

LEONARD ALEXANDER HEARD BIOGRAPHY

Leonard was born and raised in Philadelphia, PA, along with five brothers and five sisters. After graduating from Simon Gratz High School, Leonard enlisted in the United States Navy serving four years active duty and two years reserve duty. While in the navy, Leonard distinguished himself as “Sailor of the Quarter,” on several occasions “For Exemplary Work as an Aircraft Electrician.” He received an Honorable Discharge in 1972.

Leonard was hired by the School District of Philadelphia as a Non-Teaching Assistant after leaving Military Service and set his sights on a career in Public Education, graduating from Temple University’s School of Education in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and a grade point average of 3.01. He went on to Villanova University’s Graduate School earning a Masters Degree in Education Administration in 1978 and an improved grade point average of 3.75. Post graduate school yielded certifications in both the Elementary and the Secondary Principalship, Villanova University 1979.

- **1996** Leonard was recognized by the Superintendent of Schools for his “Outstanding Contributions to the Stand for Children Project.”
- **2000** His leadership in the area of providing opportunities for students to learn about financial investing through the school wide use of the stock market game, gained national attention when he along with the teacher sponsor and several students were invited by the Reverend Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalitions’ Conference on Wall Street in 2000. Two of his students were given the opportunity to speak and they were all invited to lunch with the Reverend Jesse Jackson, President William Jefferson Clinton, Barry Gordy and other dignitaries.
- **2002** The Honorable State Representative W. Curtis Thomas of the 181st Legislative District selected Principal Heard as one of his 181 Points of Lights recipient for “His Commitment to Public Education in General, and to The Students and Families of William Penn High School in Particular.”
- **2004** Honored by Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Incorporated Mu Omega Graduate Chapter of Philadelphia, Pa., with a scholarship in the

name of Leonard A. Heard for outstanding contributions in the field of public education.

- **2005** Received Community Service Award from State Representative Jewell Williams for Exceptional Services rendered to the communities in the 197th Legislative District in the field of Public Education.
- **2007** Honored by Gilbert L. Brannon Commandery #15 for his many achievements in Masonry.
- **2009** Received community service and achievement award from DeMolay Consistory #1 PHA
- **2011** Honored by Right Worshipful Grand Master Thomas Sturgeon of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania
- **November 2012** Received the Citizen of the Year Award from Omega Psi Phi Fraternity during their annual Achievement Week Mandated Program at Grace Baptist Church in Philadelphia
- **Veterans Day November 12, 2012** Honored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the NAACP with its Humanitarian Award and as a veteran of the armed forces, US Navy
- Member of the National Freedom Day Organization 1st Vice President
- Board member, PPSAR, Philadelphia Chapter
- Spoke out against the PA Voter ID Law in the following cities: Philadelphia, PA, York, PA, Harrisburg, PA, Washington, D.C., Raleigh, NC, Columbus, OH, Rye, NY, Chester, PA, West Chester, PA
- Chief Advisor to Sheriff Jewell Williams of Philadelphia County
- **January 2013** recommended to be a board member of Stephen Smith's Home for Senior Citizens

Leonard taught for more than fifteen years in various schools prior to entering school Administration, serving in the following positions: House Director, Administrative Assistant (John Hancock Elementary School), Assistant Principal (Jay Cooke Middle School), Assistant Principal (M.L. King High School), Administrative Assistant to the Regional Superintendent for the North West Region (encompassing approximately 60 schools), and Principal of William Penn High School where he served from 1999 to 2006 when he retired from the School District of Philadelphia after more than thirty-five years of service.

After retiring from the Philadelphia School District, Leonard was contracted by Next Steps Incorporated, an educational consulting firm, to evaluate "Project 720" for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Project 720 is an initiative of the governors that track the rigor, relevance and relationship of the academic courses, professional development and advanced placement for each student during his or her 720 days spent in high school in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Leonard is married to Toni Farrow (Joell) Heard and has three children, Tracy, Terri, and Brian as well as two lovely grandchildren Alaina and Erin, and a very supportive and talented son-in-law, Floyd Marshall, as well as an intelligent and attractive daughter-in-law, Amber Joell.

Of all the accomplishments in Leonard's life, none can compare to that of having a loving and supportive family and being a part of their growth and development.