

*Honoring the Life of*

# HERBERT J. HILL, SR.

October 7, 1928 - November 16, 2015

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2015**

SWANSON FUNERAL HOME

Northwest Chapel 14751 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48235

*Viewing 4pm - 8pm*

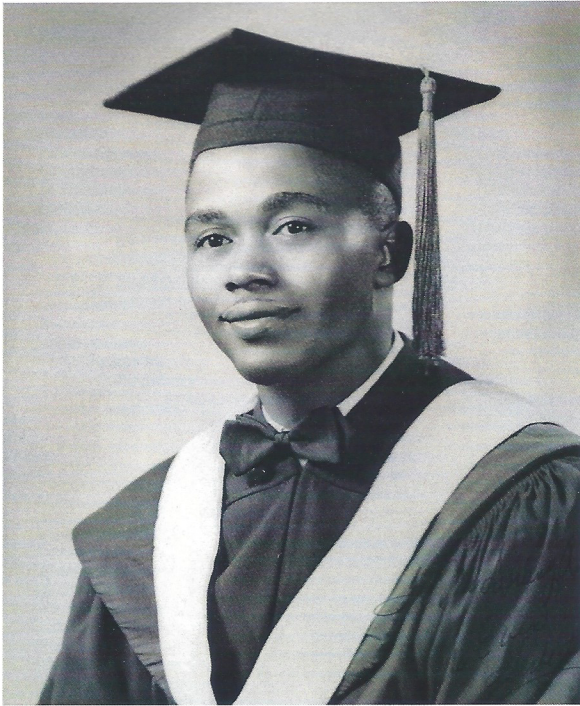
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**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2015**

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

3837 W. Seven Mile Rd, Detroit, MI 48221

*Family Hour 10:30am / Funeral 11:30am*



## HERBERT JAMES HILL, SR.

was born October 7th 1928 in Atoka, Oklahoma as the fourth and youngest child of John and Luella Hill. He lost his father at the early age of one. Left with no income, his mother placed her children in an orphanage for a short time, but insisted on reclaiming them, upon learning they would be separated. She persevered as a domestic worker to provide for her children.

Herbert adopted a love for reading at an early age, where he taught himself to read under a dim kerosene lamp for hours every night. By the time he graduated as class valedictorian from Dunbar High School at the age of 16, he had read through the entire school library collection. Herbert went on to graduate with honors in Education from Wiley College within 3 years. He joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. during his senior year and later became a lifetime member. At 19, Herbert was accepted into Wayne College (now Wayne State University) Masters of Science and Education program. While facing academic adversity due to his young age, his counselor advocated for him, insisting that maturity would come with time and that his age should not be an obstacle. Herbert's southern accent presented a cultural barrier in his goal of becoming a teacher. To overcome this challenge, he took several speech courses to ensure he would be able to compete.

After graduating Wayne College with double Masters degrees, amidst a climate of racial discrimination, segregation and a struggling economy, Herbert had a difficult time finding work in his profession. He persevered by working as an insurance agent, a construction worker, a factory worker at Ford Motor Company, and a postal worker at the US Postal Service.

## EDUCATOR

Herbert became an elementary science teacher in the Inkster Public School System. During his twelve year teaching career he maintained high expectations and nurtured his students' scientific inquiry and curiosity in the field of natural sciences. In order to meet the financial demands of providing for his immediate and extended family, Herbert decided to work in real estate.



## THE REAL ESTATE MASTER

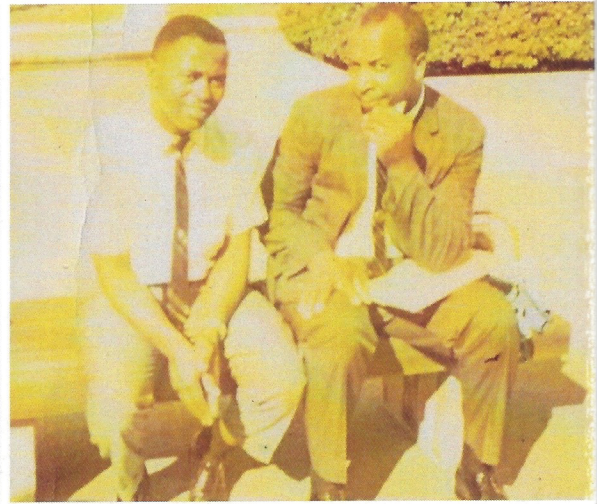
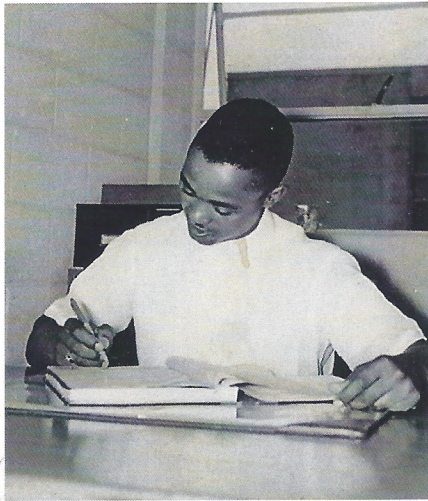
Herbert entered into real estate while teaching full time at a pivotal period during the Civil Rights Movement. He began working at Penn Realty in 1957 and later at the Benjamin Rich Realty Company. Herbert quickly became a trailblazer in the industry using the Fair Housing Act of 1968 to challenge the climate of racial discrimination practices.

During Detroit's "White Flight" his speech training became an advantage in working with white families that were moving to the suburbs while providing opportunity of home ownership to African American families, many of which had migrated from the south. In 1972 he established, Herbert J. Hill Realty - Real Estate Masters, one of Detroit's first and largest African American real estate companies. He leaves a legacy of proud homeowners throughout the city of Detroit and its surrounding suburbs.

Herbert never met a stranger. He had the unique ability to make an acquaintance feel like an old friend, finding joy in sharing a compliment or a beautiful word of encouragement. His laugh was infectious and as memorable as his heart warming smile. He had a genuine interest in people, making him a master salesman and a beautiful man loved by many. Herbert was the master story teller for his family, weaving his childhood experiences during the Post Depression Era, his struggles during the Civil Rights Movements, with the achievements and legacy of his later years.

## FAMILY

Herbert married Martha Nell Enochs on February 21, 1966. This union brought four children: Herbert James Hill, Jr., Luella Hill-Kim, H. Julian Hill, and Hubert Jason Hill. Herbert was a longstanding member and active participant at All Saints Episcopal Church. He remained strong in his faith and his belief in God. Herbert is preceded in death by his parents, John and Luella Hill, brothers Ural Hill and John Hill, and sister Osia Valree James. He is survived by his loving wife, Martha Nell Hill, and leaves a strong legacy and work ethic for his children: Herbert James Hill, Jr., Luella Hill-Kim (Chong), H. Julian Hill (Lisa), and Hubert Jason Hill (Dara). His grandchildren: H. Julian Hill, Jr., Scarlet Kim, Alexis Kim, and Norah Hill. He is also survived by a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, and friends.



48<sup>TH</sup> GRAND CONCLAVE KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY DETROIT MICH. D. 26-30 DEC. 1958  
McCLOUD



## PALLBEARERS

Mr. John E. Collins  
Mr. Robert Deane  
Dr. Victor Gardner  
Dr. Maurice Gross

Mr. H. Julian Hill Jr.  
Mr. John M. Hill  
Mr. Ryan Robertson  
Mr. Peter Eckert

## HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Councilman Scott R. Benson  
Congressman John Conyers  
Dr. Reginald Eadie  
Mr. John Timothy Enochs  
Mr. Roderick Bruce Enochs

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.  
Judge Damon J. Keith  
Mr. Garland Jagers  
Mr. Horace Rogers, Esq.  
Tuskegee Airman, Inc. Detroit Chapter

Dr. Ural H. Hill ~ Homilist & Nephew

## ARRANGEMENTS ENTRUSTED TO Swanson Funeral Home, Inc.

Northwest Chapel 14751 W. McNichols, Detroit, MI 48235

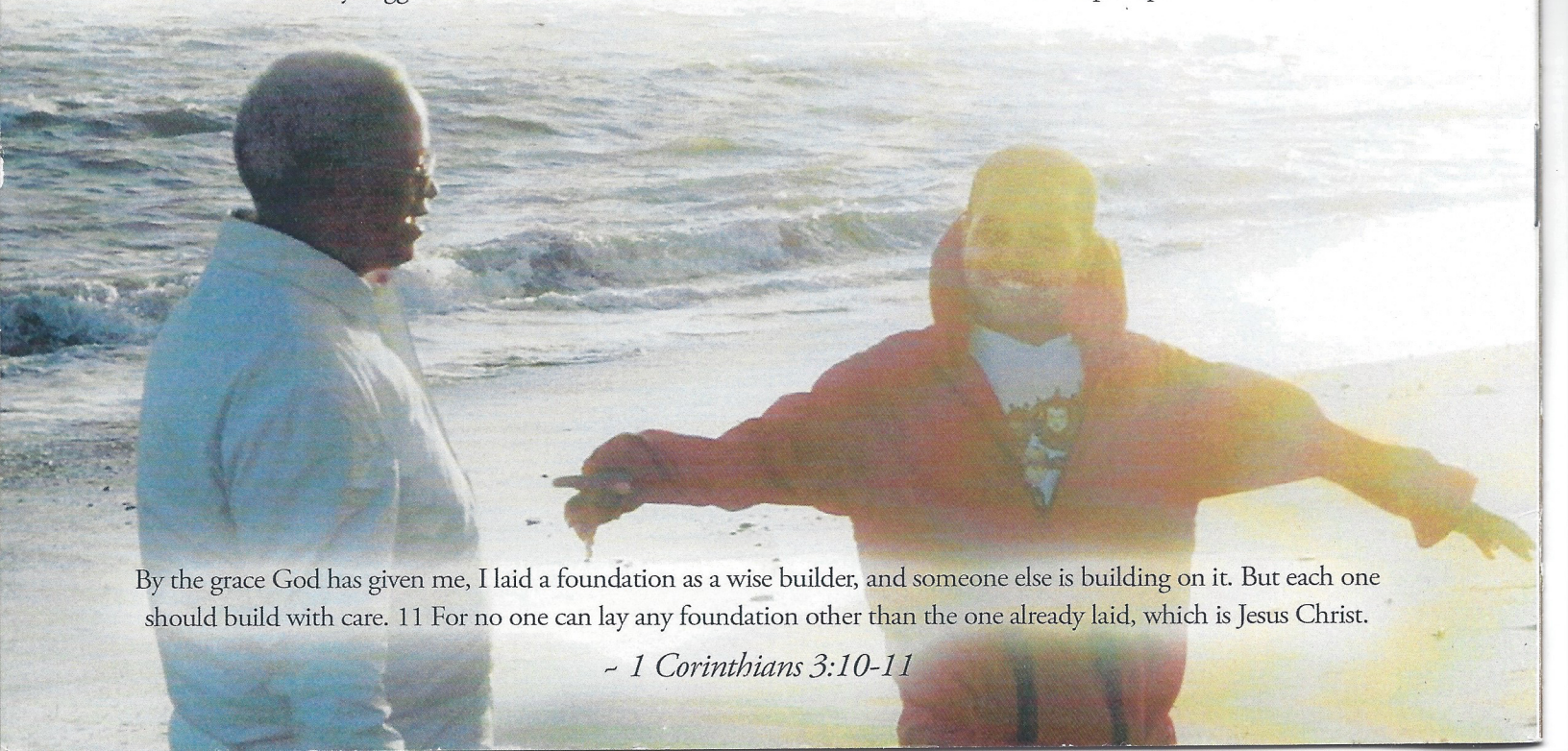
## INTERMENT Woodlawn Cemetery

19975 Woodward Ave Detroit, MI 48221

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of Herbert J. Hill Sr. wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many comforting messages, floral tributes and many other expressions of kindness and concern evidenced at this time in thought and deed. Your expressions of sympathy will never be forgotten. A more personal acknowledgement will be made at a later date.

The family suggests that in lieu of flowers that donations be made to All Saints Episcopal Church.



By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. 11 For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

*- 1 Corinthians 3:10-11*