

Bennett Wayne Dean Class of 1961

Bennett Wayne Dean, Sr. is generally recognized as the eminent authority on Mobile's pre-Lenten Carnival. He has authored a number of books on the subject: *A Mobile Mardi Gras Handbook*, *Mardi Gras: Mobile's illogical whoop-de-doo*, several on individual parading societies, as well as *Silver Marquis: Marquis de Lafayette Societie—The First 25 Years*. Another, tentatively entitled *Raising Cain for 50-Plus Years* is currently in progress for a 2017 publication. He is presently co-authoring a book on Carnival that is currently being reviewed for publication. He is a member of the History Museum of Mobile Board, where he heads its Marketing/PR Committee and serves on the Executive Committee. He has been honored to have served as Narrator for the Marquis de Lafayette Society since 2011. He is S.A.G., Screen Actors Guild, eligible actor who has appeared in 30 plus motion pictures.

Wayne's dedication to his work and interests is reflected in the honors earned from every involvement spanning 40 plus years. He won the state of Alabama Senior Bowling Championship when a senior at Murphy High School, he was honored with International Association of Personnel in Employment Security Award of Merit and the organization's highest award for his work in public relations with its youth program and his work with veterans, senior citizens and the handicapped. Later he was voted into their Alabama Chapter Hall of Fame and received a special Life Saver Award for saving the life of a co-worker. He was awarded multiple top honors by the Alabama Hospital Public Relations and Marketing Society. He received, while serving as a full time pastor, the highest recognition of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. Wayne and his wife Doris, oversee the independent Lord of the Dance Ministries in Mobile. He was named the Outstanding Mobile Jaycee Officer, and awarded the highest honor for his Mardi Gras involvement, the Alfred L. Staples Fleur de Lis.

Perhaps his biggest achievement in the eyes of Mobilians is his involvement with the annual Joe Cain procession. He marched in the very first "reburial" event in 1967, while home from college, and later became deeply involved in the event. An officer of the Joe Cain Marching Society went so far as to say, "Those who know Dean say he is the reason that Mobile came to revere Cain... He has done all the behind the scenes work with everybody." (Mobile Press Register, 2010). Steve Joynt's website, Mobile Mask, said "under his direction, the procession has become one of, if not the most popular events of Carnival in Mobile."

He has personified the legendary Chickasaw Indian Chief Slacabamorinico since 1985, leading the annual Joe Cain procession "people's" parade, and is called Mobile's ambassador by the current mayor. In his role as the Chief, he was chosen as Best Mobilian Ever for the years 2012-2015 by readers of *The Lagniappe*. He is regularly asked to appear at local, state, and national conventions. He is one of the "faces" of Visit Mobile's rebranding of the city, and an official ambassador to the city for tourism. Because of that work his likeness as Chief Slacabamorinico was included in the new Mardi Gras park. He has also used the character to do public service commercials on drunk driving and has visited local schools to educate the children of the city on Mardi Gras history. There is truly no one that loves this city and its historic Mardi Gras more than Wayne. This is why he is so proud of being a graduate of Murphy High School.