



THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL

# Scholarship LUNCHEON

*130 Years of Excellence in Giving*

**Monday, February 17, 2025**

Noon



HPE ARENA • FVSU CAMPUS

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER'S BIOGRAPHY

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**VIRGIL  
MILLER**

President, Aflac Incorporated



**VIRGIL MILLER** was named President of Aflac Incorporated, effective January 2025. In this role, his footprint includes aspects of Aflac's Inc and Japan businesses, while supporting key companywide profitable growth and efficiency initiatives and driving the evolution of product and service offerings to meet market needs. He also continues to serve in his role as President of Aflac U.S. where he is responsible for all aspects of strategy and operations in the U.S. market. Virgil is known as a champion for driving growth and innovation and is passionate about delivering caring customer experiences while furthering the unique distribution and employee culture that sets Aflac apart.

Virgil joined Aflac in 2004 and was quickly recognized as a visionary with a strong ability to motivate teams and achieve results. During his 20-year tenure with the company, he has led in every area and held roles of increasing responsibility. With more than 30 years of industry experience, Virgil continues to be recognized with accolades and business honors to celebrate his leadership and accomplishments. He was named one of Columbia Business Monthly's 50 Most Influential Hall of Fame in 2022, then named 2023's Executive of the Year by the NFBPA and is the 2024 recipient of the Rainbow PUSH DEI Corporate Responsibility Award.

Virgil served as a U.S. Marine and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Georgia College, a master's degree in business management from Wesleyan College and a doctorate in humane letters from Gammon Theological Seminary. Virgil serves on the Board of Directors for Georgia Power, the Board of Trustees for PlanSource via Vista Equity Partners, the Georgia Chamber of Commerce Board of Governors and Directors, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP), the non-profit parent of LIMRA and LOMA, LL Global, and the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI).

# PROGRAM

MASTER AND MISTRESS OF CEREMONIES  
17th Mister and 87th Miss Fort Valley State University  
Alexis Strozier Jr. and Nya Floyd

INVOCATION ..... Jonah Ball '27  
Agricultural Economics Major

WELCOME ..... Mister and Miss FVSU

GREETINGS ..... Laila Humphries '25  
Student Government Association President

\*SONG ..... "Lift Every Voice and Sing" ..... FVSU University Choir

OCCASION/HISTORY ..... Duane Patrick Jr. '27  
Middle Grades Education Major

INTRODUCTION OF SPEAKER ..... Phyllis Kitchens-Thurmond

KEYNOTE ..... Virgil Miller  
President, AFLAC

## INTRODUCTION OF MAGGIE DAVIS LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Honorable Sanford Bishop Jr.  
U.S Representative for Georgia's 2nd Congressional District

SPIRITUAL SELECTION ..... FVSU University Choir

## INTRODUCTION OF HONOREE AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Honorable Calvin Smyre  
Former State Legislator • Past Chair, FVSU Foundation

PERFORMATIVE SELECTION ..... Phases Dance Troup

## RECOGNITION OF SPONSORS & SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Karen Wright  
Vice President for University Advancement and  
Executive Director for FVSU Foundation, Inc.

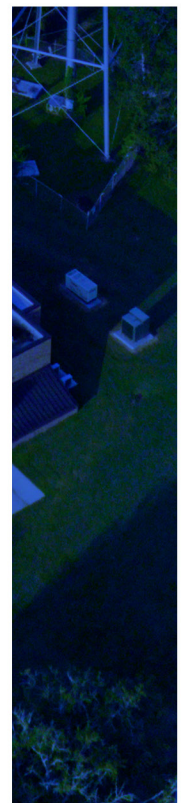
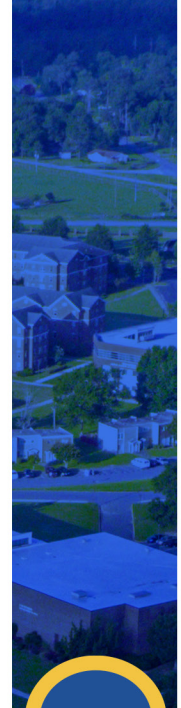
CLOSING REMARKS ..... Paul Jones, Ph.D.  
10th President, Fort Valley State University

BENEDICTION ..... Jonah Ball '27

\*AUDIENCE, PLEASE STAND.



THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL  
**FVSU**  
**Scholarship**  
LUNCHEON



THIRTY-EIGHTH ANNUAL

# FVSU Scholarship LUNCHEON

## MAGGIE DAVIS LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENTS



### **ROSIE PETTIES**

Mrs. Rosie W. Petties has dedicated 53 years to Fort Valley State University, embodying the motto "Putting Students First". For 24 years, she has led the Learning Support Program,

guiding countless students toward graduation and success. Known for her integrity and student-centered approach, she takes pride in seeing former students thrive as lawyers, teachers, and doctors. A lifelong FVSU supporter, she holds degrees in Social Work and Counseling from the university she passionately serves.



### **SHAWN STAFFORD**

Shawn Stafford, founder of Stafford Builders & Consultants, Inc., has dedicated his career to construction and community service. Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, he

discovered his passion for building in Saint Marys, Georgia. After 12 years as a project manager, he launched his company in 1999, constructing vital community structures. A devoted leader, he serves on multiple boards and is an active church member. He enjoys golfing and family time with his wife, Dorothy.



## 130 YEARS OF UNAPOLOGETIC EXCELLENCE

# HONOREE AWARD RECIPIENTS



## **ROSE HOLTON, MD**

Dr. Rose Marie Holton, Valedictorian of FVSU's Class of 1988, earned her B.S. in Chemistry before obtaining her MD from the University of Tennessee. Board-certified in Anesthesiology and Pain

Management, she has led a 20+ year career, now serving as Director of Anesthesia Services at Summit Endoscopy Center. A dedicated philanthropist, she mentors future healthcare professionals and supports special needs ministries. She also established a scholarship in honor of her late sister, Taahsela.



## **RUBEN JORDAN**

Ruben Jordan Jr., a 1977 graduate of Fort Valley State University, is a Vietnam War veteran and Purple Heart recipient, honored with multiple military awards. A retired Production Manager at

Robins Air Force Base, he also served as a high school referee and co-founded the Bubba Tailgate tradition. A devoted member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, he established a scholarship in honor of his late wife, Henrietta, reflecting his passion for education, service, and community.



## **MARY FORD**

Mary Charles Ford, a 1956 Fort Valley State College graduate, dedicated 32 years to teaching in Georgia, earning recognition for excellence. A lifelong supporter of FVSU, she authored the Hall of Fame

guidelines and led alumni initiatives, including the Hunt Bond Troup Banquet. Mrs. Ford is a Charter member of Atlanta Suburban Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated and an active and cherished member of the Historic Friendship Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. She continues mentoring future Wildcats and serving on fundraising committees. Honored as a 2024 FVSU Hall of Fame inductee, her impact remains visionary and enduring.



## **DAVID JONES**

David Jones, a 1978 Fort Valley State College graduate, is a retired IRS Supervisory Criminal Investigator and Vietnam-era U.S. Army veteran. Holding a BBA in Management and an MBA, he

is a CPA, Certified Fraud Examiner, and Federal EEO Investigator. As President and CEO of David Jones CPA PC, he specializes in Federal Sector HR investigations. Honored at FVSU's 38th Annual Scholarship Luncheon, his contributions to education and community development continue to inspire. A devoted member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated member, he established a scholarship in honor of his late wife, Henrietta, reflecting his passion for education, service, and community.



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SAVE THE DATE  
*April 12, 2025*



FOR MORE  
INFORMATION

*Diner  
en  
Bleu*  
IN THE VALLEY



HOST  
PALMER  
WILLIAMS



**40**  
UNDER  
**40**

AWARDS  
*GALA*

SAVE THE DATE  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2025



FORT VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY  
**LOMAX PORTER**  
**GOLF**  
TOURNAMENT

SAVE THE DATE

**JUN**  
**14**  
2025



Regional University in  
Georgia for Social Mobility

Public HBCU in Georgia  
FOR **SEVEN** CONSECUTIVE YEARS

– 2025 U.S. News & World Report

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