

From NAAA, Notable Kentucky African Americans Database (main entry)

Henry Edward Baker

(born: 1922 - died: 2014)

Reverend Henry E. Baker was a civil rights activist, a pastor, and a city commissioner in Winchester, KY. A school was named in his honor, the Henry E. Baker Intermediate School, dedicated on August 3, 2014. For 38 years, he was pastor of the Broadway Baptist Church, 1955-1993. He was among those who helped integrate the Winchester schools in 1956. In 1977, he was elected the moderator of the Consolidated District Association of Kentucky Baptist. In 1978, he established a fund drive for Elizabeth Greene who was blinded on August 4, 1978, when an unknown person fired into her car and the bullet struck her in the head ["Fund drive," *Kentucky New Era*, 12/28/1978, p.29 - [online](#)]. He was chair of the Winchester Human Rights Commission.

In 1979, Rev. Henry E. Baker became the first African American to serve as a city commissioner in Winchester, and he also served as vice mayor from 1980-1984. In 2000, he was inducted into the Kentucky Human Rights Commission Civil Rights Hall of Fame. In 2006, the block in Winchester between Washington Street and Broadway, was renamed from Bell's Alley to Reverend Baker Way. Reverend Baker also received the Martin Luther King Jr. Award in 2007. Reverend Henry E. Baker was born in The Pocket in Wilmore, KY, he was the son of Mary E. Overstreet Baker (1894-1985) and Henry Baker (1890-1973) [source: Ms. Hallie Miller; Kentucky Birth Index; FindAGrave, [Henry Baker](#); and 1930 and 1940 U.S. Federal Census]. Rev. Baker was the husband of Sarah F. Prentice Baker for 69 years. He was a WWII veteran; Rev. Baker enlisted in Cincinnati, OH, April 16, 1943 [source: U.S. WWII Army Enlistment Records]. He was the brother of [Fred Baker](#). This entry was submitted by [Ms. Hallie Miller](#).