

Celebrating the Life of Donald Kenneth Hill 1937-2007

Celebrating the Life of Donald K. Hill

onald Kenneth Hill was born in Houston, Texas in 1937 to the late Theodore and Cecil Hill.

He attended elementary and high school in the city's Third Ward and graduated from Jack Yates High School in 1955. He was awarded an E.E. Worthing Scholarship which enabled him to attend Perdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. A year later, in 1956, he chose to transfer to the University of Texas along with the first class of African-American graduates to be admitted to the state university. He attended U.T. from 1956 to 1959, and then went to New York to explore life for a year.

Professor Hill returned to U.T. for a semester where he met and married his soul mate Annie Laura Robinson. He volunteered for a two year tour in the Army which allowed him to give his new bride a "European honeymoon" while serving his country. They spent two and a half years in the military, of which eighteen months were served in Germany. After his honorable discharge, Professor Hill and his wife returned to the states, where he enrolled in Texas Southern University Law School and graduated in 1964.

They had one child, Donna, and they were married for forty-six years.

Professor Hill practiced law and worked for the Department of

Labor as a contract specialist from 1967-1969. He then applied for and was accepted to the Yale Law School Graduate Program. He received the LLM in June 1970.

During the summer of 1970, he was a Ford Fellow at the Urban Institute in Washington D.C, and in September of the at year, he was appointed to the faculty at the University of Toledo in Ohio where he served as an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the University's Black Studies Program.

Student at Yale Unviversty
Law School, 1970
In 1973, he returned to Texas to accept a teaching position at the Texas Southern

University School of Law, later renamed the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He was appointed Professor of Law in 1977.

During the Carter administration, Professor Hill served, during the summer sessions, as professor in residence at the General Services Administration and with the General and Legislative Council's office



With Mother and sister, Antoinette, circa 1941



Usher at Radio City Music Hall, 1960



Wedding Day, 1961



45th Wedding Anniversary, 2006

at the Central Intelligence Agency. He also served as a Municipal Court Judge for two years during Mayor Kathryn J. Whitmire's administration.



Toledo, Ohio 1972

Over the course of thirty years at Texas Southern University, Professor Hill served as the Chairman of the University's Faculty Assembly and Senate, Director of the Mickey Leland Center on World Peace and Hunger, and Associate Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He was also an undergraduate member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and member of Sigma Pi Phi Nu Boule.

Professor Hill was a lover of the finer things in life. He and his family enjoyed plays, literature, and visual arts of all varieties.

He was an avid collector of art, jazz music, books, fine wines, and clothes. One could always find him chewing on one of his stogies while perfectly dressed in a suit, bow tie, trademark hat, and

walking cane. He was a man of eloquent words, great passion, and a vocabulary of profanity often delivered with shocking ferocity.

His generosity was boundless, and he thoroughly enjoyed bestowing gifts on his family and treating his friends to anything from a new book,

to a great meal, to a special cigar. A guest always knew that if they visited Mr. and Mrs. Hill's home, their favorite libation or food would be there.

Professor Hill firmly believed in the mission of Texas Southern University and the Thurgood Marshall School of Law. He never strayed from his primary focus – legal pedagogy and the education of minority and disadvantaged students.

He taught and influenced countless students, and his straight talk and fierce belief in the power of education will be sorely missed.

Professor Hill died of heart complications related to diabetes.

In lieu of flowers, please send any donations to the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454
Alexandria, VA 22312 in the name of Donald Kenneth
Hill, or donate in his name online at
http://www.diabetes.org > Support the Cause > Make a Donation.



With Daughter, Donna, 1998



With friends at Christmas, 2006

Program

Prelude

Оренінд Words Dean Carrington

Rememberences Otis H. King

Martin Levy

Anthony Hall

Deidre Hines-Rasheed

(Former Student)

Processional

Line Up for Internment

Pall Bearers:

Assistant Pall Bearers:

Willie Alexander Henry Brown Dr. Donald Gardiner Attorney Anthony Hall Kirk Chargois Robert Whitley

Acknowledgements

We sincerely thank you for the outpouring of support, well wishes, and love. We extend our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers which will continue to sustain us.

Thank you especially to Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law and its Faculty and Staff for all that they were to Professor Hill throughout the years and for all the love they have shown us, his family, during this time.

Sincerely, The Hill Family

Repast:

Following the internment, family and friends are invited for food and refreshments at Thurgood Marshall School of Law.

IИterиment - Golden Gate Cemetery Funeral Arrangements entrusted to McCoy Harrison Funeral Home