

December 28, 1912

December 30, 1983

A Service of Memory



HONORABLE WILLIS FRANKLYN WARD

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 1984
AT 1:00 P.M.

Services To Be Held At

Plymouth Congregational Church
600 EAST WARREN AVENUE
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

REV. NICHOLAS HOOD, SR., Pastor, Plymouth Congregational Church
REV. EDWARD C. SIMMONS, Assoc. Pastor, Second Baptist Church

The Obituary

Willis Franklyn Ward was born in Birmingham, Alabama, December 28, 1912, the son of Nettie Belle and Henry R. Ward. The family moved to Detroit in 1918. Judge Ward attended the Detroit Public Schools, graduating from Northwestern High School in 1931. He attended the University of Michigan and graduated in 1935 with a Bachelor of Arts Degree. During his high school and college career, Judge Ward was an outstanding athlete, excelling in track and football. He was selected to the "All State Football Team" in his senior year of high school and was the city and state record holder in both hurdles and high jump. He was a member of the University of Michigan football team and held numerous records in track and field events at the University.

During his college days he was a protegee of Henry Ford, I, and worked his way through college joining the personnel division of the Ford Motor Company. He entered the U.S. Army in 1941 and was Honorably Discharged in 1945 as a Lieutenant.

In 1939, he graduated from the Detroit College of Law and subsequently served as a trial lawyer with the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office from 1946 to 1947.

In 1953, Judge Ward was appointed to the U.S. Attorney's Office and served as Chief of the Civil Division until 1961.

Governor George Romney appointed him to the Michigan Public Service Commission in 1966 where he served as Chairman from 1968 to 1973. In 1973, he was appointed by Governor William Milliken to the Wayne County Probate Court where he served until his death.

Judge Ward was a Life Member of the N.A.A.C.P.; a member of the Advisory Board of the Providence Hospital, 1967-1972; member of the Detroit and State Bar Associations; member of the Michigan Probate Judges Association; Michigan Association of Black Judges; member of the Board of Control of Northern Michigan University, 1964-1965, who honored him in 1970 by conferring upon him the Degree of Doctor of Humanities.

He was inducted into the Harlem Professional Hall of Fame in 1976 and in the Michigan Amateur Sports Hall of Fame in 1977. In 1981, he was inducted into the State of Michigan Sports Hall of Fame and the University of Michigan Hall of Honor.

Judge Ward was a member of Second Baptist Church, having been baptized there as a child.

He was a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity; Iota Boule, Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity; the University of Michigan Club of Greater Detroit; Varsity Club of Detroit (President from 1948-1956); the Rogues Club of Detroit; Charter Member of the Renaissance Club of Detroit and member of the Polar Bear Chapter, Order of Artic Adventurers.

Judge Willis Franklyn Ward departed this life on Friday, December 30, 1983 in Harper Hospital.

He is survived by: his wife, Margaret; a son, Franklyn Willis Ward; three step-sons: Samuel Thomas, Judge Edward Thomas and Alfred Thomas; a step-daughter, Edythe Thomas; one brother, Henry Ward; one sister, Myrtle Brown; several grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

†

Those wishing to honor Judge Ward may do so by making contributions to the Sigma Pi Phi Foundation, Inc., c/o Mary Ann Pruett, 1309 City-County Building, Detroit, Michigan 48226.

The Order of Service



Organ Prelude	Mrs. Jean Anderson
Processional	Rev. Nicholas Hood, III
Song	
Scripture	Rev. Edward C. Simmons
Prayer	Rev. Nicholas Hood, Sr.
Solo	Mrs. Velma Willis
Acknowledgment of Cards, Telegrams and Condolences	Dr. Robert Moseley
Remarks:	
Honorable Joseph J. Pernick	Chief Judge, Wayne County Probate Court
Honorable Myron H. Wahls	Michigan Court of Appeals Representing The Black Judges Association of Michigan
Honorable Cecil W. Poole	United States District Court, Northern California
Honorable Coleman A. Young	Mayor, City of Detroit
Hymn	"Amazing Grace"
Eulogy	Rev. Nicholas Hood, Sr.
Recessional	
Organ Postlude	

(Drivers in the Funeral Procession, please turn on headlights for safety.)

"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." —S. John 11:25-26

ACKNOWLEDGMENT:

The family of the late Honorable Willis Franklyn Ward wishes to acknowledge, with deep appreciation, the many comforting messages, floral tributes, prayers and many other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. A more personal acknowledgment will be made at a later date.

Pallbearers

S. MARTIN TAYLOR
ANDREW W. PERDUE
CLARENCE BROADNAX

HARRY DUPLESSIS
CHESTER PELTON

HERMAN MCKINNEY
DON EMANUEL
HORACE RODGERS

Honorary Pallbearers

GERALD R. FORD, *Former President of the United States*
HONORABLE COLEMAN A. YOUNG
FORMER GOVERNOR GEORGE ROMNEY
FORMER GOVERNOR WILLIAM MILLIKEN

HON. G. MENNEN WILLIAMS
HON. ELVIN DAVENPORT
HON. DAMON J. KEITH
HON. CHARLES FARMER
HON. RICHARD AUSTIN
HON. FORREST GREEN
HON. SAMUEL TURNER
HON. WADE McCREE
HON. CECIL F. POOLE
HON. PETER V. SPIVAK
HON. ROBERT FRANKLIN
HON. WILLIAM McCLAIN
HON. R. E. THOMAS, *Atlanta, Ga.*
THOMAS TURNER

ROBERT HOLMES
SALVATORE ALVARADO
WILLIAM A. BELL
G. POPE BENJAMIN
LARRY BLEACH
WILLIAM BOOZ
DONALD BURRIS
JOHN CHASE
DeVON CUNNINGHAM
JAY DEEDS
GEORGE LEE
WALTON LEWIS
ROBERT F. MITCHELL
DR. ROBERT MOSELY
EUGENE BEATTY

CASS PIOTROWSKI
GERALD WHITE
WILSON A. COPELAND
J. ROBERT GRAGG
SPENCER CARY
LeROY DUES
HORACE SHEFFIELD
NICK KIBERWAY
WALKER CISLER
LAWRENCE CARTER
KERMIT BAILER
CLIFFORD SULLIVAN
CHESTER KASIBORSKI
BARTON MORRIS

JUDGES OF THE WAYNE COUNTY PROBATE COURT
MICHIGAN ASSN. OF BLACK JUDGES
ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY
IOTA BOULE, SIGMA PI PHI FRATERNITY
THE ROGUES
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN CLUB OF GREATER DETROIT
THE OVER THE HILL GANG
WAGON TRAIN BRIDGE CLUB
HANDICAPPERS GOLF CLUB
WOLVERINE BAR ASSOCIATION

Flower Bearers

FRIENDS OF THE FAMILY

Final Arrangements Entrusted To

McFALL BROTHERS FUNERAL HOME
9419 Dexter - 895-8900 — 282 Visger Rd. - 381-4010

Interment

DETROIT MEMORIAL PARK
13 Mile and Ryan Rds.