

Biography of Darrell Watson



The Ballou *Majestic* Marching Knights Band Director

Darrell Watson is from South East Washington DC, where he attended Ballou Senior High School and was a member of the school's marching band. In the band he played trombone and then later went on to become drum major. In 1988 he graduated from Ballou Senior High School with high honors.

He continued his education in music at the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) where he also played in the University's marching band. In 1995 he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree.

Then in 1995 he returned to South East Washington DC and Ballou Senior High School, to teach music. He also took over as the Ballou Senior High School Director of Bands that same year.

On Feb 10th 2004, Darrell received the **Cleveland L. Dennard Distinguished Service Award** from the University of the District of Columbia for his long-term commitment of outstanding service to the University.

Since 1995 Darrell Watson has expanded the band from a mere 20 members to an 80 member nationally ranked marching band. The band has placed in the top three at the Home Depot "Battle of the Bands" in Carson, CA and in the 2005 and 2006 National High Stepping Marching Band competitions.

Additionally, Darrell Watson is a gospel singer who has personally performed with several well-known gospel artists, including Yolanda Adams, Robert Smallwood, Karen Clark-Sheared, Dorothy Norwood, Murna Summers, and Albertina Walker.

A feature documentary was made about Darrell Watson and Ballou High School Band. This led to his selection as one of ABC World News "***Persons of the Year***" for 2007. This also led to an appearance on the Ellen DeGeneres Show and special recognition at the White House on Oct 11th 2007 by First Lady Laura Bush.

In 2008 a Hollywood film is being developed based on the life story of Darrell Watson.