

# Community activist to throw ceremonial first pitch

By J. Isaac Noel Benjamin, II

Rudolph Valentino Wilson will do Lansing and the Lansing Juneteenth celebration the honor of throwing out the first pitch to start the ceremonial Juneteenth baseball game honoring the Negro Baseball League and freedom. Wilson could not be a better choice. He has stood tall in the area of community involvement and issues

concerning the African American community as a whole. He was a past president of the Lansing chapter of the NAACP from 1977 until 1987. "There were problems, a lot of unrest and someone needed to take a stand," he said. Wilson joined the Lansing NAACP in 1949 when he came to Lansing to work on a graduate degree at Michigan State University. He had been a NAACP member in

Tampa, Florida where he grew up. He was born in 1924 and was one of 14 children. He served in the Air Force during World War II as a part of the European Theater of Operations. After being honorable discharge from the service he earned a B.A. degree in Chemistry from West Virginia State University in 1949. Wilson distinguished himself after being hired as the first black salaried employee at Oldsmobile

General Motors, as a chemical engineer. Wilson is married to his wife Dorothy of 60 years. He is the father of two sons and has four grandchildren.

In addition to serving as a past president for the NAACP, Wilson had a long a storied career helping the Lansing community as a commissioner and board member for many organizations. He is still very active in the community at age 84.

"The Juneteenth celebration is about the E m a n c i p a t i o n Proclamation," said Wilson. "I remember growing up that my brother in Texas held an annual Juneteenth celebration where people from all over the United States were invited."

Wilson also made a point of noting that young people specifically should know about the battles undertaken by the people who came before them. "They need to know why they enjoy the freedoms they have," he said. "It means a great deal to me to throw out the first pitch."

Wilson also noted that he intends to be at the NAACP Juneteenth booth helping out.



Rudolph "Rudy" Valentino Wilson

Law offices of  
Melvin S. McWilliams,  
P.C.

Best Wishes for a  
Successful Juneteenth  
Celebration!



Melvin S. McWilliams

Practice areas include:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Business Formation, including Limited Partnerships, LLCs, &amp; S Corporations</li> <li>□ Non-Profit Corporations</li> <li>□ 501(c)(3) Determinations</li> <li>□ Purchases and Sales of Businesses</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>□ Business Litigation</li> <li>□ Serious Personal Injury</li> <li>□ Real Estate - Housing</li> <li>□ Franchise Law</li> <li>□ Licensing &amp; Zoning</li> <li>□ Probate Administration</li> <li>□ Wills and Trust Law</li> <li>□ Construction Law</li> <li>□ Municipal Law</li> <li>□ Employment Law</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

One Michigan Avenue Building  
120 N. Washington, Suite 805  
Lansing, MI 48933

Tel: (517) 853-2551 [www.mcwilliams4law.com](http://www.mcwilliams4law.com)

**Congrats Juneteenth**  
Author & Poet, **Dee Freeman**,  
wishes you continued success



Info and books: Dee 517 321-3122  
[deedkfreeman@yahoo.com](mailto:deedkfreeman@yahoo.com)  
[WWW.deepoette.com](http://WWW.deepoette.com), Amazon.com  
**Poetree-N-Motion, Tues. 6:30pm**  
**Crnst. 16 & Thurs 7:00pm 19**

## TAX SERVICES - RETIREMENT & COLLEGE PLANNING



**Edwin E. Thompson, MBA**  
Advisory Representative



**Marilyn D. Plummer**  
Advisory Representative

### Complete Tax/Financial Services from two trusted Professionals:

- Electronic Filing
- IRS Audit Assistance
- Bookkeeping and Payroll Services
- Professional Money Management
- Retirement Planning (IRA, SEP & 401k Rollovers)
- Investment Planning & Management
- Estate Planning
- Asset/Debt Management
- Notary Public

**EDM Tax Service / MDP Financial Services**  
P.O. Box 12244  
Lansing, MI 48901-2244  
517-484-8920

Securities offered through H.D. Vest Investment Securities<sup>SM</sup>, Inc. Member SIPC  
Advisory Services offered through H.D. Vest Advisory Services<sup>SM</sup>, Inc.  
A non-bank subsidiary of Wells Fargo & Company  
6333 North State Highway 161, Fourth Floor,  
Irving, Texas 75038  
(972) 870-8000