

Robert Russa Moton High School HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

Biography of Willie Lewis Cooper

Willie Lewis Cooper was born in Leeds, Alabama.

His secondary education was completed in the Jefferson County (Alabama) School District at Robert R. Moton High School where he graduated in 1959. After graduating from Moton, he entered the United States Air Force on March 21, 1961. He served in the Law Enforcement Career Field for 21 years. He retired from the Air Force in 1982 at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas with the rank of Master Sergeant. As a military policeman he was responsible for enforcing laws and base policies. His duties took him to assignments in England, France, Thailand, Japan, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene, Texas.

His many awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force (AF) Commendation Medal, AF Achievement Medal, AF Longevity Services Ribbon, National Defense Services Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, AF Outstanding Unit Award, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and the Professional Military Education Ribbon.

After retiring from the U. S. Air Force, Willie Lewis was hired in the civil service as a program Director at the Dyess AFB Community Center, with the rank of a GS-6. He was promoted to the position of Community Center Director in 1998. In this position, he was required to plan, direct, and manage a comprehensive program of social, educational and service activities for all assigned base personnel which included active duty, retired military, DOD/Nonappropriated Fund civilians, all dependents, and their guests.

As the Community Center Director, Willie was recognized for his many accomplishments through the years. He was named the Strategic Air Command NAF Employee of the year in 1982. He was appointed the Black Employment Program Manager from 1991 to 1998. Willie represented Dyess AFB at the Blacks in Government in 1992. He was the recipient of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Human Services Award" presented by the city of Abilene at a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Luncheon in January 1997.

Willie Lewis Cooper retired a second time from the Dyess Air Force Base, Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Division as a Community Center Director on June 27, 2008 with twenty six additional years of government service.

Willie has been married to his wife, Doris, for 49 years, They have three children, two daughters and one son. They are the proud grandparents of four grand children. Willie and Doris currently reside in Abilene,

Texas.

Willie Lewis Cooper was nominated by his cousin Darlene Cooper Jones