



# Celebrating "The First" Black Men to Lead the Agency Natural Resources Conservation Service



\* Pearl S. Reed  
Chief, NRCS



\* Plater Campbell  
Director of Conservation  
Planning Division



\* P. Dwight Holman  
Southeast Regional Conservationist



\* Charles Whitmore  
Midwest Regional Conservationist



\* Charles Adams  
Director of National Employee  
Development Center (NEDC)



\* Sherman Lewis  
Deputy Chief for Management



\* Larry Clark  
Deputy Chief for Science and  
Technology



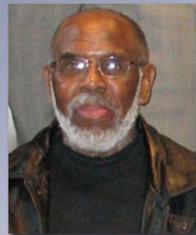
\* Ron Williams  
Director of Central National  
Technical Center



\* Leonard Jordan  
Associate Chief of Conservation



\* William Hunt  
Minnesota State Conservationist



\* James Tatum  
Deputy Chief for Strategic Planning



John Maynard Jones  
First Recorded "Professional"  
Conservationist



\* Leroy Brown  
Iowa State Conservationist



\* Walter Douglas  
South Carolina  
State Conservationist



\* Garland H. Lipscomb  
First Recorded State Soil Scientist



\* Tommie Parham  
Director of National Cartographic  
and Geospatial Center



Russell Morgan  
Florida State Conservationist



Cedric K. Bradford  
South Central Regional  
Administrative Officer



\* Earl Cosby  
Wisconsin State Conservationist



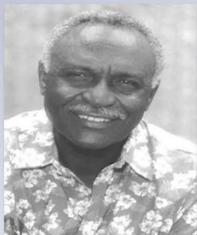
Ed Biggers  
Director of Customer Service Division



\* James Ford  
Tennessee State Conservationist



\* Homer Wilkes  
Mississippi State Conservationist



\* Nathaniel Conners  
Hawaii State Conservationist



\* Astor Boozer  
West Regional Conservationist



\* Horace Smith  
Director of Soil Survey Division



Kalven Trice  
Arkansas State Conservationist



Melvin Westbrook  
Director of International Affairs



Jon Hall  
Delaware State Conservationist



Melvin Womack  
Division Director of Conservation  
Technical Assistance



\* Dewayne Mays  
National Soils Survey Lab  
Team Leader



JB Martin  
North Carolina State Conservationist



\* Eric Banks  
Kansas State Conservationist



\* Lloyd Wright  
Director of Office Community Assistance  
and Resource Development Division

In recognition of efforts made by NRCS over the last 50 years to promote hiring of qualified minority employees, this poster is the Second part of a commemorative series to be released by the Agency to acknowledge the "First" minority employees that served in various critical positions throughout the Agency.

Before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) workforce had very few Blacks employees.. There was resistance in sections of the South to hiring blacks, but with the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the SCS responded with innovative and collaborative recruitment approaches. One such approach was to develop a partnership with 1890 Colleges and Universities. This partnership is still in existence today and the degree of success is evident by the increased number of Black students hired and the number of Black employees that have risen through the ranks.

We are pleased to highlight the "First" Black Men of NRCS to break glass ceilings in positions from the State Conservationist level and above.

For further reading on the History of the Soil Conservation Service and the Civil Rights Act of 1964, we invite you to read the available on line source: [NRCS History Articles - Eroding the Color Line, the Soil Conservation Service and the Civil Rights Act of 1964](#), by Douglas Helms, USDA-NRCS, and Agency Historian.

Notes:

- The first poster of the series was the NRCS Black History Month 2012 Celebrating "The First" Black Women
- \* = Held more than one position within the Agency as a "First."

Data published is based on the most current information available from NRCS. We apologize if someone was inadvertently excluded.

Photos Unavailable:

Obie Ashford, *Director of Eastern National Technical Center*, Clarence Austin, *Midwest Regional Administrative Officer*, and  
\* Charles Davis, *First Recorded State Conservation Engineer*.

