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1993

### Memorial Program Dr. Otis L. Floyd Jr.

Tennessee State University

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SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A Celebration  
of  
Life



Dr. Otis L. Floyd, Jr.

Friday, May 21, 1993  
Otis L. Floyd – Joseph A. Payne Campus Center  
Kean Hall  
Tennessee State University  
Nashville, Tennessee

OTIS L. FLOYD, JR., was born February 16, 1928, in McNairy County, Tennessee, the third of five children born to the late Otis L. and Maggie Irvin Floyd. He graduated from McNairy County High School and subsequently earned a bachelor of science degree from Lane College in 1950, the M.Ed. from Tennessee State University in 1966, and the doctorate in education from Memphis State University in 1980.

Dr. Floyd began his 42-year career as an educator in 1951 as principal and teacher at Purdy Elementary School in Purdy, Tennessee. Between 1952 and 1968, Dr. Floyd held several teaching and administrative positions in west Tennessee, including McNairy County High School, Dunbar and Central High School. He assisted in the desegregation of Dunbar and Central High Schools and worked as a curriculum developer before becoming Assistant Superintendent of Instruction for the Hardin County School System in 1968. In 1969, Dr. Floyd joined the Tennessee Department of Education as Supervisor of the EEO Program. He later served as Director of EEOP, Director of Field Services and Learning Resources and Deputy Commissioner of Education for the Tennessee Department of Education. He was the Commissioner of Education from December 1978 through January 1979.

Dr. Floyd entered the State's higher education arena in 1979 when he became Assistant to the President at Middle Tennessee State University. He also served as Executive Assistant to the President and Vice President for Administration at Middle Tennessee State University between 1981 and 1986. Dr. Floyd became Interim President of Tennessee State University in June 1986 and was appointed President in March 1987. He served as President of Tennessee State University until July 1990 when the Board of Regents selected him to become Chancellor of the Regents System. Dr. Floyd served as Chancellor until his death on May 19, 1993. He was the first African American to serve as Chancellor of the Tennessee Board of Regents.

Always eager to serve others, Dr. Floyd was involved in numerous community activities. He served as Sunday School teacher, lay leader and member of various committees of New Bethel AME Church in McNairy County. He was actively involved with Boy Scouts of America, serving as a member of the Executive Board of the Middle Tennessee Council and as Vice President of Low Income Scouting in 1991. Dr. Floyd was a member of the United Way Board of Directors, the Board of Directors of the Nashville Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, and a member of the Tennessee Hospital Association Nightingale Center Board. He was a member of First Baptist Church South Inglewood in Nashville.

Dr. Floyd's professional activities included the National Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, American Council on Education, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, President's Council on Rural America and Chairman of the Tennessee Foreign Language Institute Board.

Among the numerous awards and honors Dr. Floyd received are Colonel, Aide de Camp, Governor's Staff, presented by Governor Ned McWherter; Special Achievement in Education Award from Lane College National Alumni Association; Award for Contributions and Commitment to the Continued Development of Black Land-Grant Colleges and Universities presented by the Council of 1890 Presidents/Chancellors; and Special Recognition Award for Exemplary Service and Leadership from the U.S. Department of Agriculture 1890 Task Force.

Dr. Floyd is survived by his wife, Mildred Moore Floyd; sons, Reginald Savoid, of Smyrna, Tennessee, and Otis L. III, of Nashville; daughters, Paulette Brown of Nashville and Sylvia Davis of Stillwell, Kansas; sister, Lillian Marie Bankhead, Chicago, Illinois; brother, Harvey Lee Floyd, Chicago, Illinois; grandchildren, Nicole Floyd, Reginald Floyd, Jr., Lamont Floyd and his mother, Marie Hendricks Floyd; Jamal Davis, Omar Davis, Keisha Davis, Rubye Davis; Ronald Wade, Quentin Wade and Eric Brown; and aunt, Dorothy Mitchell, Chicago, Illinois; daughter-in-law Leona Gaines Floyd; son-in-law Dr. W. B. Davis; and a host of other relatives and friends.



*"We are all part of the same moving circle—the living, the deceased, and the yet unborn. So, strive to live in such a way that the circle goes unbroken."*

Dr. Otis L. Floyd, Jr.  
Commencement Address  
Volunteer State Community College  
May 8, 1993

## ORDER OF SERVICE

Dr. Richard Rhoda, Presiding

PRELUDE

PROCESSIONAL

SOLO.....*The Last Mile*.....Mr. William Marks, Composer  
Mrs. Diana Poe, Soprano  
Ms. Carol Stone, Piano

TRIBUTES.....Senator Thelma Harper  
Tennessee Senatorial District 21

Dr. Richard Rhoda  
Vice Chancellor for Administration and  
Media Relations, Tennessee Board of Regents

Mr. Reginald S. Floyd  
For the Family

FLUTE SOLO .....*Precious Lord*.....Mr. Thomas A. Dorsey, Composer  
Ms. Keisha Davis  
Granddaughter of Dr. Floyd  
Assisted by  
Mr. Benjamin Kirk

TRIBUTES .....Dr. James A. Hefner  
President, Tennessee State University

Mr. Alexander Murray  
Life-long Associate and Friend

Mr. Derrell Stinson  
Former Student

SOLO .....*Traces*.....Dr. Ralph Simpson, Composer  
Dr. David Léron Walker, Tenor and Lyricist  
Composed for Dr. Floyd and presented at his  
Presidential Inauguration at Tennessee State University

RECESSIONAL

## **HONORARY PALLBEARERS**

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Chi Boule

Harvey L. Floyd

Otis L. Floyd III

Reginald S. Floyd

Dr. James A. Hefner

Dr. Richard G. Rhoda

Tennessee Board of Regents, Central Office Staff

Tennessee Board of Regents, Members

Tennessee State University, Students, Faculty, Staff and Administration

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Dr. Andrew Bond

Mr. Dennis Bond

Dr. Robert Boone

Mr. Kenneth Looney

Mr. Alexander Murray

Dr. Timothy J. Quain

Mr. William Thomas

Mr. Homer Wheaton

## **USHERS**

Sheila Collier

Patricia Crook

Edwina Farmer

Bernardeen Fleming

Janie Ganaway

Evelyn Hadley

Dolores Ashley Harris

Gloria Ivy

Mary Jo Price

Phyllis Qualls-Brooks

Cathy Robinson

Glenda Smith

Laura Springer

Gayla Thomas

Paulette Utley

Vesta Wheaton

Shirley Wingfield

Betty Woods

Donna Ashford

Eunice Bell

Yildiz Binkley

Jewel Brazelton

Juanita Buford

Thelma Clanton

Patricia Clayton

Brenda Coleman

Lula S. Collier

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The family of Dr. Otis L. Floyd, Jr. acknowledges with sincere gratitude the many kindnesses, cards, florals, tributes, visits, contributions made to the Tennessee State University Foundation and other expressions of concern evidenced in thought and deed at our time of sorrow.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the  
Otis L. Floyd, Jr. and Maggie L. Floyd Memorial Scholarship Fund  
at Tennessee State University,  
Tennessee State University Foundation  
3500 John A. Merritt Boulevard  
Box 1260  
Nashville, Tennessee 37209-1561

## **LEWIS AND WRIGHT FUNERAL DIRECTORS**

2500 Clarksville Highway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37208  
Richard A. Lewis, Mortician/Owner