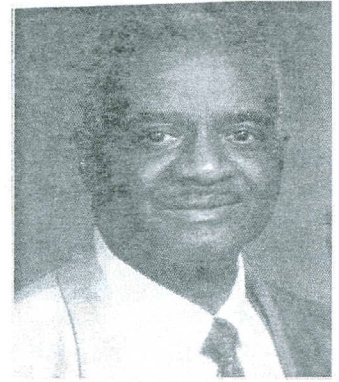


Wallace H. Royal

Class of 1952



Wallace Haywood Royal, son of Lula Mae and Walter Royal, was born in Hartsville, South Carolina, on April 8, 1934. At an early age, Wallace moved to Durham, attended Durham Public Schools, and later became a distinguished graduate of the HHS Class of 1952.

As a student, Wallace always exemplified excellence, perseverance and integrity, and was proud to be considered a “Hornet”. While attending Hillside, Wallace was a member of the Drama Club, Vocational Club, and Boxing team. Not only did he show love for Hillside by supporting numerous activities sponsored by the Student Council, but he was nominated “Most Cooperative” by his graduating class. As a leader at Hillside and in the community, Wallace continued to support his Alma motto through charitable giving, PTA participation, and by supporting his family with their Hillside endeavors.

After graduating, Wallace attended North Carolina College, (now North Carolina Central University), but later joined the U.S. Army, serving with distinction until receiving an Honorable Discharge. Later, he joined the American Suppliers, Inc., a division of American Tobacco Company, where he worked diligently, continuing to be a crusader for what he believed to be right. As a result of his devotion and hard work, Wallace became the first African American supervisor in the Durham location, where he served for 38 years until he retired in 1987. At the time of his retirement, Wallace was considered as one who made a positive impact for those to follow.

At an early age, Wallace joined St. Mark A.M.E. Zion Church, where he was a dedicated and loyal member. He loved God and his church and served in numerous capacities, wherein he inspired, influenced, and gave great promise. He was the Chairman of the Board of Trustees and Board of Stewards, Class Leader, member of the Lay Council, and Sunday School Teacher for over thirty years. Wallace also was a charter member of the R.L. Speaks Achievement Club, member of the Finance Committee, Male Chorus, Usher Board, and selected Father of the Year in 1986. He always served faithfully and helped anyone in need.

Wallace was a caring man who loved his family, and even when his health started to decline, never waived from supporting Hillside and the community. His combined charm, genial personality, and highest integrity as a “Hornet” will always be missed by his wife, Norma McCoy Royal, whom he enjoyed 51 years of marriage until his passing; his daughter, L. Bliss Copeland, both alumnae of Hillside High School, and his grandson, Austin Royal Copeland, currently a sophomore at Hillside.

To those who knew Wallace, knew he possessed a big heart and a warm smile. His favorite past times included bowling, cooking, playing horseshoes, and spending time with family and friends.

Wallace Haywood Royal will be remembered as a man of superlatively high standards, integrity, and enthusiasm for whatever task lay before him, whether at Hillside, his church or community. For those who had the privilege of knowing him will not forget the candor of his speech, the courage of this faith, and the warmth and brightness of his friendship.

The National Alumni Association of Hillside High School Salutes one of its own – Wallace H. Royal