

Brownell Payne



Honorarium of Acknowledgement:

Born May 1st, 1910 in Lexington Kentucky to loving parents Ben Payne and Lillian Harbert had Brownell (Big Doe) and younger brother Wilbur Mitchell Payne, Sr (bubba aka little Doe). Growing up, Brownell went on to earn dual master's Degrees in Physics and later taught at now historic Crispus Attucks High School as head of Math Department for many years until retirement. Brownell was also very involved in sports and academics growing up. He was a noted State Champion tennis star as well as being a local high school basketball star accompanied by his younger brother (Wilbur Mitchell Payne).

Brownell also taught the now legendary basketball star, Oscar Robinson as well as serving assistant coach to Ray Crowe with the famed Crispus Attucks High School basketball team. As historically noted, "on March 19th, 1955, the Attucks team, led by future professional star and National Basketball Association (NBA) Hall of Famer Oscar Robinson, won the IHSAA's state championship, beating Gary's Roosevelt High School, 97-64, and becoming the 1st all-black high school in the nation to win a state title."

Brownell went on later in life to marry local beauty queen star, Lau Wana Mc Damon where they had a loving family of three beautiful children: Denise Yvette, Brownell Norman & Keith Irvin Payne.

Brownell, being an avid academic scholar as well as a local tennis and basketball state athletic champion strongly believed in the discipline of academics as well as the physical acumen of sports with a strong emphasis on being prepared. Brownell prided himself on instilling these core life principles within his household and amongst his children. Brownell was very active in the community and his local church (Second Christian Church *name changed to* Light of the World Christian Church) as well as helping with many sports organizations ranging from Tabernacle Presbyterian church to Manual High School. Brownell throughout his early career served as a Physics professor at Northwestern University, Purdue University as well as Indiana University before settling in as the head of Math Department at Manual High School where he later retired. Brownell Payne Sr went on to God's glory January 21, 1988 (77 yrs old) where his work and spirit has touched many and continues to live in each and everyone that he taught and loved. May he eternally rest in peace and continue to bless through his past and current community service.