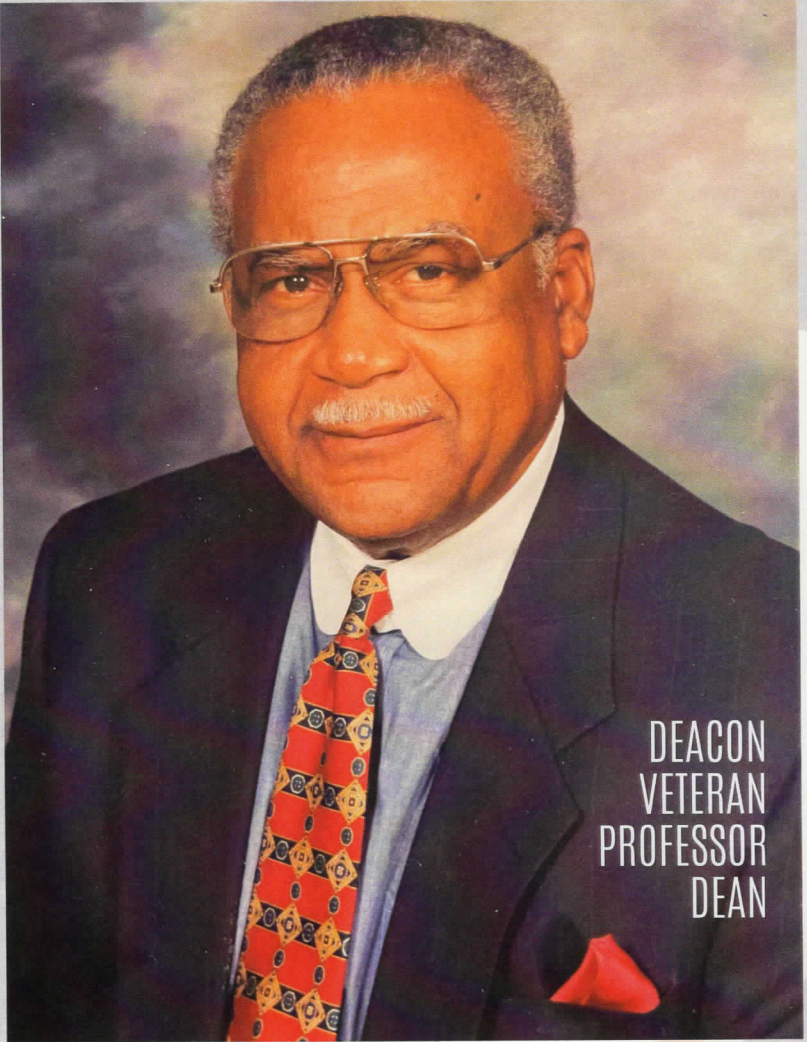


MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR

February 9, 1924

EDWARD VERNAL ELLIS

January 14, 2023



**DEACON
VETERAN
PROFESSOR
DEAN**

Saturday, March 25, 2023 | 12 Noon

First Baptist Church

101 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Reverend David A. Dolby, Interim Pastor, Officiant

EDWARD VERNAL ELLIS

Edward Vernal Ellis, of State College, Pennsylvania, died Saturday January 14, 2023, at his home in Harmony at State College with his family by his side. He was born on February 9, 1924, in Louisburg, North Carolina to the late Clarence and Eula Neal Ellis. The family later moved to Raleigh, NC for better opportunities. He accepted Christ and joined First Baptist Church.

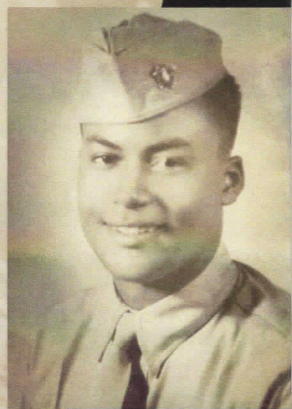
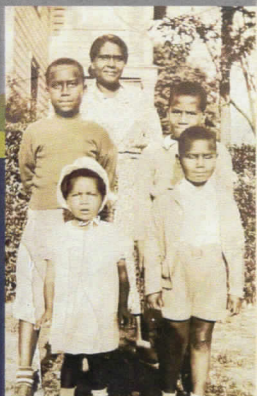
Ed lived a long and meaningful life serving his country, rearing a family, and impacting lives as an educator. Upon graduating from high school, he was inducted into the U.S. Navy during the Second World War. He served in the U.S. Navy as a Pharmacist Mate Second Class stationed in Kahului, Hawaii in support of Navy and Marine servicemen.

Ed returned to Raleigh and immediately began his undergraduate studies and graduated from Shaw University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology in 1949. He joined Omega Psi Phi Fraternity while there. He then completed a Master of Science degree in Public Health from North Carolina Central University in 1950. After marrying in 1950 and starting a family, Ed completed his Ph.D. at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, School of Public Health in 1964. He was the second African American to earn a doctorate from the School of Public Health along with his classmate, colleague, and lifelong friend Dr. William Darity.

Dr. Ellis served as a health educator for the Wake County Health Department and for the Raleigh Public Schools, Raleigh, N.C.; instructor at then North Carolina College; Director of Community Education Programs in Washington, D.C.; fellow of the American Public Health Association and served as chair of the association's Committee on Prejudice in Delivery of Health Care Service; Director of Division of Public Health Education, Pennsylvania Department of Health, Harrisburg.

Ed also served as Assistant Professor, Graduate Program in Health Education, School of Public Health, College of Human Development at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ed was recruited to Penn State University from the University of Minnesota in 1969 by Dean Donald Ford to assist in the growth and development of a new academic College. Ed held dual titles of Associate Professor of Public Health and Associate Dean for continuing education in the College of Human Development (now known as the College of Health and Human Development). In July 1970, Penn State President John W. Oswald appointed Ellis to



serve as Special Faculty Assistant in the office of the president. He advised President Oswald on recruitment and retention of faculty of color, and the employment of minorities in technical and administrative areas, student admissions and support for educational opportunities for students of color.

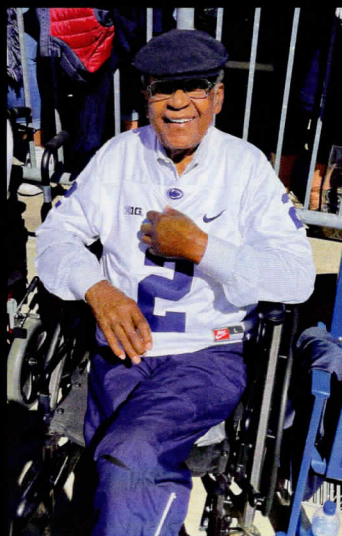
Among his many achievements and awards, Ed was named acting director of the Division of Biological Health in the College of Human Development (1972) and chosen as Outstanding Educator of America (1973). In 1979, he was elected to a three-year term on the Commission on Higher Education of the Middle State Association of Colleges and Schools. By 1981, Ed had become Associate Dean for Public Health and Commonwealth Campuses. American Public Health Association (Fellow) 1991. He also belonged to numerous professional organizations and was an member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity and the Gamma Sigma Boulé of Raleigh.

Ed's international services took him to the African countries of Senegal, Kenya, Zaire, Zambia, Lesotho, Ghana, Namibia and to Lisbon, Kingston, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

Ed completed his career as Vice President of Academic Affairs, University of Maryland Eastern Shore 1983-94, where he retired as Professor Emeritus. He and his wife and daughter returned to Raleigh, and he spent his time in retirement consulting, golfing a little, and serving to his First Baptist Church family. Dr. Ellis served as a Deacon, member of Dorcas Sunday School Class, Chairman of the Bereavement Committee, Chairman of the Facilities Use Plan, and Chairman of the church's 501c(3) organization, Capital City Intergenerational Care, Incorporated (CCICI).

Ed was predeceased by his wife Elizabeth Gill Ellis after 55 years of marriage, daughter, Ednetta Ellis whom he cared for diligently during her 20-plus year battle with Multiple Sclerosis, brothers, Herbert Ellis and Alphonso Ellis and sister, Cochise Ellis.

Ed is survived by two children and three grandchildren, Bruce Ellis and his wife Debra (Sheaffer) and their son Keaton; Gary Ellis and his wife Cynthia (Desmond) and their children Desmond and Veronica, sister-in-law, Alice Hopkins-Ellis, nieces, Donna



Ellis-Vainqueur, and Dolores Manigault, great niece, Andrea Manigault, and great-great niece, Maya Adelakun, as well as his friend of more than 10 years, Delores Revis.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Officiant: Reverend David A. Dolby

Prelude: Mrs. Gwendolyn Neale, Musician

Processional: Clergy and Family

Moments of Visitation: 11:00 AM

Gamma Sigma Boule

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Memorial Service: 12 Noon

Opening Hymn: *“Blessed Assurance”*

Scriptural Readings:

Old Testament Scripture: Psalm 37: 23 - 40

New Testament Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5: 1 – 10, 17

Reverend David A. Dolby

Prayer of Comfort: Reverend Dr. Leon D. Parker

Music: *“It Is Well With My Soul”* by Mrs. Delphine Bullock

Tributes/Acknowledgements

Tribute #1: Gary Ellis, Son and Desmond Ellis, Grandson

Tribute #2: Mrs. Janet Carter Dorcas

Sunday School Class Teacher

Tribute #3: Deacon Leon Bunch, Clerk, First Baptist Church

Obituary (Silent Reading)

Music: *“God’s Grace”* by Reverend Justin Tucker

Eulogy: Reverend Dr. Dumas A. Harshaw, Jr.

Former Pastor of FBC

Recessional: *“When We All Get To Heaven”*

HIS JOURNEY'S JUST BEGUN

Don't think of him as gone away, his journey's just begun,
life holds so many facets this earth is only one.

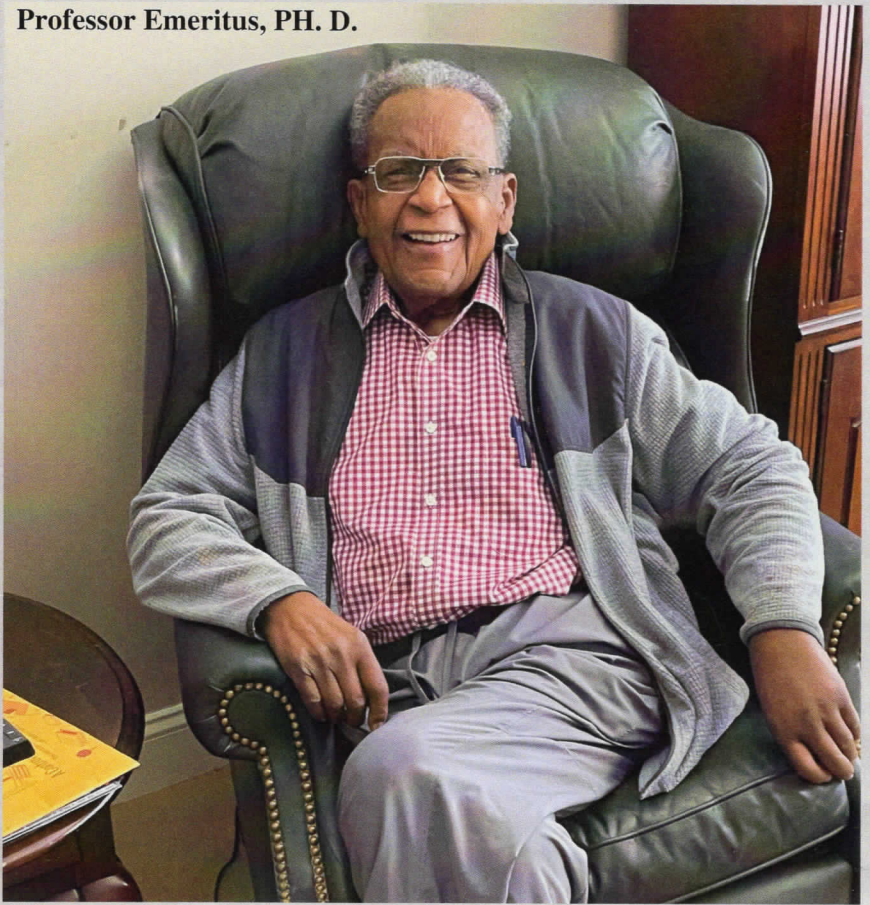
Just think of him as resting from the sorrows and the tears
in a place of warmth and comfort where there are no days and years.

Think how he must be wishing that we could know today
how nothing but our sadness can really pass away.

And think of him as living in the hearts of those he touched
...for nothing loved is ever lost and he was loved so much.

(Author Unknown)

Professor Emeritus, PH. D.



REPAST

First Baptist Fellowship Hall

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The family of the late Edward Vernal Ellis wishes to express their heartfelt appreciation to all for the numerous acts of love and sympathy extended to them during the loss of their loved one. May God continue to bless each one of you!

In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to
First Baptist Church
101 South Wilmington Street, Raleigh, NC 27601

Programs By



Cecelia Dublin (919) 218-0648