

National 4-H Hall of Fame 2018

Maryland



Henry Brooks

1890 Extension Administrator and Associate Director,
University of Maryland Extension (retired)

Home: Salisbury, MD Email: hmbrooks@umes.edu Nominated by: Maryland 4-H

Major 4-H Accomplishments:

Auburn University county agent and 4-H Specialist, 1967 - 1973. Kentucky State University State Program Specialist. Joined the University of Maryland Eastern Shore as 1890 Extension Administrator and Associate Director of Maryland Extension in 1980.

Honors: Extension Committee on Organization and Policy, 1991-95. National 4-H Recognition Model Design Team, 1993. Journal of Extension Board of Directors, 2005. 1890 Universities' 4-H Program Team Advisor. National 4-H Congress Board of

Directors, 2001-2014. National 4-H Council Board of Trustees, 1995-97; 2003-2005. Recognized as a "Living Legend in Agriculture" by then Governor Martin O'Malley and the State Legislative Black Caucus (2008).

Biography:

Upon graduating with degrees in Agriculture Education from Tuskegee University, Henry was hired by Auburn Univ. as a county agent to work with limited resource farmers and as the 4-H specialist who taught 4-H classroom programs to black males from 1967-73. After acquiring his Ph.D., he was employed by Kentucky State Univ. as a State Program Specialist, and remained active with 4-H Clubs in Franklin Co. and was a volunteer at 4-H camps every year. In 1980 Henry joined the Univ. of Maryland Eastern Shore as 1890 Extension Administrator and Assoc. Director of Maryland Extension. He served on ECOP; National 4-H Recognition Model Design Team; Journal of Extension Board; 1890 4-H Program Team Advisor; National 4-H Congress Board; and National 4-H Council Board.

In 2008 Henry was recognized as a "Living Legend in Agriculture" by Gov, Martin O'Malley and the State Legislative Black Caucus. After retirement, Henry is a certified Red Cross Disaster Response Team Member; mentors economically disadvantaged youth through the Guide Right Program of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity; volunteers at the Episcopalian camp for children of incarcerated parents; and mentors youth through Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity. Through the years he coached athletic teams and was a Boy Scout Troop leader - all of which started because of his love for working with youth through his employment and volunteerism in 4-H.

Quote:

I have always enjoyed working with youth and was energized when I started my career in Bullock County, Alabama with responsibilities that included 4-H programming for males. I had to be creative in implementing innovative low cost 4-H projects for limited resource youth. We were not likely to win state and national awards, but they were proud of their projects. Seeing how much these boys enjoyed and learned from these programs helped to formulate my enduring devotion to 4-H. In my 47 years with Extension, many of my most rewarding experiences were through my voluntary or professional roles with 4-H.



District Forestry Short Course –
Auburn University, 1969



National 4-H Council Board of
Trustees meeting in 1999.



Receiving Recognition for
Service on Extension Committee
on Organization and Policy
(ECOP) presented by ECOP
Chair, Dr. Gail Imig in 1995.