

Tennessee State University

## Digital Scholarship @ Tennessee State University

---

Otis L. Floyd Collection

Tennessee State University Presidents

---

1993

### Obituary Program Dr. Otis Lee Floyd Jr

Temple Baptist Church

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalscholarship.tnstate.edu/otis-l-floyd-collection>

---

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

A Celebration  
of the  
Life



of

Dr. Otis Lee Floyd, Jr.

SATURDAY, MAY 22, 1993

2:00 P.M.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
3810 KINGS LANE  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE



## Obituary

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 High School 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 of 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 as a member of various committees of New Bethel African Methodist Episcopal 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, Smyrna, Tennessee, and Otis L., III, Nashville; daughters, Paulette Brown, Nashville and Sylvia Davis, of Stilwell Kansas; sister, Lillian Marie Bankhead, Chicago, Illinois; brother, Harvey Lee Floyd, Chicago, Illinois; grandchildren, Nicole Floyd, Reginald Floyd, Jr., Lamont Floyd, mother, Marie Hendricks Floyd; Jamal Davis, Omar Davis, Keisha Davis, Rubye Davis; Ronald Wade, Quentin Wade and Eric Brown; an 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.



ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC., SERVICE — 1:45 P.M.

### Order of Service

THE REVEREND MICHAEL LEE GRAVES, *Officiating*

PROCESSIONAL

SELECTION ..... Choir

SCRIPTURE ..... Reverend T. E. White

PRAYER ..... Reverend Elijah McGee

SOLO ..... Stanley Stewart

TRIBUTES ..... The Honorable Ned R. McWherter  
Governor, State of Tennessee  
Dr. F. Oliver Hardy  
Member, Tennessee State Board of Regents

SOLO ..... Ullanda Innocent

WORDS OF COMFORT ..... Reverend T. E. White, Jr.

SOLO ..... Dr. David Walker

EULOGY ..... Reverend T. E. Sweeney  
Pastor, First Baptist Church, South Inglewood

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL

Interment  
Woodlawn Cemetery  
Nashville, Tennessee



## Honorary Pallbearers

Governor Ned R. McWherter  
Tennessee Board of Regents Members and Staff  
Tennessee Board of Regents Presidents and Directors  
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity  
Chi Boule

Professor William E. Ledbetter  
Dr. Robert Boone  
Dr. Andrew Bond  
Mr. Charles Malin  
Mr. Nathaniel Crippens  
Former Governor Ray Blanton  
Mayor Knox Ridley

Mr. Sam Ridley  
Mr. Larry Wallace  
Mr. J. D. Cherry  
Mr. Garlon Johnson  
Mr. Frank Crosslin  
Mr. Lee Victory  
Mr. Frank Johns

Reverend Henry Sanders

## Active Pallbearers

Mr. Grady Robinson  
Mr. Alexander Murray  
Mr. John Washington  
Mr. Gerald Jones

Major Tom Hunton  
Mr. Joseph Henry  
Dr. Kermit Bowling  
Mr. William Thomas

## Flowerbearers

Links, Incorporated  
Tennessee State University Association of Office Personnel  
Members of First Baptist Church, South Inglewood



## 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 in thought and deed at our time of sorrow.*



The Final Tribute. A Service by:  
**LEWIS AND WRIGHT FUNERAL DIRECTORS**  
2500 Clarksville Highway  
Nashville, Tennessee 37208  
Richard A. Lewis, Mortician/Owner