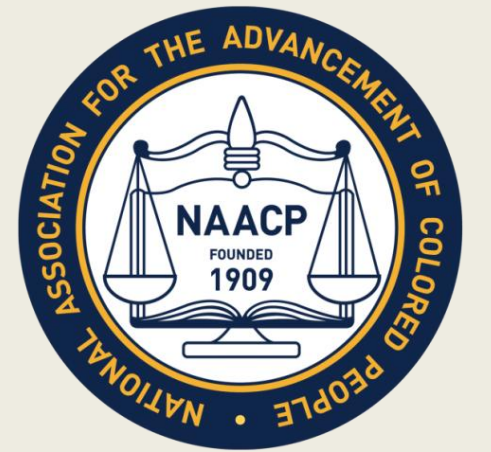
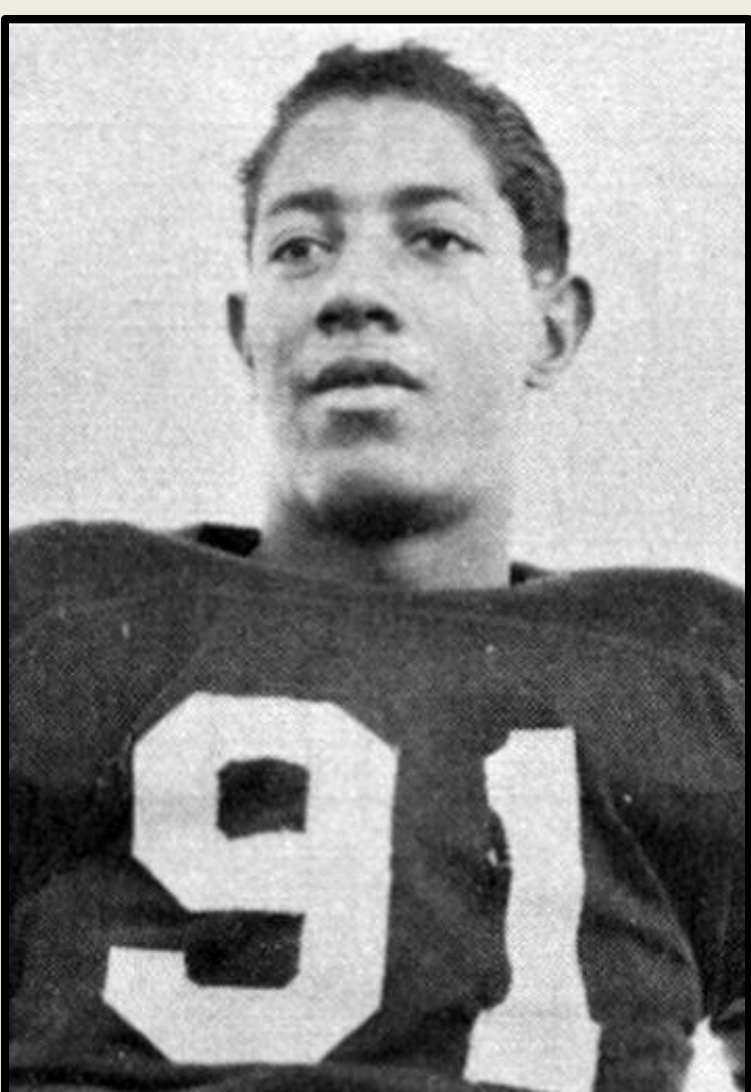


African Americans in Winslow: Scenes From Our History



The Mel Hannah Family

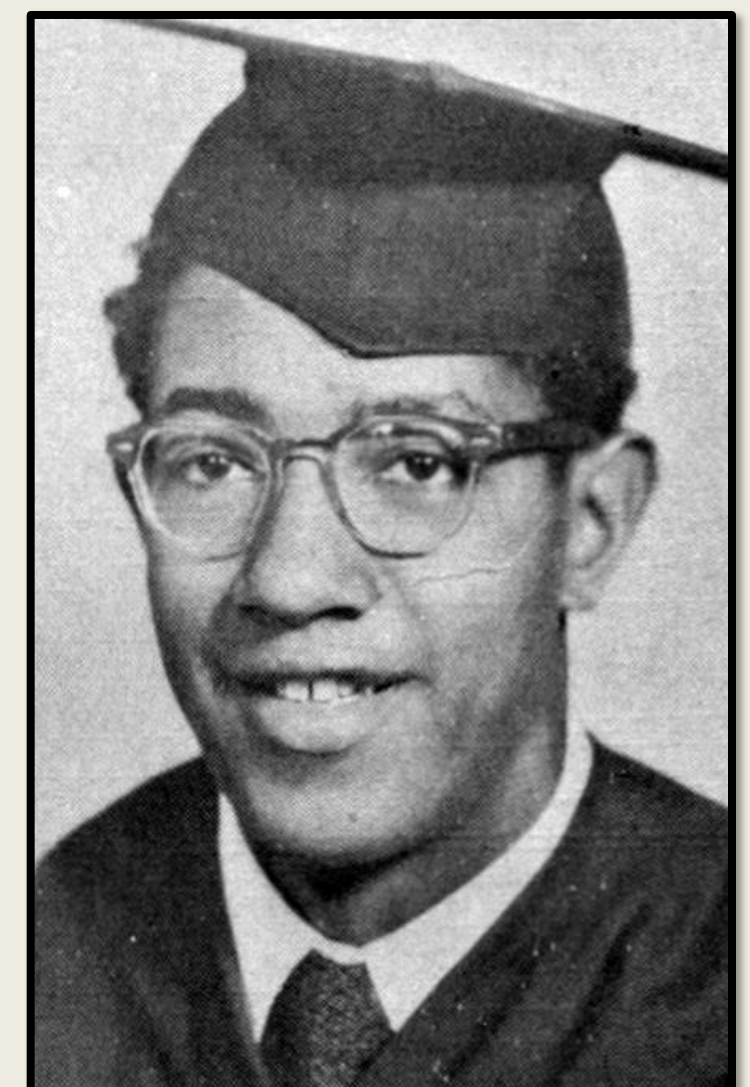
Robert James (1908-1969) and Mary Christine Morris (1911-1991) Hannah moved from Gatesville, Texas, to Winslow in 1935. They raised five children – Lois, William, Mel, Jerial, and Betty – on West First Street.



Robert worked for the Ames and Cake dealerships before he became a car chair attendant for the Santa Fe Railway. He soon became an oiler in the yard and then yard foreman from 1941 until he retired in the 1960s. Mary Christine did cleaning work at Dr. Wright's maternity hospital and other businesses in town.

Son Mel J. Hannah was in the National Honor Society and played several sports (left, on the football team) and saxophone in the band. He graduated from Winslow High School in 1956 (right).

Mel attended Eastern Arizona Junior College – on a dual music and football scholarship – before he went on to Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, where he also played football.

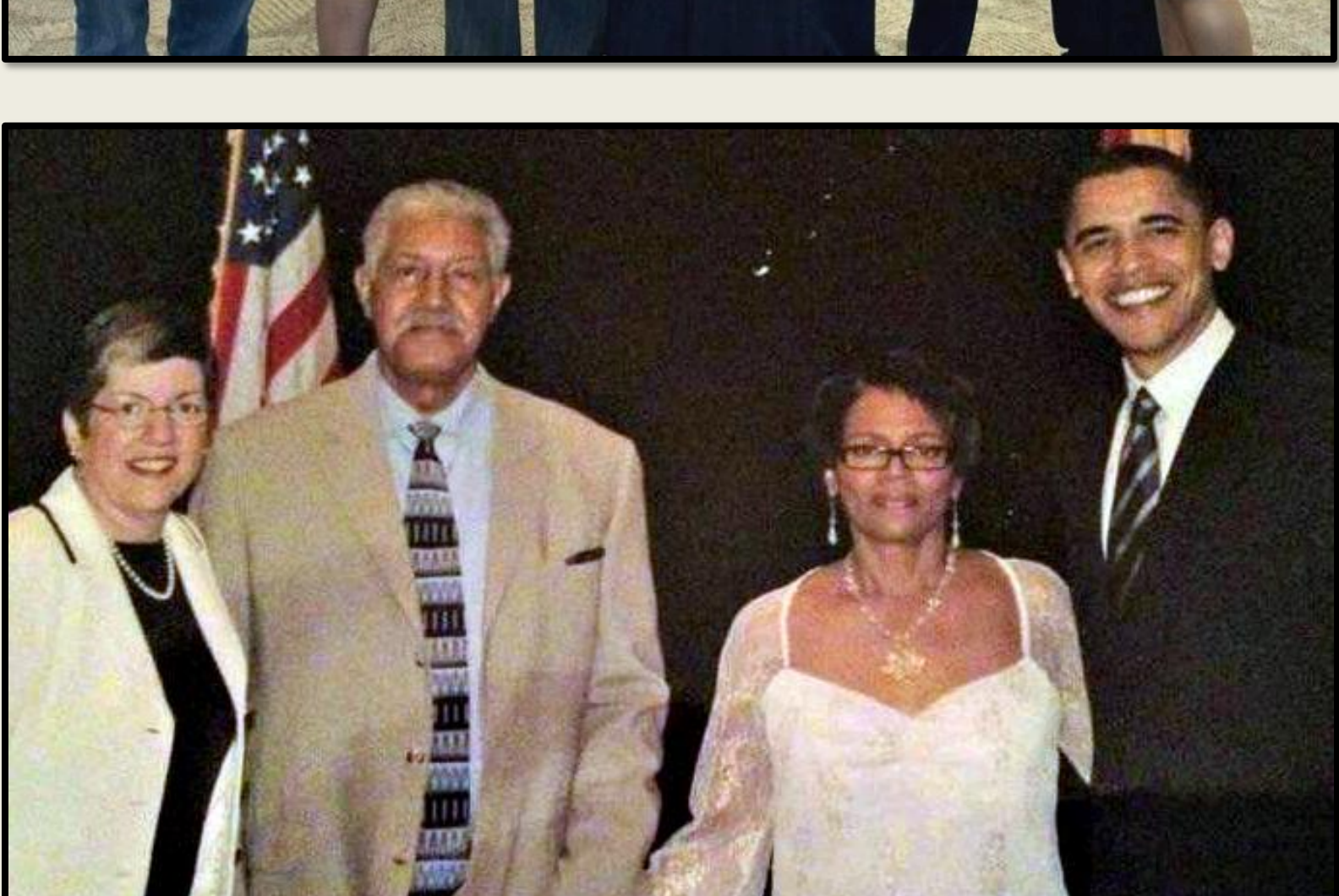


Mel settled in Flagstaff and worked for the US Forest Service and as Assistant Director for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments. He served as Flagstaff's first African American City Councilor from 1973 to 1985, and he was appointed to the Coconino County Board of Supervisors for six years. He served as president of the Flagstaff Chapter of the NAACP and vice chairman of the NAACP Arizona State Conference.

Mel married Barbara Ann Kedley in 1959 and had three children – Mel, Jr., Marcellus, and Michelle – before they divorced in 1973. He married Shirley Stingley in 1975 and they raised four more children – Reginald, Derek, Ashley, and Brittani. They moved to the Phoenix area in the 1990s, where Mel worked for the Greater Phoenix Urban League until he retired.



Above Left: Mel and Shirley (center) with, left to right, Reginald, Ashley, Marcellus, Mel Jr., Derek, and Brittani Hannah in 2013. Above Right: Mel and Mel Jr. at a Spring Training game in Scottsdale in 2015.



Mel has always been engaged in the communities where he lives, serving on multiple public commissions and advisory councils. At left, Mel and Shirley Hannah with Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano and then-Senator Barack Obama in 2007.