

CHARLOTTE CLARK-FRIESON

My name is Charlotte Clark-Frieson, and I'm running for the office of House District 37, Alabama House of Representatives. I'm a lifelong resident of Roanoke and have been active in civic life of this community, dedicated to education, health and prosperity of all citizens.

I received my early education at Randolph County Training School, graduated from Handley High School and Southern Union State Community College. At Auburn University, I earned the bachelor of science and master of education degrees, and attended post-graduate studies at the State University of West Georgia. I was a founding member of the first black sorority at Auburn University, the Kappa Upsilon chapter of the Delta Sigma Theta National Service Society.

My late husband, Clarence Frieson Jr., was a Tuscaloosa native and a U.S. Navy veteran. We have two adult children, Wilkie S. Frieson (married to Jacqueline) and Je'Lynn M. Frieson, and two grandchildren, 20-year-old Pvt. James McKenzie Frieson and 6-year-old Kynneddy.

My upbringing during the civil rights and desegregation era had a tremendous impact on my life, work, career and community involvement; it continues to shape my beliefs about what it will take to create a "New Alabama" which calls for a complete transformation of our thinking in order to realize the progress needed for our state to advance beyond its present standing.

Born and raised in Roanoke during the desegregation era, I saw the power of my parents' civil rights activism to create positive change.

I followed in both my parents' footsteps. I was a public



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school teacher for 21 years, like my mother, a lifelong educator. After I completed my student teaching in the Lee County Youth Detention Center in Opelika, where we provided instruction for youth from across Alabama, I taught in

Hogansville and LaGrange city schools and Troup County. The Psychoeducational Center, TCYS (adult academy) gave me the opportunity to work with at-risk youth in a residential treatment setting.

Heading our Randolph County NAACP chapter, which my father, Wilkie Clark, led for more than 40 years, I continued his legacy. I received the NAACP's Medgar Evers Award and the Alabama Democratic Conference's John F. Kennedy Profiles in Courage Award in recognition of my grassroots civil rights work while on the Randolph County School Board.

When I was 14 my father started a family business in Roanoke, which became the center of our lives. I continue to run Clark Memorial Funeral Service today with my adult children, serving the local area in times of greatest need. I also am an honor graduate of Gupton-Jones College of Funeral Service, Decatur, Ga., where I earned the associate in applied science degree in funeral service.

I've been a lifelong member of Bethel United Methodist Church in Roanoke, but, throughout my life, have shared my love of music as music director for a number of churches throughout Roanoke including: Bethel United Methodist, Macedonia Baptist, Friendship Baptist (Broughton community), First Baptist, Wehadkee Missionary Baptist, Mount Carrie Baptist and currently Saint Paul Baptist in Roanoke.