



Mr. Tommy Douglas Diggs

February 14, 1933 - October 31, 2013

Biographical Summary:

Tommy Douglas Diggs was born on February 14, 1933 in Paris, Tennessee to the proud parents of the late Tommie Lou and Jerry Cornelius Diggs. He was the oldest of three sons. His youngest brother, Dr. John Wayne Diggs preceded him in death in 1995. Tommy made his transition from this earthly life on October 31, 2013 at William Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, Michigan.

Tommy cultivated a strong Christian faith early in his life. As a young boy, he became a member of Jones CME Church in Gleason, Tennessee. Later, as a teenager he became an active member of Miles Chapel CME Church in Martin, Tennessee.

Tommy graduated from Weakley County High School as Valedictorian of his class in 1949. Tommy took an active role in campus activities at Lane College in Jackson, TN. He was a member of the Honor Society, the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the Pan Hellenic Council, and the Young Men's Christian Organization. As a college senior, he was elected President of the Student Council, served as Treasurer of the senior class and was a member of the Fraternity's Executive Board. He was also selected to appear in both the Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities; and Among College Student Leaders. He earned his Bachelor of Science Degree from Lane

College where he majored in biology and minored in physical education. Tommy graduated Cum Laude in May 1953.

Early in his career, he was employed as an elementary school teacher in Greenfield, Tennessee until he was drafted to serve in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict. During his military service, he served with a Medical Detachment at the Presidio (LAH) in San Francisco, California.

On April 9, 1956, he married his college sweetheart Beatrice Johnson. To this union, they were blessed with three beautiful daughters, Sharis, Lori and Terryl. Tommy was a strong family man who was a devoted husband, father and grandfather. When a man pleases God, the Windows of Heaven are opened and blessings are poured out. That is priceless.

Tommy taught science and math at Seal and Newberry Elementary Schools. In 1969, he received a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from the University of Michigan. After becoming an Assistant Principal at Goldberg Elementary School, he then served as Principal at the following schools Franklin Elementary, Sanders Elementary and Sherrard Middle School until his retirement. After 40 years of service, Tommy retired from the Detroit Public School System in 1997. Throughout his entire career, he maintained the highest standard of excellence for his staff, students and community. To his credit, the world has many teachers, lawyers, physicians, business owners and others whose lives have been enhanced because he crossed their path.

For over fifty years, he was an active member of Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ. As an Executive Church Officer at Mayflower, he served in various roles including Moderator, Chairman of the Trustee Board, Chairman of the Pastoral Search Committee, Church Council, Treasurer and Auditor. He also sang in the Men's Choir.

He was a lifetime member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, the NAACP, African American Museum, Lane College Alumni Association, University of Michigan Alumni Association, Detroit Chapter of Moles and Mules Incorporated and the Retired Organization of Supervisors and Administrators.

Tommy had a true appreciation for nature and God's seasons of life. He enjoyed traveling the world with the love of his life, Beatrice. During his spare time, he loved to play golf, enjoyed tracing family history and taking photographs. One of his many gifts and talents was his culinary art skills which included entertaining and preparing for Bea's bridge club meetings.

It's the little things that matter the most in life. Tommy loved riding his motorcycle, enjoyed his vintage car collection and looked forward to attending the North American Auto Show and the Detroit Dream Cruise every year.

Cemetery Details

Roseland Park Cemetery

29001 Woodward Ave.
Berkley, MI 48072

Previous Events

Visitation

Wednesday, Nov. **6.** 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

O. H. Pye, III Funeral Home
17600 Plymouth Road
Detroit, MI 48227
(313) 838-9770
info@pyefuneralhome.com

Family Hour

Thursday, Nov. **7.** 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ
7301 Curtis
Detroit, MI 48221

Funeral Service

Thursday, Nov. **7.** 12:00 PM (ET)

Mayflower Congregational United Church of Christ
7301 Curtis
Detroit, MI 48221

Tribute Wall



“ *Mr. Tommy Douglas Diggs*

January 21, 2023 at 09:34 PM



“ *To the Diggs Family,
Mr. Diggs was my science teacher at Sill Elementary school. A young girl really just getting into learning about science, I had the biggest crush on him. He use to tell me that one day I would met a man and forget about him. Well as time went on, I would run into Mr. Diggs at the Teachers Credit Union and to my surprise he remebered me and I would tell him I haven't forgot about him. The last time I saw Mr. Diggs was at a Gladys Knight concert Chene Park. I had the pleasant of meeting his wife. Mr. Diggs and I shared this story with her. Even though I was young Mr. Diggs was very instrumental in my learning as well as other teachers. He opened another world to me call Science.
To the family keep your heads up know that God has another classroom for him to teach in. I will miss him dearly and keep all of you in my prayers.
God Bless,
Viola Moore Gwynn*

Viola Gwynn - November 18, 2013 at 04:07 PM



“ *As a child playing with his daughter Sharis(Kim) I always remembered Mr Diggs as a very kind and pleasant man. He remained in contact with our family over the years and paid his respects when my parents made their transition. He will be missed by many. A rare man of character and grace. I wish the Diggs family comfort and peace during this difficult time. Rochelle (Wolfe) Everett*

rochelle everett - November 16, 2013 at 09:42 PM

RJ

“ To the Diggs Family: I am very sorry for your loss. I was a teacher at Sanders School and a personal friend. I have many fond memories of him. Ruby V. Jones.

Ruby V. Jones - November 07, 2013 at 08:24 AM

LJ

“ I am blessed to have had Uncle Tommy in my life. He was one of the greatest men I've ever met! I will continue to cherish my memories of him and through those memories he will live on in my heart! Aunt TeeWee, Kim, Lori & Terry! I wish I could be there but know that I love you all very much and you are always in my prayers. LaDonna



LaDonna Johnson - November 06, 2013 at 02:58 PM

LA

“ To the Diggs Family: Deepest sympathy for your loss. Rev 21:4

LaVerne - November 06, 2013 at 06:24 AM

PK

“ Pamela D. King purchased the Simply Elegant S pathiphyllum for the family of Mr. Tommy Douglas Diggs.



Pamela D. King - November 05, 2013 at 09:35 PM

TS

“ Hey Diggs Family.... I am Ms. Tracey McCarthy-Spencer and Mr. Diggs was my principal at Sherrard K-8. He recruited me from DPS Area D Offices. I have have been at the school level every since. I was an enrollment secretary at the time. I learned a lot from him. I have very fond memories or Mrs. Diggs calling making the office laugh and Mr. Diggs riding his bike to work.....He will truly be missed.

Tracey McCarthy Spencer - November 05, 2013 at 04:51 PM

OC

“ Oliver, Dorothy and Karen Coleman purchased the Quiet Expressions for the family of Mr. Tommy Douglas Diggs.



Oliver, Dorothy and Karen Coleman - November 05, 2013 at 01:18 PM