to remind the world that black history is a significant part of American history. The book *Seeds of Genius: 25 Years of the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame* celebrates the first 25 years of the inductees into the Hall of Fame and is available for purchase at [ARBlackHallofFame.org](http://ARBlackHallofFame.org).

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