

State Board of Pardons and Paroles Past Board Members



From 1943 to Present



Legislative History

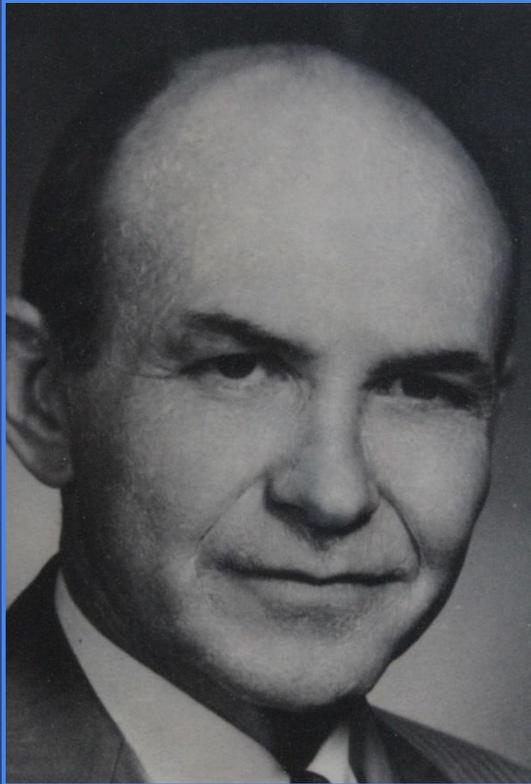
An act of February 5, 1943, created a State Board of Pardons and Paroles, which shall consist of three members appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. (Acts 1943, p. 185)

It was made a constitutional body by the 1945 Constitution. (Art. V, Sec. 1, Par. 11)

A Constitutional Amendment, effective in 1973, expanded the Board to its present size of five members.



Our First Board Members



Member – January 1, 1943 - January 1, 1953
Chairman – January 1, 1943 – January 1, 1953
The Board's first and longest serving Chairman

Born October 25, 1901 in Americus, GA.
Graduated Mercer University, B.S., and LL. B.
degrees, 1925; Yale University, LL.M. degree,
1926. Began law practice in Atlanta, GA , 1927.
Served as Gunner's Mate, U. S. Navy, World War
I; Chief U. S. Probation Officer, Federal Court,
Northern District of GA, 1932-1943.

Married Frances Idoline Barfield, December 23,
1932. Children: Jane; Edward Beaufort, III

EDWARD BEAUFORT EVERETT



Our First Board Members



Member – January 1, 1943 – November 31, 1948

Born March 21, 1888 in Rome, GA. Graduated Rome High School. Served as the Chairman of the Georgia Penal Corrections Board, 1939-40. Chairman, Floyd County Democratic Executive Committee, 1923-1943.

Married Bertha Shahan on January 20, 1909.

Children: James A.; Alvin K.; and Joseph Leroy

GROVER CLEVELAND BYARS



Our First Board Members



Member – January 1, 1943 - November 31, 1948

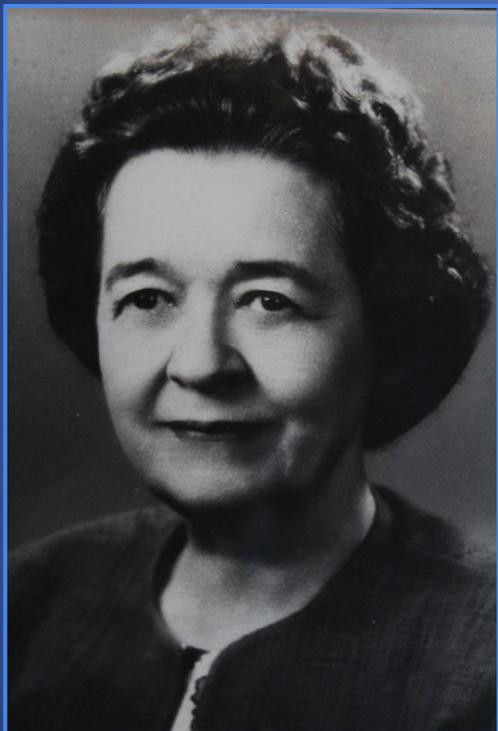
Born 1899 in Ludowici, GA. Graduated Ludowici High School; completed Journalism course, Wesleyan College, 1921. Served as publisher, editor of the Ludowici News; Member, D.A.R.; D. A. C.; U. D. C. Vice-Chairman; State Democratic Executive Committee 1937-38; Georgia House of Representatives (1935-1938); Georgia Senate (1941); and, known across Georgia in the General Assembly as the “Lady from Long.”

Married Thomas Auld Selby Coxon on May 14, 1927.

HELEN WILLIAMS COXON



Past Board Members



Rebecca Laing Rainey Garrett

Member – December 1, 1948 - January 22, 1970
Chairman – April 1, 1961 – January 30, 1968

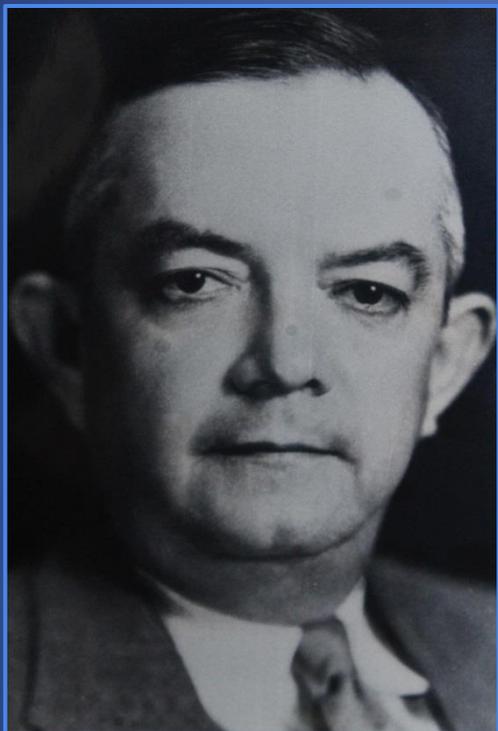
Born in Dawson, GA. Graduated Dawson High School, Brenau College. Associate Publisher, "The Dawson News"; Senator 11th District, 1945-1945 Ex.-46; Member of House of Representatives, Terrell County, 1947, 1949 (Resigned to accept a position with the Parole Board.)

Married April 10, 1917 to Clement Evans Rainey.
Married October 9, 1953 to Sims Garrett, Sr.

Child – Rachel Louise Rainey Peddy



Past Board Members



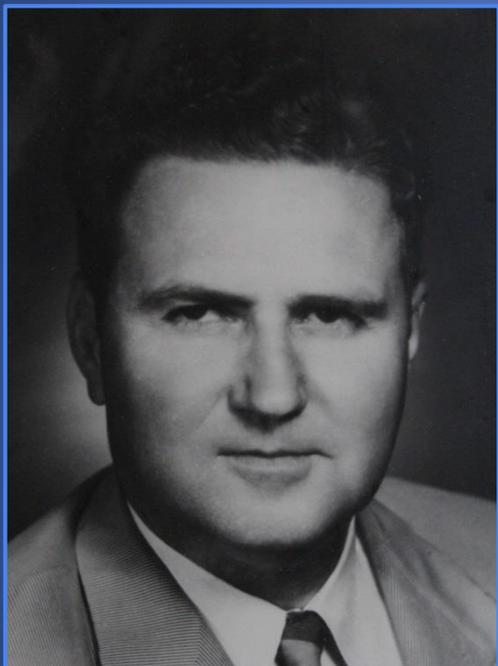
William Eugene Wilburn

Member –December 1, 1948 – September 3, 1950
Died - September 3, 1950

Born November 30, 1885 in Monticello, Jasper County, Georgia. Attended Monticello High School; Georgia School of Technology, and University of Georgia. Lieutenant Colonel, Governor Talmadge's staff. Member, city council, Oglethorpe; member, 43 State Highway Board, July 20, 1933 – January 25, 1937; chairman, November 21, 1933 – January 25, 1937.



Past Board Members



Charles Adam Pannell

Member –September 6, 1950 – January 1, 1955
Chairman – January 1, 1953 – January 1, 1955

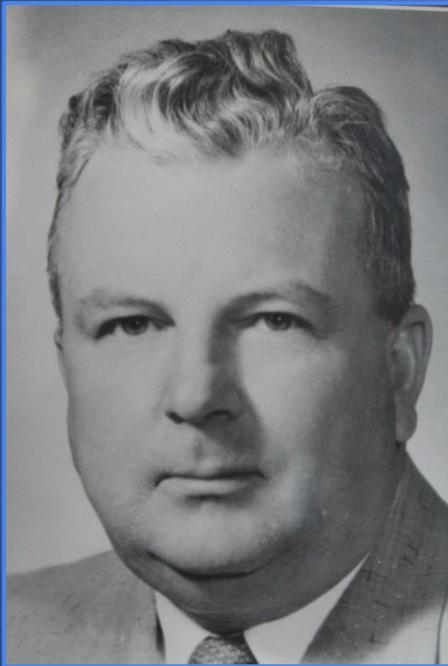
Born June 19, 1911 in Eton, Murray County, Georgia. Attended Young Harris College; Mercer University, and graduated University of Georgia, LL..6. degree, 1937. Mayor of Eton, 1933-35; City Attorney, Chatsworth, 1942-1950; Murray County Attorney, 1940-44, 1949-50.; Lawyer; Senator, 43rd District, 1947-48 ; and, House of Representatives, Murray County, 1939, 1941, 1943-1943, Ex., 1945-45, Ex. -46, 1949-1950.

Married to Ruth Ann Loughridge on December 24, 1939.

Children: Charles Adam, Jr.; James Loughridge;
William



Past Board Members



Member – January 1, 1953 – April 1, 1961
Chairman – January 13, 1959 – April 1, 1961

Born June 28, 1912 in Greensboro, Greene County, Georgia. Attended Greensboro High School; Southern Business College, and Atlanta Law School. World War II, Pacific Theatre, Okinawa and Korea. Agent, County Intelligence Corps. Executive Secretary, Governor Herman Talmadge, February 1950-January 1953.

William Henry Kimbrough



Past Board Members



Hugh C. Carney

Member – January 1, 1955 - January 1, 1962
Chairman – January 1, 1955 – January 13, 1959

Born February 28, 1917 at R.F.D. Ball Ground, Cherokee County, Georgia. Graduated Mercer University, A. B. Degree; graduate study, University of Georgia, 1940; and, Emory University, LL.B. degree, 1949. WWII – Lt. U.S.N.R. November 1941-September 1946. Atlantic, North Pacific, Aleutians, South and Central Pacific, and, Okinawa. Commanding Officer U.S.S. Jenks (DE665). Promoted the first Statewide Probation System in Georgia. Asst. Attorney General 1951-1953.

Married to Margaret Lancaster on May 5, 1946

Children: Lisa; Sherida; Brian; Hugh C., Jr.



Past Board Members



Walter O. Brooks

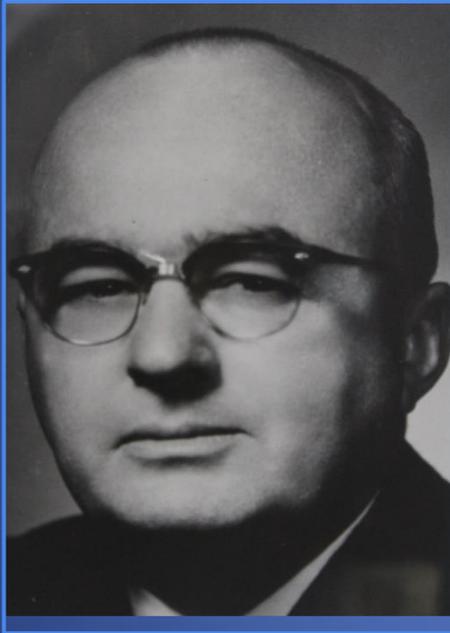
Member – April 1, 1961 – January 1, 1967

Born March 15, 1920 in McRae, Telfair County, Georgia. Graduated McRae High School, 1937; Atlanta Law School, LL.B., 1940. Admitted to the Bar 1939. WWII foreign duty, discharged as S/Sgt.; received Bronze Star Medal.

Married to Nelle Chastain in 1950.



Past Board Members



Joseph Wilbur Claxton

Member – February 14, 1962 – January 31, 1968

Born July 5, 1911 in Wrightsville, Johnson County, Georgia. Graduated Wrightsville High School; Locust Grove Institute; and, Mercer University. Admitted to the Bar, June 1930. City Attorney, City of Wrightsville; City Attorney, City of Kite; and, Solicitor, City Court of Wrightsville. Senator, Elect, 21st District.

Married to Mary Antoinette Sanders on March 22, 1935 in South Carolina.

Children: Mary Jo; Charles Edward.



Past Board Members

Member – January 1, 1967 – February 17, 1967



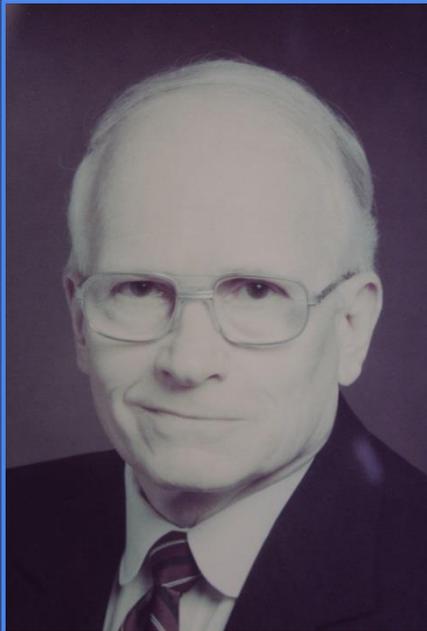
John C. Harper

Born September 29, 1926. A native of Durham, Kentucky. Attended the University of South Carolina and graduated from the University of Arizona in 1951 with a BA Degree. Served during World War II with the United States Marine Corps; and, was the press secretary and administrative aide to Governor Carl E. Sanders.

Married on September 11, 1948 to Catherine Smith
Children: John Michal; Elizabeth Murden; and
Stephen Murray



Past Board Members



Jacques O. Partain, Jr.

Member – February 17, 1967 – February 1, 1982
Chairman – January 30, 1968 – July 1, 1972

Born February 21, 1918 in New Orleans, LA.
Attended Oglethorpe University; Emory University,
BA degree in 1940; Post Graduate, Georgia State.
USA, Command and General Staff College and
Armed Forces Staff College. Colonel, Chief of Staff,
81st Support Command. Received Meritorious Unit
Citation and the Philippines Invasion Citation.

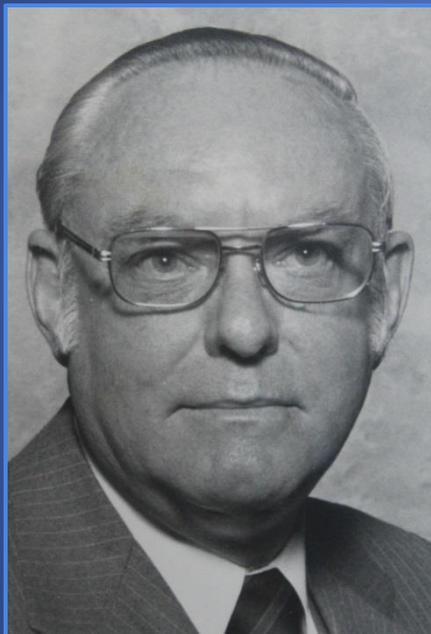
Married Mary Roberts on July 18, 1942 in Coffee
County, Tennessee.

Children: Marianne; Jacques O. III; Mary Jill; Elsy
Jan.



Past Board Members

Member – January 31, 1968 – February 15, 1968



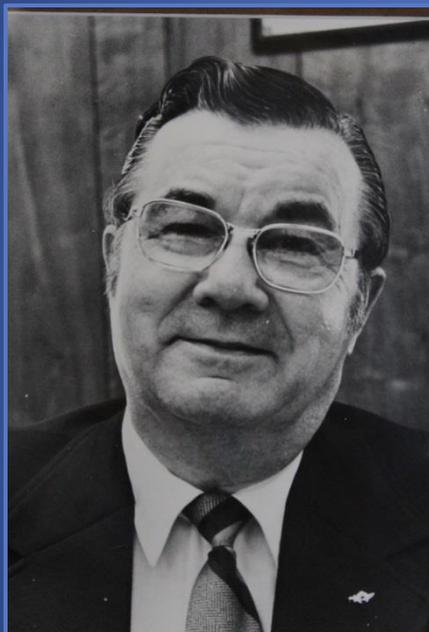
Dr. William R. Dyer

Born January 27, 1925 in Morristown, Tennessee. Entered the United States Air Force in 1943 until 1952. Attended Palmer College of Chiropractic in Davenport, Iowa. Served as Vice Chairman of the Colquitt County Mental Health Association; member of the Chamber of Commerce Education Committee; President of the Fifth District Association of the Georgia Chiropractic Association; and member of the President's Advisory Council of the Georgia Chiropractic Association.

Married - Margaret Middlebrooks. Children: Joe; Buddy; and Braven



Past Board Members



Joseph Goodwin Maddox

Member – February 15, 1968 – July 17, 1975

Born November 5, 1910 in Atlanta, Fulton County, GA. Graduated Young Harris College, 1930; Georgia Tech and Evening School, 1931-32; University of South Carolina; Post Graduate Study, Sanitary Engineering; John Marshall Law School, LLB degree. WWII active duty, USA 2nd LT. 1940 – March, 1946.

Married Georgia Amelia Wright on June 29, 1935 in Mayo, Florida.

Children: Virginia Maddox Matthews; Joseph G. Maddox, Jr.; Mary Josephine;



Past Board Members

Member – January 23, 1970 - January 1, 1971



Elijah Jackson Calhoun, Jr.

Born March 11, 1912 in Worth County, GA. Graduated Marianna High School, Marianna, Florida, 1931; Freeman Business College, Albany, GA, 1935; Yale University Summer School of Alcohol Studies, New Haven, Connecticut, summer course, 1952. WWII - US Navy, March 1942-January 1946 as Chief Petty Officer in Security and Shore Patrol. North Atlantic Theatre, 1942; Sixth Naval Dist., Charleston, SC, 1943-44; Pacific Theatre, Manila, P. I., 1945. Parole Supervisor, SBPP, Savannah, GA, May 6, 1949; Chief Investigator, July 1, 1951; Admin. Assistant, April 1, 1958; Director, July 1, 1963

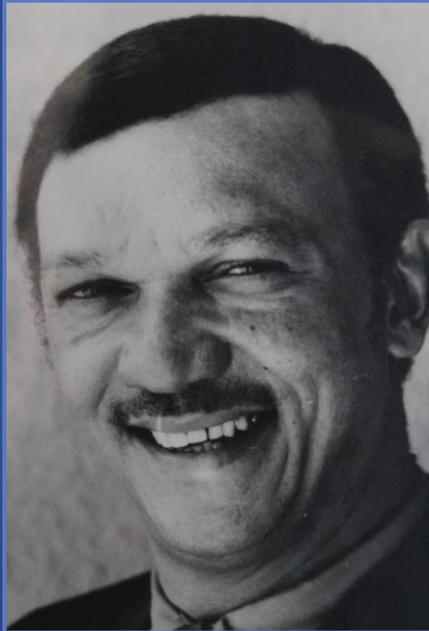
Married Edna Janette Rainey on June 6, 1944.

Children: Margaret Penelope; Ann Elizabeth



Past Board Members

Member – January 25, 1971 - June 20, 1972



Thomas Miller Jenkins

Born April 23, 1925 in Hot Springs, Bath County, Virginia. Graduated W. Va. State College, BA, 1946; Boston Univ., LLB, 1950; Bethune-Cookman College, LLD, 1966; W. Va. State College, Hon. LLD, 1967. Law Librarian & Asst. Law Professor, Texas Southern Univ., 1951-1953; Dean and Law Professor, Fla. A.&M. Univ., Tallahassee, 1953-65; Pres. Albany State College, July 1, 1965 - August 31, 1969; VP, Georgia State Univ., July 1, 1970 - February 28, 1971.

Married Evelyn Keys on September 15, 1950 in Suffolk County, Massachusetts.

Children: Thomas Miller III



Past Board Members



Cecil C. McCall

Member – July 1, 1972 - November 14, 1977
Chairman - July 1, 1972 - July 1, 1976

Born June 22, 1936 in Pickens, Pickens County, SC. Graduated Pickens High School, 1954; Univ. of SC, 1961; Graduate study, Georgia State Univ., 1971-1972. Authored: A Study of Felony Probationers in Georgia, 1971; Rehabilitating Forgers, 1972; A Study of Worthless Check Probationers, 1972. USAG-A/LC, UN Command, Tokyo, Far East Air Forces, Hawaii. Director, State Board of Probation, January 13, 1971 - April 1, 1972. Following his service on the Parole Board, he was chairman of the United States Commission on Paroles, appointed by President Carter.

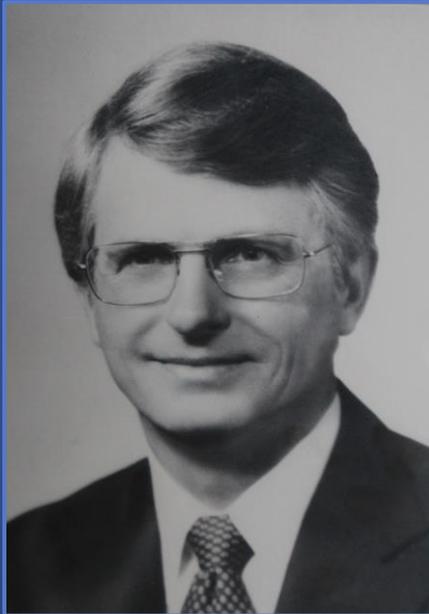
Married Jean Paterson on August 1, 1964 in Hart County, KY.

Children: Jason; Jada Allison



Past Board Members

Member – April 1, 1973 - December 31, 1973



Zell Bryan Miller

Born February 24, 1932 in Young Harris, Towns County, Georgia and passed March 23, 2018. Graduated Young Harris Academy, 1940; Young Harris Jr. College, 1951; Univ. of Georgia., AB, 1957; MA, 1958; US Marine Corps, 1953-1956. Good Conduct Medal and Expert Rifleman's Medal. Mayor, Young Harris, 1959-60. Senator, 40th Dist., 1961-62 /ex, -62 2nd Ex.; 50th Dist., 1962-64, Ex. 64. Director of State Board of Probation, August 15, 1965 - June 13, 1966. Lt. Gov. of GA, 1975-1991. 79th Governor of Georgia, 1991-1999.

Married Shirley Ann Carver on January 15, 1954 in Walhalla, Oconee County, SC
Children: Murphy Carver; Matthew Stephen



Past Board Members

Member – May 11, 1973 - September 15, 1987
Chairman - July 1, 1976 - October 1, 1977



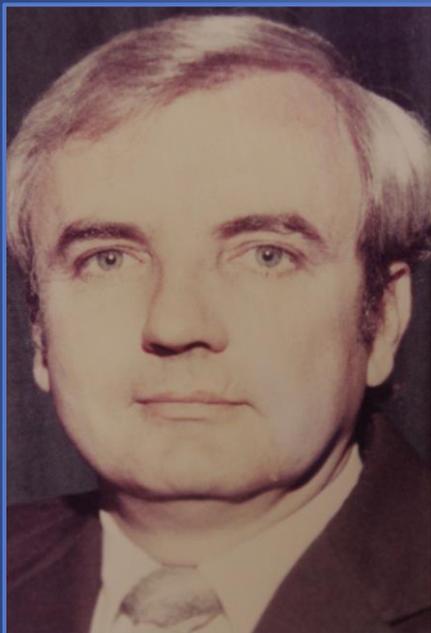
Mamie Bynes Reese

Born September 3, 1911 in Gibson, Glascock County, Georgia. Graduated High School, Macon; Spelman College, BS., 1933; Drake University, MS., 1948; advance study at Ohio State Univ.; Baker and Burke Counties, 1937-1943; Albany State College Associate Professor of Education and Dean of Women, 1948-1973.

Married William J. Reese, Sr. on March 12, 1941 in Thomas County, Georgia.



Past Board Members



James Tommy Morris, Sr.

Member – February 16, 1974 - January 1, 1996

Chairman - October 1, 1977 - July 1, 1981

May 1, 1993 - October 1, 1994

December 16, 1995 - January 1, 1996

Born November 16, 1939 in Athens, Clarke County, Georgia. Graduated Athens High School 1959; Univ. of Georgia, BBA, 1969; MEd, 1972. Probation Officer, Regional Director, Dept. of Offender Rehabilitation, June 1, 1972 - May 15, 1973.

Married Gayle Elizabeth Davis on June 6, 1959 in McCormick County, SC.

Children: Sheree Gay; James T. Jr.; Justin Tyler



Past Board Members



Floyd Edward Busbee

Member – July 17, 1975 - March 30, 1983

Born Macon, Bibb County, Georgia. Graduated Georgia Tech., BS, 1939. Plant Manager, Willingham Cotton Mills, Macon. Partner, Industrial Vending, Macon. Self employed Real Estate Broker. Commissioner, Bibb County, January 1972 - January 1976.

Married Mary Ellen Moore.

Children: Mary Ellen (Busbee) Branch; Floyd, Jr., Benjamin Robert



Past Board Members

Member – November 14, 1977 - January 1, 1990
Chairman - July 1, 1981 - July 1, 1984



William Mobley Howell

Born on August 18, 1920 in Blakely, Early County, Georgia. Graduated High School, San Antonio Texas; S. Georgia College.

US Navy - WWII (Naval Aviation), 1940-46. Deputy Sheriff, Early County, GA, 1946-51. Georgia Senate, 1957-58; House of Representatives, 1965-77. Senator, Dist. 9, 1957-58. Member, House of Rep., Early Co., 1965- Dist. 86, 1966; 1967-68; Dist. 60, 1969-70; 1971-72; Dist. 118, 1973-74; Dist. 140, 1975-76; 1977-78, res. Nov. 11, 1977.

Married 1944, Divorced 1964. Children - William Omar; Charlotte Frances

Married Joanne Turner Howell on May 5, 1972 in Early County, GA. Children: Clare Howell; Fran Clinkscales



Past Board Members



Michael H. Wing

Member – February 1, 1982 - December 31, 1989
Chairman - July 1, 1984 - July 1, 1985

Born on September 2, 1944. Graduated Oglethorpe University., BA, 1966; Georgia State University, MEd, 1974. Parole Officer, 1970-1972; Chief Probation-Parole Officer, Atlanta Circuit, 1972-1974; Parole Hearing Officer, 1974-1976; Director, Parole Field Operations, 1976-1982.

Married Chong Suk Hong; two children



Past Board Members



Wayne Snow, Jr.

Member – March 30, 1983 - May 1, 1993
Chairman - July 1, 1985 - May 1, 1993

Born on January 10, 1936 in Davidson County Tennessee. Graduated University of Georgia, AB 1958; LLB, 1960. House of Representatives, 1963-1964; 1965-1966; 1967-1968; 1969-1970; 1971-1972; 1973-1974; 1975-1976; 1977-1978; 1979-1980; 1981-1982; January 1983-March 1983. Tennessee National Guard, 1954-1956; USAR 1958-1962.



Past Board Members

Member – September 16, 1987 - January 9, 1995



Bettye O. Hutchings

Born on September 2, 1930 in Fulton County, Georgia. Graduated Clark College, BS, 1948; attended Atlanta University and Fort Valley College. Macon businesswoman; served as a former member of the State Crime Commission and its successor organization, the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, the Governor's Advisory Council on Juvenile Justice; and the State Board of Corrections. She served as chairperson in all four organizations. She also served on the Board of Directors of the National Criminal Justice Association.

Married William S. Hutchings; Children: Sharon; Starr; Suzanne; William II; Warren; and Walter



Past Board Members

Member - January 1, 1990 - July 13, 1991



David Evans

Born in Rockwood, Tennessee. Received his BS Degree in Accounting from East Tennessee State University and his MBA in Management from Georgia State University. Served as Lt. Colonel in the Air National Guard with duties as hospital administrator with the 134th USAF Clinic in Knoxville, TN. Began his career with the State of Georgia in 1965. Served 13 years as the Commissioner of the Department of Corrections, making him, at that time, the longest-serving state corrections commissioner. He also served as chairman of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, Vice-Chairman of the Georgia Certified Public Manager Board, and member of the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth.



Past Board Members

Member - January 1, 1990 - July 1, 1997



Timothy Earl Jones

Born in Atlanta, Georgia. BA Degree in Sociology and Psychology, Master's Degree in Education with emphasis in Correctional Counseling; both from Georgia State University. Served during the Vietnam War in the U.S. Army as an Infantry Squad Leader, earning the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and, Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, among other decorations. Began his career with the state in 1974. Successfully served as a parole-probation officer, Assistant Chief of the Atlanta Parole Office, hearing examiner, Guidelines Director, Assistant Chief of Field Operations and Division Director. Served as the Director of Highway Safety in 1997 and appointed to serve as a member of the United States Parole Commission in 1999.

Married with one son.



Past Board Members

Member - August 1991 - January 27, 1993



Merle Clark

Graduated from high school in Statesboro and attended Georgia Southern College. Graduate of the FBI National Academy, the Federal Law Enforcement Criminal Investigation School, and the U. S. Marshall Basic Training School. Served during the Vietnam War in the U. S. Marine Corps; earning the Purple Heart, among his many other decorations. Began his law enforcement career in 1969 as deputy sheriff in Bulloch County. In 1973, began work as a detective for the Statesboro Police Department, promoted to detective lieutenant in charge and in 1975 to Police Chief. 1978-1979 served as an aide to a U. S. District Court Judge in Savannah; 1979-1980, Deputy United States Marshall. Returned to Statesboro in 1980 as Chief of Police.

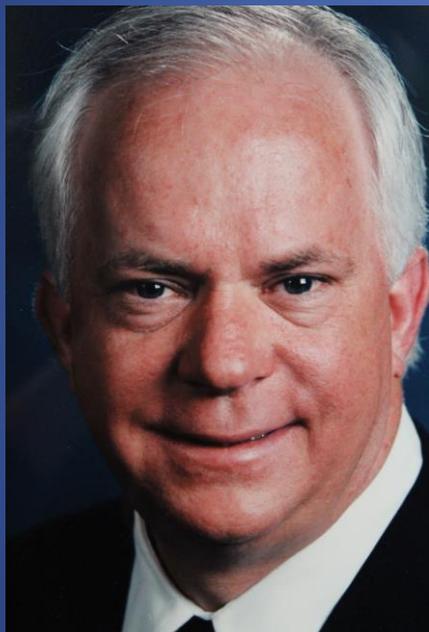
Married, one son.



Past Board Members

Member - April 7, 1993 - December 16, 1995

Chairman - October 1, 1994 - December 16, 1995



J. Wayne Garner

Born May 8, 1951 in Fulton County, Georgia. Attended West Georgia College. Served Carrollton, Douglasville and other areas of the 30th District in the State Senate from 1980 until 1994. He became President Pro Tempore of the State Senate (1993); and the majority leader in 1991 and 1992. Served as chairman of the Senate Corrections Committee from 1983 to 1990. He served as Mayor of Carrollton.

Married Jerri Denise Gray. Two children



Past Board Members

Member - June 10, 1993 - June 13, 2002



Bobby K. Whitworth

Born Sept. 22, 1946 in Hart Co., GA. Attended University of Georgia, BBA 1969. Joined the Georgia Department of Corrections in 1973 and rose through the ranks until being appointed Commissioner in 1989. He oversaw the most aggressive prison building program in Georgia's history, resulting in the eventual construction of 35,000 prison beds.

Wife: former Gale Thompson; six children.



Past Board Members

Member - January 10, 1995 - December 31, 2008

Chairman – January 1, 1996 – November 1, 1996



Garfield Hammonds, Jr.

Appointed to the Board in 1995 and re-appointed in 2002. In 1969 he joined the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency as a Special Agent working undercover in Detroit and New York. He quickly advanced to supervisory positions, including Country Attache in Jamaica, and subsequently became the Special Agent in Charge of the Southeast Region, from which he later retired so he could remain in Georgia. Shortly afterward, Governor Miller appointed him to the Parole Board. While a DEA leader, his concern about youth at risk for drug addiction and criminality led him to implement an award winning prevention program. His tough stance on criminals, his expert knowledge of the impact of drugs, and his dedication to divert youth from crime added impetus to the agency goals of public safety.



Past Board Members

Member - December 16, 1995 - April 16, 1999



Jim Wetherington

Graduated from Campbellton, Florida High School. Joined the Army and served as a military police officer and at the Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. Joined the Columbus Police Department in 1959 and rose through the ranks as Sergeant, Lieutenant, Director (Alcohol Safety Action Project), Commander (Patrol/Detective Division) and Chief of Police in 1981. Served under five mayors, retiring in 1995. Appointed to the Parole Board in 1995 and to the Department of Corrections as Commissioner in 1999, serving four years in that position. Elected November of 2006, he was sworn in as the 67th Mayor of Columbus, GA on January 2, 2007. This public servant passed in January 2025.

Married Shirley Bell Wetherington: three children.



Past Board Members

Member - March 29, 1996 - June 13, 2002

Chairman - November 1, 1996 - June 13, 2002



Walter S. Ray

Born March 28, 1941 in Hazlehurst, GA. Earned an associate degree from Brewton-Parker College; BS Degree from Georgia Southern; and, a Master's Degree in Administration and Supervision from Valdosta State College. Served 17 years as a State Senator and was elected by his colleagues to the top leadership positions: caucus chairman, majority leader and, ultimately to the position of president pro tempore. He was a member of the General Assembly's Criminal justice Improvement Council; the Georgia Rail Passenger Authority Overview Committee; Budgetary Responsibility Oversight Committee; Senate Task Force on Violence in the Media; Joint Senate-House Study Committee on School Construction; Stop Drugs at the Source Committee; and many others.

Married to Carol. Three children: Darren; Sharon; and Shannon



Past Board Members

Member - January 7, 1997 - December 31, 2003



Betty Ann Cook, PhD

She began her career as a Criminal Justice Instructor at Morris Brown College. She rose to academic leadership positions at the Atlanta University Center and Chicago-based Argonne National Laboratory and the Opinion Research Center. In 1995, Governor Miller appointed her as Deputy Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources and later that year as the Director of Highway Safety. She is a nationally recognized researcher and author on topics including criminal justice and women's issues. She has received numerous awards throughout her career to include the National Women of Achievement's 2001 Profiles of Prominence Award, and contributing author in 2002, Atlanta Women Speak, an anthology of speeches by women of leadership in the city of Atlanta. Dr. Cook founded "Girl Talk...Heart to Heart," a gender based volunteer intervention program for female juvenile offenders. In another career, she was a former national Ivory Soap model.

Married to Martin Cook. One daughter, Candice



Past Board Members

Member - May 6, 1999 - December 31, 2006



Eugene P. Walker, PhD

A native of Thomaston, GA. Received his BA in Social Science from Clark College, Atlanta in 1958; MA in History from Atlanta University in 1969; Certificate in Southern History from John Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD; and, PhD in History from Duke University, Durham, NC in 1978. Elected State Senator for the 43rd District, serving from 1984-1992. Was the first African American to hold the position of Majority Whip for the Georgia Senate. He has held the positions of Vice President of Personnel and Community Relations at DeKalb College; Executive Vice President at DeKalb Technical Institute; and, Associate Superintendent for the Administration of Affirmative Development and Community and System Services for the DeKalb County School System. From January 1995 until April 1999, he served as Commissioner of Juvenile Justice.

Married to Patricia Carter Walker. They have two children.



Past Board Members

Member - June 13, 2002 - December 31, 2009

Chairman - June 13, 2002 - June 30, 2006



Milton E. Nix, Jr.

Native of Commerce, GA and 1964 graduate of the University of Georgia with a degree in Journalism. He began his law enforcement career as a Special Agent of the United States Air Force Office of Special Investigations (OSI) from 1966-1970. Attained the rank of Captain and commanded investigative units at Charleston Air Force Base, Binh Thuy Air Force Base in Vietnam and Myrtle Beach Air Force Base. In 1970, he began his 23 year career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent. In 1987, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent. In September of 1993, Governor Zell Miller appointed him as Director of the Georgia Bureau of Investigations, to which he was re-appointed six years later by Governor Roy Barnes.

Married to Mackie. They have two children.



Past Board Members

Member - July 2, 2002 - December 31, 2004



J. Michael Light

A native of Atlanta, graduated North Fulton High School and Mercer University, Macon, GA. He graduated in 1977 with a BA in Political Science. Joined the agency as a parole officer in 1980. He rose to the positions of Chief Parole Officer, Research Manager, and Public Information Director. Transferring to the Georgia Department of Corrections, as the Public Information Director, he rose to the position of Executive Assistant for the Commissioner of Corrections. In this position he oversaw the agency's planning and research functions, legislative liaison, and oversight of the public information and victims' services areas.

Married to Tracy Teske



Past Board Members



Garland R. Hunt, Esq.

Member - January 1, 2004- May 14, 2010

Chairman - July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2008

Attended undergraduate and law school at Howard University, Washington, DC. Member of the Georgia Bar Association and licensed to practice law in state and Federal courts. Served as staff attorney for the U. S. Court of Appeals, Fourth Circuit; served as General Counsel and Executive Vice-President for the Fellowship of International Churches, in Atlanta; served as Vice-President of the Association of Paroling Authorities International (APAI); Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee; recipient of the APAI Ben Baer Award for outstanding work nationally in the Field of Parole; and was appointed as a member of the Governor's Commission on Family Violence. In May of 2010, he was appointed to serve as the Commissioner of Juvenile Justice by Governor Sonny Perdue. He is an ordained minister and co-pastor of The Father's House.

Married to Eileen. Three children: Garland, Jr.; Christa; and Jeremy



Past Board Members

Member - July 1, 2004 - November 13, 2011
Chairman - July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2010



L. Gale Buckner

Received her BS Degree from Georgia State University, and her Master of Public Administration from Brenau University. She began her law enforcement career with the Chatsworth Police Department as a communications officer, rising to the level of sergeant. In 1981, she began her career with the Georgia Bureau of Investigations and served as the GBI's Director of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs. In 2000, she was appointed Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. She is a graduate of the 169th session of the FBI National Academy; served as Past-President of the International Association of Women Police and received the Dr. Lois Higgins-Grote Heritage Award; and a member of the 2003 delegation to Israel with the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. In Nov. 2011, she was appointed Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice. In 2012, she was sworn in as Chief Magistrate of Murray County.



Past Board Members

Member - January 1, 2007 - November 15, 2013



Robert E. Keller, Esq.

Received his Bachelor's Degree from Birmingham Southern College and his law degree from Emory University. Served as Executive Counsel to the Prosecuting Attorneys' Council of Georgia, where he was also a member; served as District Attorney of Clayton from 1972-1974 and from 1977-2004; and, was voted District Attorney of the Year in 1987 and 2001. He also served as a member of the Georgia Board of Public Safety, the Board of Trustees of the Georgia Judicial Retirement System, the Georgia Code Revision Plan Committee; the Commission to Assess Crime Laboratory Needs into the 21st Century; and, member of the 2009 delegation to Israel with the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange. On November 15, 2013, he was appointed by Governor Deal to serve as one of the Deputy Directors for the newly established Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry.



Past Board Members

Member - January 8, 2009 - March 2015

Chairman - July 1, 2010 - June 30, 2012



Major General (R) James E. Donald

Native of Jackson Mississippi. BA Degree in Political Science and History from the University of Mississippi. Earned his Master's in Public Administration from the University of Missouri. Retired from the United States Armed Forces Command as a Major General. Earned the Bronze Star for his leadership as a Task Force Commander with the 101st Airborne "Screaming Eagles" during Gulf War I. Served as Deputy Commanding General, U. S. Army Pacific; Assistant Division Commander to the 25th Infantry Division; and Director of Operations/J3 U. S. Pacific Command in Hawaii. Former Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections.



Past Board Members



Albert R. Murray

Member - May 15, 2010 - June 30, 2016

Chairman - July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2014

Native of Tennessee. Earned a Bachelor's Degree in English from Tennessee State University and his Master's Degree in Education from Middle Tennessee State University. He served sixteen years in Tennessee and rose through the ranks to Assistant Commissioner of the Department of Children Services and the Department of Youth Development. He was appointed as the first Commissioner for the newly created Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority in 1996. In 2003, he served as Deputy Commissioner of Programs for the Alabama Department of Corrections. He was sworn in as the Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice in January of 2004 and served in that capacity until his Parole Board appointment in 2010. He remains the longest serving DJJ Commissioner in Georgia history. Recipient of the ACA's E.R. Cass Award.

Married to Connie Murray; two children



Past Board Members

Member – November 1, 2013 - July 6, 2018



Braxton T. Cotton

Earned a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Saint Leo University and a Master of Public Safety Administration from Columbus State University.

Served as a police officer with the Milledgeville Police Department; as a detective with the Baldwin County Sheriff's Office (2004 Officer of the Year); State Trooper (84th Trooper School/Georgia State Patrol); Executive Protection Unit (Governor's Office); appointed in 2012, as Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, becoming the youngest African American agency leader in Georgia history; appointed in 2013, as Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support and Reentry.

He graduated from Georgia Military College and serves as a Captain in the U.S. Army Reserves; deployed August 2018 – May 2019. Army Achievement Medal recipient.



Past Board Members

Member – November 14, 2011 to December 31, 2020
Chairman – July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2018



James W. Mills

James Mills of Hall County, Georgia, earned a Bachelor's Degree from Mercer University in 1985 and a Master's Degree from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (N.O.B.T.S.). Appointed to the Board by Governor Nathan Deal, he served as Board Chairman for FY 2018 and served three terms as Vice-Chairman. The former State Representative served nineteen years in the legislature and served as Secretary of the Rules Committee and as Chairman of the Banks and Banking Committee. During his legislative service, Mr. Mills' amendment placed "IN GOD WE TRUST" on the Georgia state flag and he passed "proof of citizenship when registering to vote" legislation. Mr. Mills was invited to the White House on two occasions as recognition for his tax cutting efforts as a state legislator. Three times he was named to the Atlanta Business Chronicle's Who's Who in Finance.



Past Board Members

Member February 1, 2015 - December 31, 2022
Vice Chairman - July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2021



Brian Owens

Brian Owens earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Georgia. He was appointed to the Board on February 1, 2015, by Governor Nathan Deal. He previously served three one-year terms as Vice Chairman of the Board. The former Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections began his career as a parole officer in 1993. He was later promoted to assistant chief parole officer and chief parole officer. In 1999, Mr. Owens joined the Georgia Department of Corrections. He began his career at the department as Director of the Office of Planning and Analysis and was later promoted to Executive Assistant and then to Assistant Commissioner. On January 8, 2009, Mr. Owens was sworn in as Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections by Governor Sonny Perdue. He was reappointed Commissioner by Governor Deal in January of 2011. Owens retired from state service on December 31, 2022.



Past Board Members

Member: July 1, 2016 - December 31, 2023

Vice Chair: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2023



Jacqueline Bunn

Jacqueline Bunn completed both her undergraduate degree in broadcast journalism, with general honors, and her law degree on full academic scholarships from the University of Georgia.

Bunn was appointed to the Parole Board by Governor Nathan Deal in July 2016 and reappointed for a full seven-year term in December 2016. She began her career as an Assistant Attorney General in 1997 and worked on cases involving the Georgia Department of Corrections and the State Board of Pardons and Paroles, including cases that reached the United States Supreme Court. From 2006 to 2013, she was deputy director of legal services for the Georgia Department of Public Safety. In 2013, she became the Executive Director of the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council and she served as the Chair of the Victims Compensation Board. Bunn received an appointment to the Georgia Commission on Family Violence in August 2018. Ms. Bunn is licensed to practice law in all state and federal courts in Georgia and New Jersey.



Past Board Members

Member: January 1, 2023 - March 1, 2024



Timothy Ward

Timothy Ward earned a Bachelor's in Criminal Justice from Savannah State University and a Master's in Public Administration from Columbus State University.

Ward is a former Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Corrections. Ward was appointed Commissioner for the Georgia Department of Corrections in 2019 by Governor Brian Kemp. Ward began his career with the Department of Corrections in 1992 at Scott State Prison as a Correctional Officer and eventually was promoted to Chief of Staff in 2016. Ward served on the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Council and served as one of the Commissioners nationally on the American Correctional Association for the Commission on Accreditation for Corrections. He is an active member of the Southern States Correctional Association, the Georgia Professional Association of Community Supervision, the American Correctional Association, and the Georgia Prison Wardens' Association.



Past Board Members

Member: May 15, 2010 - December 31, 2024

Chairman: July 1, 2014 - June 30, 2017; July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2024



Terry E. Barnard

Terry Barnard was appointed by Governor Sonny Perdue to the Board to complete an unexpired term. He was appointed to a full term by Governor Perdue and another full term by Governor Nathan Deal in 2017. Mr. Barnard earned a degree from Atlantic Community College. Mr. Barnard served nine one-year terms as chairman and is the second longest serving chairman in the Board's history.

Mr. Barnard, a former State Representative, served nearly sixteen years in the Georgia House of Representatives. The Coastal Georgia lawmaker served as a member of several key House Committees, including the State Institutions and Property Committee, where he served as the Chair for six years. In 1995-1996, Mr. Barnard guided through the Georgia House the framework for the State Sex Offender Registry and Sexual Offender Registration Review Board.



Past Board Members

Member: January 19, 2021 - August 15, 2025

Chair: July 1, 2025 - August 15, 2025

Vice Chair: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025



Margaret Heap

Margaret "Meg" Heap was appointed to the State Board of Pardons and Paroles by Governor Brian Kemp in January of 2021. Ms. Heap earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from Georgia Southern University and a Juris Doctorate from Mercer University. Ms. Heap began her career as a volunteer coordinator and victim advocate with the Victim-Witness Assistance Program in the Savannah District Attorney's Office. After law school, she served the Blue Ridge Judicial Circuit as an Assistant District Attorney and later as an Assistant District Attorney in Chatham County. In 2012, Mrs. Heap was elected District Attorney for the Eastern Judicial Circuit (Chatham County) where she served two terms.

Heap began serving as U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Georgia in August of 2025.



Past Board Members

Member: August 1, 2018 - December 31, 2025

Chair: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Vice Chair: July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025

Graduated from the University of Mississippi in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in Public Administration.



David J. Herring

Mr. Herring was appointed by Governor Nathan Deal.

David Herring served as a state trooper, joining the Georgia Department of Public Safety in 1994. He served the state of Georgia for more than thirty-five years. During his tenure with the Department of Public Safety, Mr. Herring served on team security for the University of Georgia Football Program and served as a member of the state of Georgia S.W.A.T. Team. He later served as a Lt. Colonel managing security details for the offices of Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and Chief Justice. Mr. Herring received the Governor's Public Safety Award for Heroism in 2001 and he was recognized by the Gainesville Kiwanis Club as Trooper of the Year in 2004. He is a member of the 2014 Leadership Georgia Class.