



Don A. Provost

June 10, 1940 - August 19, 2016

Don A. Provost

June 16, 1940 - August 19, 2016

On Friday morning, August 19, 2016, Don A. Provost (age 76) went home to be with his Lord.

Born in Houston, Texas, Don was a graduate of Phillis Wheatley High School and served his country in the Air National Guard. In 1969, he married Lorraine Kennix. Don's love for learning and commitment to higher education began when he studied Architecture at The College of Environmental Design at The University of California - Berkeley where he received his BA in 1972. He completed some advanced studies at Atlanta University in Atlanta, GA.

Throughout his career, Don focused on important community work and served in various leadership capacities in the city of East Palo Alto and the Bay Area. In Oakland, he served as Director of Big Brothers of the East Bay and Director of Oakland Citizen's Community of Urban Renewal. He worked on the BART project with Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Tudor, Bechtel in San Francisco and the MARTA project for the city of Atlanta. Don also worked for the Senator Don Perata before retiring from the state of California, Department of Caltrans, in 2003. His commitment to the community extended to his volunteer work as well. He served as a leader in a variety of groups including: Oakland Economic Development Council, East Oakland Fruitvale Planning Center, East Oakland Credit Union, and HBCUC.

His passion has always been education. In 1992, he and his wife Lorraine founded the College Awareness Program (CAP). CAP is a community based organization that encourages, recruits, and places high school students in HBCUs as well as other colleges affiliated with the Presbyterian Church. CAP activities include: College Awareness Night, where students meet with college representatives; Financial Aid Seminars; College

Awareness Experience, which provided exposure for high school students to travel to the colleges and universities to experience the life of a college freshman; and continued support services, which provide an extended support system to students in need. Don's commitment to the community through CAP made it possible for several hundred youth in the Bay area to attend college.

Don dedicated his life to community service. He was an elder of the First Presbyterian Church. Don served as Commander of the American Legion of Veterans, Former President of the East Oakland Rotary, associate member of East Oakland Hayward Section, National Council of Negro Women, and a member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Incorporated. He volunteered for various community boards and programs. He served on the Committee on Ministry with Presbytery of San Francisco. Many will remember him as an educator, mentor, and friend.

Don will be missed by his wife Lorraine K. Provost, children Chad A. Provost and Shani A. McPherson, grandchildren Cole and Carter Provost, daughter-in-law Nicole Provost, son-in-law, Tian McPherson, his father Percy P. Provost, brothers and sisters: Etta Jean Price, Angel Williams, Veta Provost Loggins, Oscar B., Patrick L., George F. Collins, Abraham P. Provost, Ida Collins, Carolyn Provost, god daughter Xanthe McNeal, and a host of cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Don's viewing will be held on Wednesday, August 31, 2016 at Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home, 3665 Telegraph Ave, Oakland, CA, 94609. He will be laid to rest on Thursday, September 1, 2016, at First Presbyterian Church, 2619 Broadway, Oakland, Ca, 94612. Donations to the College Awareness Program, P.O. Box 5278, Oakland, CA, 94605, are encouraged in lieu of flowers

Cemetery

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery

5810 Midway Road
Dixon, CA, 94620

Events

AUG **Visitation** 11:00AM - 04:00PM

31

Fouche's Hudson Funeral Home
3665 Telegraph Avenue, Oakland, CA, US,
94609

SEP **Service** 11:00AM

1

First Presbyterian Church
2619 Broadway, Oakland, CA, US

SEP **Graveside Service** 01:00PM

2

Sacramento Valley National Cemetery
5810 Midway Road, Dixon, CA, US, 94620

Comments



“ I had the honor of coaching Shani in soccer several years ago. Don never missed a game and always had positive things to say to Shani and the other girls on the team. As a coach having a positive voice on the side line was always a blessing. I pray that the good memories, kind words and positive guidance provided by Mr. Provost will give the family strength and comfort during this time of loss. My family will keep you in our prayers.

Coach John Lee and family

John Lee - August 30, 2016 at 10:15 PM



“ In the toughest times our faith is tested most. I pray that you will come out of this with an even stronger faith and hope in the power of God. I am sorry for your loss, and I want you to know that I will be praying for strength, peace, and comfort for you and your family.

Phyllis J. White, President
Northern California HBCU Alumni Associations Coalition

Phyllis White - August 30, 2016 at 04:40 PM



“ As a distributor of talents, God knows what abilities he has given to each of us. It makes sense that we will do the best work that coincides with our God-given talents. So it is important to try and identify what they are. It maybe an architect, a musician, an educator, an organizer, etc., whatever it is, God will always make it possible for us to do what he has gifted us to do.

He gave Bro. Don Provost a multitude of skills and talents which he uncovered or discovered were needed and he used them efficiently/effectively helping others as evident by his life's story.

I was privileged to benefit from his wisdom and skills during his work with the HBCUC. He had a heart for young people and worked diligently encouraging inquiring minds. He was a valuable, dedicated leader that worked until it was night. He demonstrated unfailing love for the things he promoted.

Our sincere prayers and sympathy are extended to his family at this time of bereavement and beyond. Hold on to God's unchanging hand for comfort and strength.

Annie J. White, Chaplain

Northern California Historical Black Colleges and Universities Coalition



Annie J. White - August 29, 2016 at 11:31 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Don A. Provost.



August 29, 2016 at 05:07 PM



“ I had the honor of being Don pastor at Elmhurst Presbyterian Church in Oakland. Don had a huge heart for the youth in our community to be educated. Don created a college tour program that would give our youth in the Oakland community a chance to visit these colleges. Many of these colleges were Presbyterian black colleges. The great thing is so many of our youth benefited from this program. Don your passion of education our youth with the opportunity to visit these colleges was a life changer for many of them.

I was honored to be your pastor Don. May the Lord be with you Lorraine, Chad, and Shanee

during this difficult lost in your lives. You all are in my prayers.

Rev. Reginald G. Avant

Reginald Avant - August 26, 2016 at 12:47 AM