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A
CELEBRATION
of
LIFE
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John Thomas Webb

SERVICE

Saturday, March 20, 2021 ~ 11:00 a.m.

GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

1001 Harvard Boulevard, Dayton, Ohio

Obituary

The distinguished John Thomas Webb was born in Birmingham, Alabama in 1934. His parents, Frank and Jessie Webb, raised him in Gadsden, Alabama where he graduated from George Washington Carver High School. He continued his education at Alabama Agricultural and Mechanical College (now University), where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Education with a major in Chemistry and Biology. He studied for his Master of Science Degree in Chemistry at Notre Dame University, Indiana. He continued his studies at Xavier University, Ohio and earned a Master of Science degree in Education Administration. His doctoral studies were at Miami University, Ohio, the Ohio State University, and North Western International University. He received a teaching certificate at the University of Dayton. Tom was also a licensed airplane pilot.

Tom played and lettered in four sports in high school and college. He was elected to the AAMU Athletic Hall of Fame and the Dayton Colts Football Hall of Fame. Tom was a football defensive back and a place kicker while in college. His athletic career included playing professional baseball in the Dodgers and Cardinals farm system, and basketball with The Harlem Magicians (most of the original Harlem Globetrotters). Tom coached and refereed four different sports.

An African American pioneer, he retired from Dayton Public Schools after 30 years—a teacher, Assistant Principal at Roth High School, and Principal at Roosevelt and Dunbar High Schools and Longfellow. He also taught part-time as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Dayton for 30 years.

Tom served as Project C.U.R.E.'s Board chairman and has been on the Board since its inception. Project C.U.R.E. Inc., recently opened a new multi-million-dollar center that daily treats more than 600 opiate clients. He was also on the Drew Health Center's Board.

Tom and his wife, Eliza, hosted the AAMU annual fish fry/scholarship fundraiser for 35 years at their home, providing many scholarships to Dayton-area students attending AAMU. He also founded the Roosevelt Memorial Track and Field Meet that also offers scholarships. A few of Tom's memberships include Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Ohio Memorial Chapter of the Tuskegee Airmen, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and others.

Dr. J. Thomas was married to the love of his life, Eliza, for 64 years and they have one daughter – Ava N. Webb-Sharpless, Lieutenant Colonel USAF retired, (Kenneth M. Sharpless, Sr. Colonel, USAF retired), one grandson, Kenneth M. Sharpless II, honorary grandsons Devin Searcy and Deric Humphrey, brother, Leonard Webb and a host of especially loved nieces, nephews and cousins. Tom was a member of Grace United Methodist Church (UMC) where he and his family were the first African American members. Tom taught Sunday school, served as an Usher and Worship Leader, and an Administrative Board member. Before Grace, he also served as the Assistant Pastor at St. Luke UMC in Sheffield, Alabama.

Order of Service

Prelude to Worship

In this service we celebrate the reality of resurrection for those who die in relationship with Jesus Christ. This is a service of homegoing, a service of hope and celebration of the gift of the life shared with us. Praise be to God for the life of John Thomas Webb, a gift God shared with us!

Processional

Prayer

Song

Scripture

How Great Thou Art

Old Testament

New Testament

Gospel Reading

Going Home

Rev. Dr. Larry Thomas

Dr. Robert Jones (Baritone)

Psalms 103: 11-17

1 Corinthians 15: 50-58

John 14: 1-11

Song

Obituary

Remarks (no more than two minutes please)

He Looked Beyond My Faults

Project C.U.R.E.

University of Dayton

Dayton Public Schools

Alabama A&M University

Ms. Rhea Smith (Soprano)

Read Silently

Herman A. Erving, Ph.D. - Director

Alan Demmitt, Chair, Dept of

Counselor Educ & Human Services

Thomas Montgomery

Mr. Richard Razor, President,

Dayton Chapter, Alabama A&M

University Alumni Association

Eulogy / Words of Comfort

Pastor Peter Matthews

Senior Pastor

Grace United Methodist Church

Closing Prayer and Benediction

God, in Your eternal presence we offer to You Your beloved son John Thomas Webb. Son. Husband. Father. Friend. We thank You for his witness and his wisdom. We pray that this celebration of his life provides us a pathway to hope and healing that can come from You. Again, we thank You for his memorable life and Your unsurpassed love. Amen

Recessional

Deep River

Family and Clergy

Interment

WOODLAND CEMETERY

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

In times of great loss, the support of friends and family is appreciated more than words can say. Thank you all for your presence and loving expressions of sympathy toward us during our bereavement.

PALLBEARERS

*Kenneth Conley Eric Humphrey Deric Humphrey
Harvey Norton Greg Bates Randall Webb*

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

*Leonard Webb Houston Conley Samuel Johnson
Alonzo Webb Jr. Roderic Webb Taylor Jones, Esq.*



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