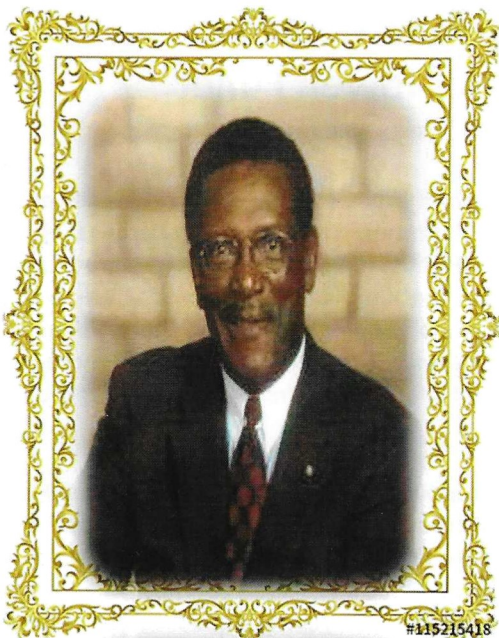


# Distinguished Graduate

## Milton "Pete" Taylor

*Posthumous Award*



Milton "Pete" Taylor graduated from W. A. Pattillo High School in 1954 where he excelled in football and baseball and was a member of the 1953 NCHSAC State Championship Football Team.

In 1958 Milton received a Bachelor of Science degree from Fayetteville State Teachers' College (now Fayetteville State University). He later obtained a Master's Degree in Education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in Greensboro, NC and an Advanced Certificate in Education Administration from the Principal's Executive Program at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in Chapel Hill, NC.

Following graduation from Fayetteville State University Milton joined the Kannapolis City School system, where he served as a public educator for over 30 years. He started as a 7th Grade Teacher and Coach at George Washington Carver School, where he was instrumental in leading the school to three district championships.

In 1965, Milton was promoted to Principal of George Washington Carver School. Four years later, he sat at the forefront of integration in Kannapolis, NC. As the Principal of the Carver Seventh Grade Center, he became the first African-American Principal to house students of one grade level citywide in the same facility. Later, as the school was renamed as Kannapolis Middle School, he became well known for creating a student-centered learning environment. He advocated: "one of the best ways to get to know children is to do things with them". Throughout his career, Milton continued to live out this message.

After retirement, Milton continued to lead students to excellence in Math and Science. As one of the founding members of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte's North Carolina Mathematics and Science Education Network (NCMSEN), he orchestrated the development of a pre-college STEM program that expanded throughout the state of North Carolina.

Milton's leadership spread far and wide. He served on the Board of Directors for a number of organizations, including the South Rowan Optimist Club, the South Rowan Community Service Council, where he served as Vice-President, the Cannon Memorial YMCA, the State Math/Science Network, the Kannapolis Rotary Club, the Cabarrus County American Red Cross, the Bible Teaching Association, Cabarrus County Meal on Wheels, Kannapolis Crime Stoppers, Barber-Scotia College Unit of the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), and the Kannapolis Student Loan, Inc.

By 1997, Milton received an abundance of accolades for his service. He was featured in the 1971 edition of the "Personalities of the South", a biographical listing of individuals selected for national, state, and community leadership. In 1978, he received the United Negro College Fund's "Distinguished Service" Award. He received the highest commendation of his profession in 1985 when he was awarded the Association of Citizen's "Educator of the Year" Award, and the Kannapolis City Schools Local Board of Education's office personnel, "Administrator of the Year" Award. Milton also received the YMCA Southeastern Distinguished Service Award, the Cannon Memorial YMCA Board's "Director of the Year" Award, the YMCA of the USA South Field Distinguished Leadership, the YMCA Northern Piedmont Cluster Hall of Fame Award, and the Distinguished Rotarian Award for the 7680 District. In 2016 he was inducted into the Kannapolis African-American Museum and Cultural Center, Inc. (KAA-MaCC) Legacy Hall of Fame for his lifetime achievement in Education, Civic Leadership and Community Activism.

Milton was a member and served as a Trustee for Sandy Ridge AME Zion Church. He was also a lifetime member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Phi Chi Chapter, where he received the "Man of the Year" Awards in 1978, 1984, and 1992. Milton was an International Life Member of the Optimist Club. He served as the first African-American Lieutenant Governor for the Kannapolis Rotary Club for District 7680, where he received the 1993 Paul Harris Fellow Award. Milton was also a member of the NC Teachers Association (NCTA), the NC Association of Educators (NCAE), the NC State Principals Association (NCASA) and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP).

Milton "Pete" Taylor distinguished himself as a graduate of the W. A. Pattillo High School.