



### Historical Achievements

# Valley of the Giants

## Dr. Harley E. Flack 1942 – 1998



Dr. Harley E. Flack

Wright State University President Harley E. Flack died on March 29, 1998, at the age of 55. He is the youngest and the first African-American to be listed on the roll of our honored Valley of the Giants. He has been described as "A top administrator, who wasn't far removed from the student body." He called many students by their first names, as they met around the campus.

Dayton Mayor Turner called Harley Flack "a man of vision and creativity and of first-class intellect!" The Ohio Governor's office declared this past April 4 as a "Day of mourning for the State of Ohio!"

Prior to becoming the first African-American president of a major state university in Ohio, he was executive vice president of Rowan University of New Jersey (1989 – 94), vice president and faculty dean at the State University of New York (1987 – 89), founding dean and professor of Allied Health Sciences at Harvard University in Washington, D.C. (1974 – 87); and assistant dean and professor of Health and Related Professions at State University of New York in Buffalo (1971 – 74), after being their program coordinator of Summer Rehab Core City Projects (1969 – 71) and coordinator of Experimental Program Studies (1969 – 70). He was director of Physical Therapy Services at Western Reserve Convalescent Home in Kirkland, Ohio (1967 – 68). He received his bachelor's degree in physical therapy from Ohio State University, his master's degree in rehabilitation counseling from Kent State University, and his Ph.D. in counselor education from the State University of New York in Buffalo.

Dr. Flack was the recipient of many honors and awards, such as: being included in *Who's Who Among Black Americans*; Order of the Shield, Ohio State University; Distinguished Alumni Award, Kent State University; 10 Top American Males for 1994, Parity 2000, Dayton, Ohio; 1995 Distinguished Alumni Award, University of Buffalo; the Paul Lawrence Dunbar Humanitarian Award; and a Lifetime Achievement Award by WROU and Key Bank of Dayton.

A noted leader in the fields of ethics and bioethics, he was author of numerous articles and several books, such as *African American Perspectives on Biomedical Ethics*. He also co-authored *Case Studies in Allied Health*.

In addition to scholarly achievements, Dr. Flack was an accomplished musician and composer. His most notable composition was *The Goree Suite*. He wrote more than 25 works for piano and voice, including *A Nation: All Families*, which premiered at his presidential inauguration.

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Flack had an interest and commitment to leadership development, and he had previously served on the National Advisory Committee for the Academic Leadership Academy of the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Robert K. Greenleaf Servant-Leadership Center and was a member of the Association of the Governing Board's Council of Presidents. He was a past president of the National Society of Allied Health and served as a founding editor of its journal. As president of Wright State University, he led that institution in reaccreditation by the North Central Association, visioning and strategic planning for the 21st century, campus climate initiatives, collaborations with area public schools, and exchanges with international universities. While at Wright State University, he became a member of numerous local civic organizations, including the Miami Valley Economic Coalition, National City Bank, Dayton Philharmonic Orchestra Association, Greene Progress Council, Miami Valley Research Foundation, Ohio Aerospace Institute, Honorary Advisory Board of A Special Wish Foundation Inc., and the 2003 Century of Flight Cabinet. Currently he was chair of the Area Progress Council and the Ohio College Association. He had been active in the Civil Rights Movement and in voter registration. He was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Dr. Harley E. Flack is survived by his wife, Mignon, and by his sister, plus four sons and a grandson. Had he lived a full, average lifetime, his accomplishments and benefits to society would have been much greater, but he has already more than earned his rightful place in this, our VALLEY OF THE GIANTS.



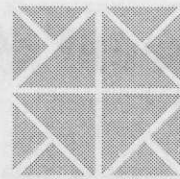
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