

WENDELL-WAKE COUNTY BRANCH

Recognition of Mr. Charles Upchurch and Mr. McKinley Wooten at the 2021 Ruth H. Morgan Black History Month & Humanitarian Award Program

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Raleigh, NC— On February 14, 2021, the Wendell-Wake County Branch held its 34th Annual Ruth H. Morgan Black History Month & Humanitarian Award Program on ZOOM. Rev. Richard Hughes, Preaching Pastor of St. James Presbyterian Church of Greensboro, was the guest speaker. Mr. McKinley Wooten was our 2021 Humanitarian Award Recipient, and Mr. Charles Upchurch was recognized for his 12 years of service and presidential leadership to the branch.

WHY: The Ruth H. Morgan Black History Month Program is named after the Wendell-Wake County Branch's founding President during February. Later, the Humanitarian Award was added to this program to recognize black men and women in our service area who are the "first" in their respective fields.

WHERE: [The Branch Website](#)

WHEN: February 14, 2021 from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET

WHO:

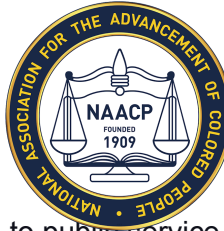
Charles Upchurch

Served as President of the Wendell-Wake County Branch for 12 years (2008-2020).

McKinley Wooten

Brother McKinley Wooten, Jr., was born in Kinston, North Carolina. In comparison, a lot of the young boys down in Kinston received the basketball playing gene. Brother Wooten got the scholarship and music gene. After graduating from public school in Kinston, he followed in Dr. Martin Luther King's footsteps and attended Morehouse College in Atlanta. Bro. Wooten was a campus leader there and graduated in 1988 with high academic honors and a degree in English.

His academic success followed him to Vanderbilt University School of Law, where he graduated with a J.D. in 1991. Wooten returned to North Carolina and worked in private practice with a Raleigh law firm.



WENDELL-WAKE COUNTY BRANCH

He soon turned his attention to public service work. He worked in several State government positions, including being a Wake County magistrate, an Assistant Attorney General, the Inspector General for the State, and Deputy Secretary of the North Department of Administration.

In 2009, he was named Deputy Director of the North Carolina court system. He served in that role for ten years. In 2019, he was named Interim Director, and in early 2020 he made history by becoming the first African American to lead the North Carolina court system as Director. In that role, he managed the 560 million dollar budget for the Judicial Branch, which comprises 6,400 employees.

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About the Wendell-Wake County Branch of the NAACP

The Wendell-Wake County Branch of the NAACP is led by President Tony DeRico and serves Wendell, Zebulon, Knightdale, Wake Forest, and Rolesville.