

Pallbearers

Gregory M. Hill

Men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Gregory M. Hill, II

Honorary Pallbearers

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Alpha Theta Boulé

Flower Bearers

Kristina Todd

Shelia Morgan

Honorary Flower Bearers

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

Interment

Pastor Larry T. Crudup - Presiding
Trice Hill Cemetery
5101 North Coltrane Road
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Acknowledgment

The family of Dr. Melvin R. Todd wishes to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the many prayers, phone calls, comforting messages, floral tributes, and many unique acts of kindness extended during our time of bereavement. May God bountifully bless each of you.

SERVICES UNDER THE DIRECTION OF
TEMPLE AND SONS FUNERAL DIRECTORS, INC.

2801 North Kelley Avenue
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111
Phone: 405-427-8321

"We Care"

II Timothy 4:8

*Celebrating The Life
of*

Dr. Melvin Richardson Todd

*Sunrise
April 24, 1933*

*Sunset
December 2, 2020*



Services

Friday, December 11, 2020 - 11:00 a.m.

Fairview Missionary Baptist Church

*1700 Northeast Seventh Street
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73117*

Dr. John A. Reed, Jr., Pastor - Officiating

Melvin Richardson Todd

April 24, 1933 – December 2, 2020

Dr. Melvin Todd was born in segregated Oklahoma City to Elmyra Richardson Todd Davis and Melvin Cornish Todd. He was born in the basement of Children's Hospital, the only hospital that allowed black women to give birth. His parents separated when he was relatively young and he grew up in the care of his mother and his two grandmothers, Lucy Royall Richardson and Mattie Whitaker Todd. As a child, Dr. Todd had very influential experiences that shaped him into the historic leader that he became. As a 10-year-old, he met W.E.B. Dubois. When he was a 9th grader, his mother attended the University of Illinois at Evansville for her Masters, and he attended University High School where he was one of two black students. He met his parents' high school classmate Ralph Ellison several times throughout his life. He attended Douglass High School and later the Palmer Institute under the leadership of Charlotte Hawkins Brown. He developed a lifelong relationship with Dr. Melvin Tolson when he was at Langston. He was deeply influenced by each of these encounters with greatness, speaking of what he learned from each frequently.

He graduated from Langston University with a Bachelor of Arts in History, and received a Masters and Doctorate in Education from the University of Oklahoma. Immediately after graduating from Langston, he joined the Army in the Signal Corps in Korea, where his first teaching experience was teaching English to orphans as a volunteer. Upon his return home,

in quick order, he married Menzola Anderson, the love of his life, began his teaching career at Lawton Douglass High School and started raising a family.

He moved quickly to Kennedy Jr. High as Assistant Principal, and to Douglass High School in OKC, first as a counselor then as a Vice Principal and then to Northeast as Vice Principal then Principal.

In each of these roles he was noticed by leading educators and adored

by his students. His Douglass students gave him an award in 2014 for "Four Years of Guidance Counseling and 50 Years of After School Support." He remained a guide to all his students for

the rest of his life. His years as Principal at Northeast were during the court-ordered desegregation in Oklahoma City. He dealt with many hardships, including death threats, bomb threats and angry parents. He soldiered on and led Northeast to success in the early days of desegregation.

Dr. Todd left Northeast to join the Consultative Center for EEO at OU, and then became an Assistant Superintendent of OKC Public Schools. In 1975, Dr. Todd was almost the first black Superintendent of Schools when he was the leading candidate and won in the first round of votes, but lost in the second round. He went on to become the first black in a prominent position for the State Regents for Higher Education. He worked in the Chancellor's Office, for 16 years before retiring, eventually becoming Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. Dr. Todd was a Trustee for the American College Testing (ACT) Program and in 1990, he was elected Vice Chairman of the national board of the ACT Program. Upon his retirement, he joined Langston University as Special Assistant to the President. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame in 2002.

Dr. Todd had many hobbies enjoyed traveling, flower gardening, fishing at Lake Texoma, reading, learning, storytelling, public speaking and collecting guitars. He was good at all of them.

Dr. Todd is preceded in death by his parents, Elmyra R. Todd Davis and Melvin C. Todd, and his beloved wife, Menzola A. Todd. He is survived by his sister Shelia Morgan, his children, Sharon Todd, Myra (Greg) Hill, his son, David R. Todd (Tinay); his four grandchildren, Gregory and Kyle Hill, and Christian and Kristina Todd, and his special friend, Wilma Miles. Dr. Todd also leaves behind thousands of students whose lives he impacted.



Melvin & Menzola
"Together Forever"



Order Of Service

Processional Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family

Prayer Pastor Larry T. Crudup
Tabernacle Baptist Church, OKC, OK

Scripture Pastor Larry T. Crudup
Old Testament
New Testament

Video Tribute

Designated Remarks Only Wilma Miles
Colonel Stanley L. Evans (Ret.)
Jo McDermott

Selection Tim Gissandaner, Organist
Cornelius Barnett, Soloist

Interview Historical Society

Military Honors

Resolutions

Selection Tim Gissandaner, Organist
Cornelius Barnett, Soloist

Words of Comfort Dr. John A. Reed, Jr., Pastor
Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, OKC, OK

Video Tribute Continued

Recessional Ministers, Funeral Directors, Family

The Truth Will Always Be

My heartbeat. My birth.

Next, slow music that builds to a crescendo.

*The instruments come in,
as the people and the experiences in life do.*

There is a certain feel.

The students, people that you meet.

Together at different times.

Then it goes higher and higher and higher as I did.

Then it declines.

Then Boom. Then silence.

That's my ascendance.

I'll be listening if I can.

What I like about it is the way it starts,

and then the way it ends:

Boom. And then nothing but silence.

