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Memorial Program Frederick Humphries

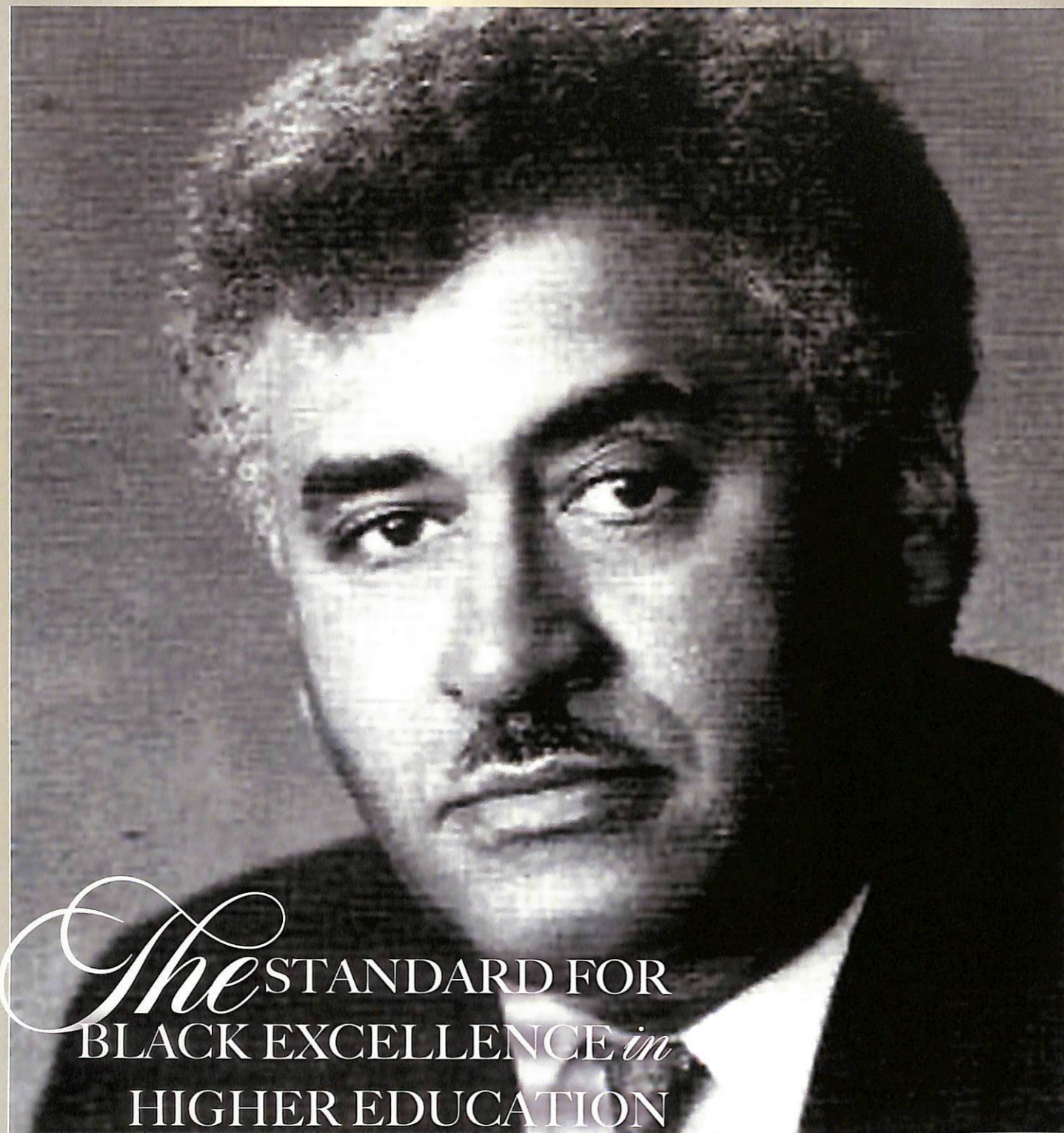
Florida A & M University

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IN MEMORY AND CELEBRATION OF



Frederick
S. Humphries, Sr., Ph.D.



Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, Sr., passed away on June 24, 2021, leaving a legacy of Black exceptionalism that remains the envy of academia. The young man from the port town of Apalachicola on the panhandle of Florida had an extraordinary impact on many thousands of Black students and their families.

Growing up in Apalachicola, Humphries was influenced by a diverse group of people. He attended Holy Family School, one of the few Black Catholic grammar schools in the south ruled by Black nuns who were relentless disciplinarians.

Once, Humphries' school scored so high on an exam, the Monseigneur suspected cheating. He gave them a different test and their scores were even better. The small town had a reputation for Black high achievers. But Fred Humphries said it was not enough for his high school math teacher Charlie Watson who constantly pushed him to "do better" and to always "strive for excellence." Construction work in Apalachicola introduced him to Ruffin Rhodes. Ruffin talked incessantly about the power of education. Finally, Humphries said, "What's the highest degree of educational achievement?" Rhodes said, "a doctorate."

With that, Humphries was off to Florida A&M College, which became a university during his time there. He was a popular student. Tall, handsome, and smart, he was known for his competitive spirit on the basketball court and in the classroom. He enjoyed getting better grades than his big-city friends. To his buddy Carl Kirksey from Miami, he asked, "How did you do on that math exam?" Carl said, "I got an 80." "I got a 95," was Humphries retort. He graduated with honors with a degree in chemistry from FAMU. Humphries began his role as a member of the "First Evers" as the first African American to earn a doctorate in physical chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh.

After teaching chemistry at FAMU in 1974, he became president of Tennessee State University (TSU), an arch-rival of the Rattlers. Humphries was president when the state wanted to merge TSU with the Nashville campus of the University of Tennessee, a White school. It happened, but the federal land-grant status of TSU protected it from a hostile takeover of sorts by a White institution. Tennessee State maintained its administrative status and brand. That episode was not Humphries's first bout with suppression. And while he treated institutional racism with indifference, he recognized it as a worthy adversary to be outmaneuvered. That was his approach and it was a successful strategy.

When he returned to his beloved FAMU as president in 1985, it was the beginning of a remarkable journey that would elevate the university and Historically Black Colleges and Universities to their rightful status as valuable institutions of higher learning. Humphries' commanding presence, innovating ideas, and enthusiasm was a powerful magnet attracting students, faculty, corporations, alumni, and research dollars at a level never before realized.

He was defiant and unrelenting when advancing FAMU. During the Humphries' years from 1985-2001, FAMU burst onto the scene as an HBCU with academic credentials unmatched. First, he increased enrollment with an unorthodox recruitment style that was legendary. He would approach young people on the streets of Europe and Africa touting the FAMU brand. The University's dominance of National Achievement Scholars would upend academic norms. FAMU led the nation with these scholars outpacing Harvard, Yale, and Stanford in 1992, 1995, 1997, and tying Harvard in 2000. But, also part of the big picture was Humphries' commitment to disadvantaged students with untapped potential who would be nurtured at FAMU. That was the Fred Humphries' dream.

The intrinsic strength of an HBCU education was a powerful weapon for Humphries whose motto was *Excellence With Caring*, which resonated nationwide. His defiance of racial norms was a startling rebuke to the Board of Regents and all those he viewed as a threat to FAMU. Humphries' FAMU engendered the kind of can-do spirit and self-esteem the next generation needed to compete in the marketplace.

During his presidency, Dr. Frederick S. Humphries raised more than \$157 million, awarded 873 *Life-Gets-Better-Scholarships*, and increased Foundation revenues tenfold. FAMU was named *College of the Year* by Time Magazine and the Princeton Review. Grants jumped from \$8 million to \$62 million and enrollment soared from 5,000 to 12,000. Humphries was always focused on FAMU's research profile, but now was able to strengthen engineering, the sciences, and pre-law. He successfully restored the FAMU College of Law, in 2000. This famous 8th President always credited a great faculty for playing a major role in the success of his efforts. The expansion of graduate studies is a testament to that fact. The most extraordinary part of the Humphries Legacy was the elevation of FAMU to prominence that in turn established the relevancy of all of America's HBCUs.

Dr. Humphries was preceded in death by his beloved parents, Thornton G. Humphries, Sr. and Minnie Henry Humphries; his brother, Thornton G. Humphries, Jr. and sister, Mona Humphries Bailey. He was married to the late Antoinette McTurner Humphries. He is survived by their three children, Frederick S. Humphries, Jr., (*Kim Sheftall*) of Washington, D.C.; Robin Tanya Humphries Watson of Orlando, Fla.; Laurence Anthony Humphries (*Carnesha Allen*) of Houston, Texas; and eight grandchildren Brian Alexander P. Watson of Oakland, Calif., Arielle Simone Humphries of New York, N.Y., Kirsten Antoinette Watson of Los Angeles, Calif.; Frederick S. Humphries, III of Los Angeles Calif., Laurence Anthony Humphries, II of Atlanta, Ga., Dylan Gabrielle Humphries of Atlanta, Ga., Isabella Antoinette Humphries of Houston, Texas, and Pierce Henry Humphries, of Houston, Texas; and two sisters, Mamie (*the late Robert*) Stevens of Moss Point, Miss.; Barbara (Milton) Jones of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; two sisters-in-law, Maude (*the late Thornton*) Humphries of Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; and Consuelo McTurner of Pittsburgh, Pa.; a brother-in-law, William Peter (*the late Mona Humphries*) Bailey of Seattle, Wash.; a beloved companion, Barbara Curry Murrell, of Nashville, Tenn.; and a host of dearly beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

8th President of the Florida A&M University

Alfred Lawson Multipurpose Center, Florida A&M University

Reverend Dr. R. B. Holmes, Sr., Presiding

Saturday, July 10, 2021

1 p.m.

Musical Prelude _____ The Incomparable Marching "100"
Directed by: Shelby Chipman, Ph.D., Director of Bands

Processional _____ "Order My Steps" _____ The Incomparable Marching "100"
Directed by: Shelby Chipman, Ph.D., Director of Bands

Invocation _____ Reverend Dr. R.B. Holmes, Sr.
Pastor, Bethel Missionary Baptist Church

Lessons from the Scripture _____ Old Testament _____ Brian Alexander Watson
Job 19:1, 23-27 *Grandson*

Solo _____ "Amazing Grace" _____ Frances Stallworth, Ph.D.
FAMU Class of 1957

Lessons from the Scripture _____ New Testament _____ Arielle S. Humphries, Esq.
John 14:1-6 *Granddaughter*

Tributes _____ Larry Robinson, Ph.D.
12th President, Florida A&M University

Glenda Baskin Glover, Ph.D.
8th President, Tennessee State University

Harry Williams, Ed.D.
President & CEO, Thurgood Marshall College Fund

The Honorable Brenda Ash
Commissioner/Mayor Pro-Tem, Town of Apalachicola, Florida

Dedra O'Neal
Director, University Scholarship Programs

Daryl Parks, Esq.
Former President, Student Government Association

Sterlin Adams
*Former, Executive Assistant to the President
Florida A&M University*

James Ammons, Ph.D.
Chancellor, Southern A&M University at New Orleans

White House Tribute _____ Vince Evans
*Deputy Director, Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs
in the Office of Vice President Kamala Harris*

Resolutions and Proclamations _____ Gayle Andrews
FAMU, Class of 1975

Myrtis Wynn
Life-Long Friend, City of Apalachicola

The Honorable John Dailey
Mayor, City of Tallahassee

Family Reflections _____ Laurence A. Humphries
Son

The Lord's Prayer Led By _____ Grandchildren of Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, Sr.
Brian Alexander Watson; Arielle S. Humphries;
Kirsten A. Watson; Frederick S. Humphries, III;
Laurence A. Humphries, II; Dylan G. Humphries;
Isabella A. Humphries; Pierce H. Humphries

Solo _____ "I Won't Complain" _____ Reverend Daniel Whitfield
Alumnus and Chaplain, Tallahassee Memorial HealthCare

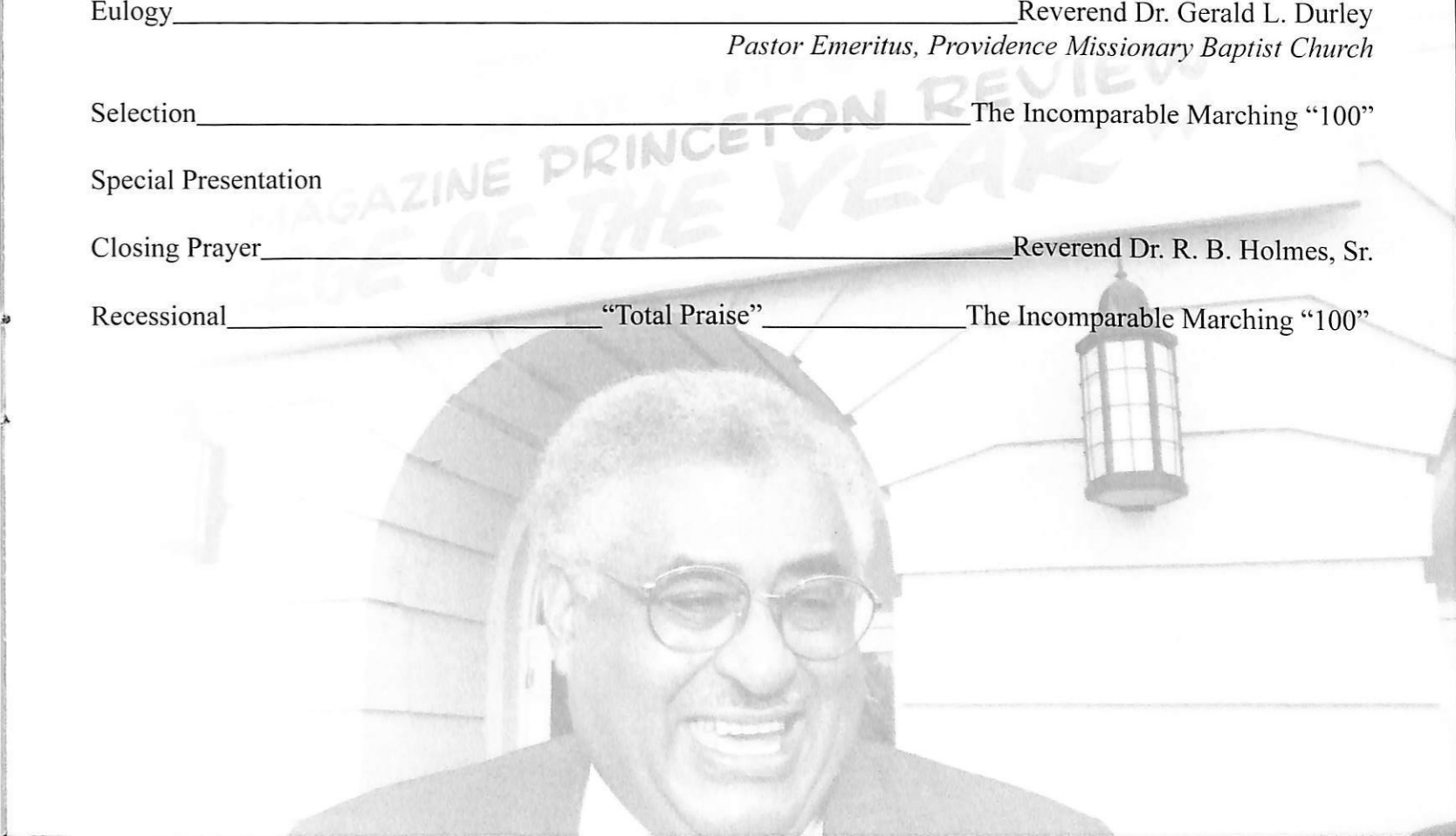
Eulogy _____ Reverend Dr. Gerald L. Durley
Pastor Emeritus, Providence Missionary Baptist Church

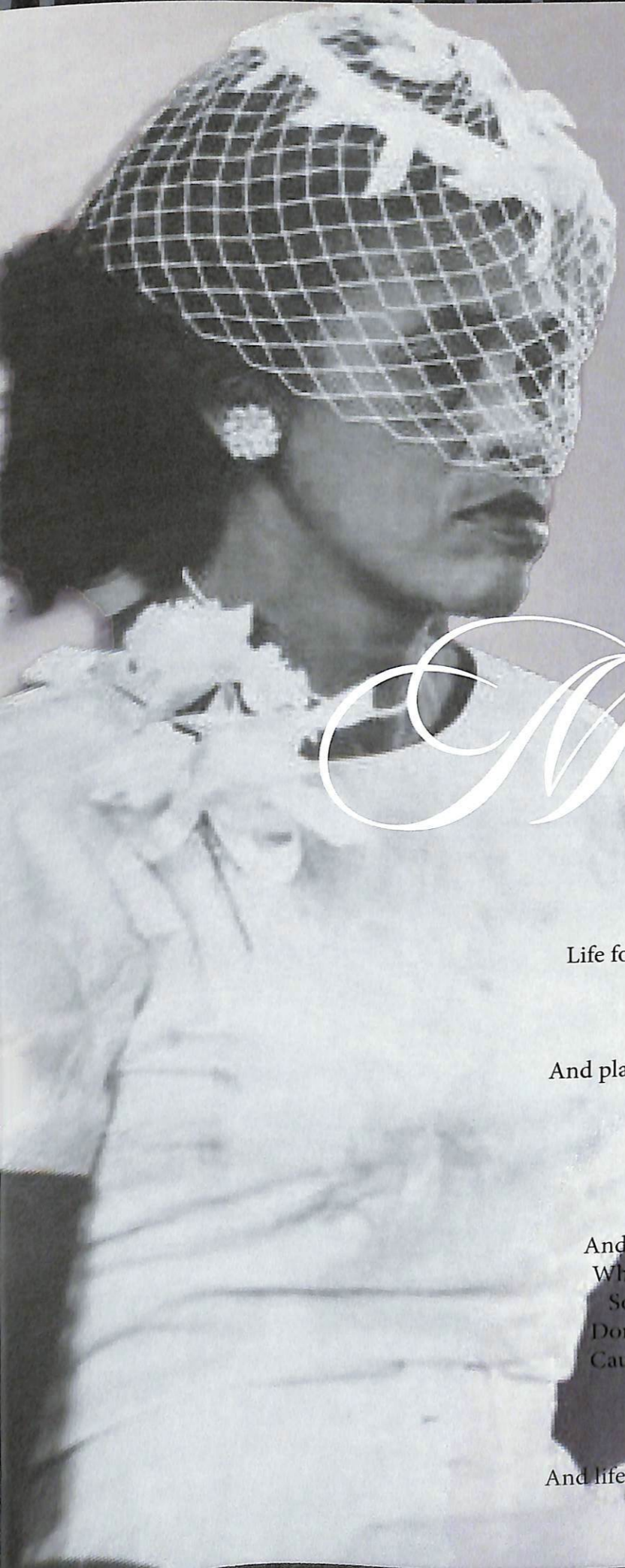
Selection _____ The Incomparable Marching "100"

Special Presentation

Closing Prayer _____ Reverend Dr. R. B. Holmes, Sr.

Recessional _____ "Total Praise" _____ The Incomparable Marching "100"



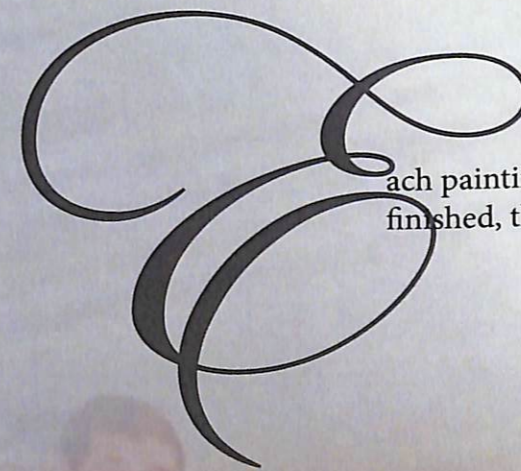
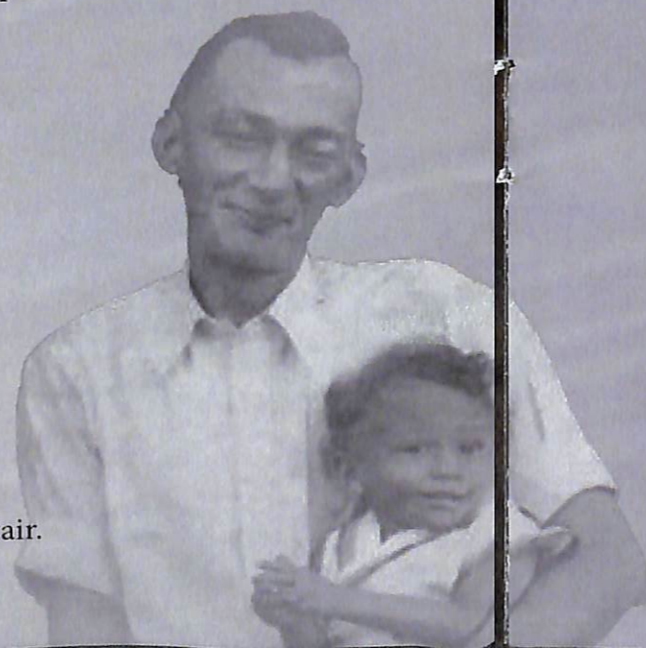


Father TO SON

By Langston Hughes

Well, son, I'll tell you:
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.
It's had tacks in it,
And splinters,
And boards torn up,
And places with no carpet on the floor -
Bare.

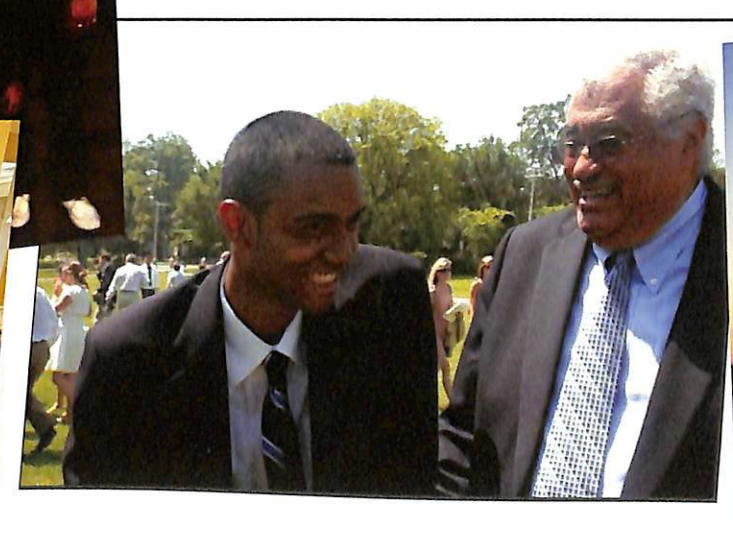
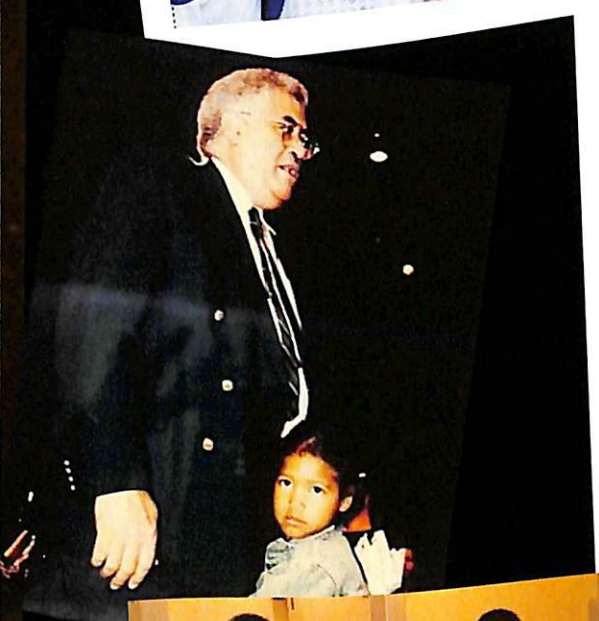
But all the time
I've been a-climbin' on,
And reachin' landin's,
And turnin' corners,
And sometimes goin' in the dark,
Where there ain't been no light.
So boy, don't you turn back.
Don't you set down on the steps
Cause you finds it's kinder hard.
Don't you fall now ---
For I've still goin', honey,
I've still climbin',
And life for me ain't been no crystal stair.



Each painting has its own way of evolving...When the painting is finished, the subject reveals itself. -William Baziotes



What I Loved
MOST ABOUT MY HOME
IS WHO I SHARE IT WITH





To fight the unbeatable foe

To bear with unbearable sorrow
And to run where the brave dare not go

To right the unrightable wrong
And to love pure and chaste from afar
To try when your arms are to weary

To reach the unreachable star

This is my quest
To follow that star
Ooh, no matter how hopeless
No matter how far

To fight for the right
Without question or pause

To be willing to march, march into hell
For that heavenly cause

And I know
If I'll only be true
To this glorious quest
That my heart

Will lie peaceful and calm

When I'm laid to my rest

And the world will be better for this
Oh, that one man, scorned and covered with scars

Still strong with his last ounce of courage
To reach the unreachable star.

To My Beloved Companion,
The Dreamer





Trying TO UNDERSTAND

Then Almitra spoke, saying, we would ask now of Death. And he said:

You would know the secret of death. But how shall you find it unless you seek it in the heart of life? The owl whose night-bound eyes are blind unto the day cannot unveil the mystery of light. If you would indeed behold the spirit of death, open your heart wide unto the body of life. For life and death are one, even as the river and the sea are one.

In the depth of your hopes and desires lies your silent knowledge of the beyond; and like seeds dreaming beneath the snow your heart dreams of spring. Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity. Your fear of death is but the trembling of the shepherd when he stands before the king whose hand is to be laid upon him in honor. Is the shepherd not joyful beneath his trembling, that he shall wear the mark of the king? Yet is he not more mindful of his trembling?

For what is it to die, but to stand naked in the wind and to melt into the sun? And what is it to cease breathing, but to free the breath from its restless tides, that it may rise and expand and seek God unencumbered?

Only when you drink from the river of silence shall you indeed sing. And when you have reached the mountain top, then you shall begin to climb. And when the earth shall clam your limbs, then shall you truly dance.

By: Khalil Gibran



Pallbearers

Chauncey Ford
Stephan Humphries, M.D.
Sean Jones, Esq.
Gen. William Bailey, Jr.

Brian Alexander Watson
Frederick S. Humphries, III
Laurence Humphries, II
Pierce Henry Humphries

Honorary Pallbearers

Sterlin Adams
James Ammons, Ph.D.
Dubose Ausley, Esq.

Daryl Jones
The Honorable Al Lawson
Terrance McNeil, Ph.D.

Cole Beasley
Alvin Chambliss, Esq.
Benjamin Crump, Esq.

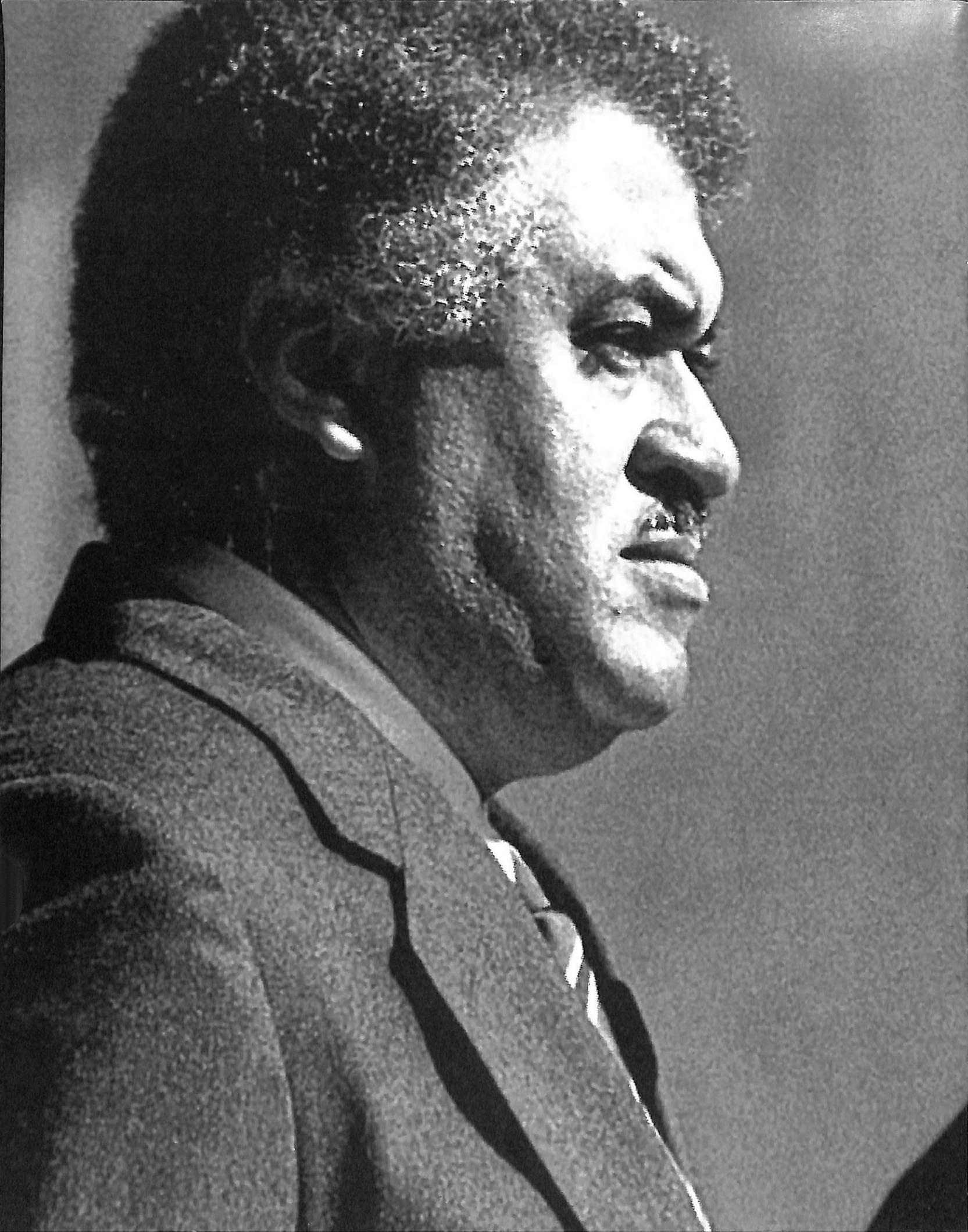
Reginald Mitchell, Esq.
Leon Oldham
Johnny Parham, Ed.D.

Richard Dinkins, Esq.
James Douglas, Esq.
Clarence Griffin
Franklin Hamilton, Ph.D.
COL (Ret.) Brodes Hartley, Jr.

Daryl Parks, Esq.
George Pruitt, Ph.D.
Govan Thomas
Arthur Thomas, Ph.D.
Tola Thompson

Men of Beta Nu Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha, Fraternity, Inc.
APLU

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Incomparable Marching "100"
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Flower Attendants
Graduate Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Special Appreciations

Florida A&M University Family
Tennessee State University Family
FAMU President & Mrs. Larry Robinson
TSU President Glenda Baskin & Charles Glover
Rob Hardy
Keith Miles
Carmen Cummings
Vernon Bryant
Brion Eason
Sabrina Thompson
Andrew Skerritt
Grant Winrow
Aaliyah & Patrick Rajasingam
Dedra O'Neal
OIC South Florida
Vince Evans
Gayle Andrews
Cedric Richmond
Robert Seniors
Will Packer

The Program Lady at Jab Designs Orlando – Earline Blumhagen

Documentary and Video Production

In Memory and Celebration – Tributes to the Late Dr. Frederick S. Humphries, Ph.D.
Rob Hardy, Rainforest Entertainment – TV, Film Producers/Directors

Transportation for Family

Norman Rollins, Mannheim Security

Services provided by:

Postell's Mortuary of Orlando, Florida
J.P. Moore Mortuary of Madison, Florida
Calvin Sheffield Funeral Services of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
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When A GREAT TREE FALLS

By: Maya Angelou

When great trees fall,
rocks on distant hills shudder.
lions hunker down in tall grasses
and even elephants lumber after safety.

When great trees fall in forests,
Small things recoil in silence,
their senses eroded beyond fear.

When great souls die, the air around
use becomes light, rare, sterile.
We breathe, briefly. Our eyes, briefly,
see with a hurtful clarity.
Our memory, suddenly sharpened,
examines, gnaws on kind words
unsaid, promised walks never taken.

Great souls die and
our reality, bound to
them, takes leave of us.
Our souls, dependent upon their
nurture, now shrink, wizened.
Our minds, formed and informed by their
radiance, fall away. We are not so
much maddened as reduced to the
unutterable ignorance of dark, cold caves.

And when great souls die,
after a period peace blooms,
slowly and always irregularly. Spaces fill
With a kind of soothing electric vibration.
Our senses, restored, never to be the same,
whisper to us. They existed. They existed.
We can be. Be and Be better. For they existed.

Interment
Calvary Cemetery
Pittsburgh, PA

"Love Always"
"H. H."