

THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCIETY CHAPTER #90

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Dr. Theodore A. Shell, President

Mr. Jack Towers, Treasurer

TE/ A. ALLEN
Gov. Lithographer

A TRIBUTE TO TERRELL A. ALLEN

Read by Theodore A. Shell at
the funeral

FROM CHAPTER #90 THE DUKE ELLINGTON SOCY.

Terrell A. Allen, 74, a retired State Department lithographer who was active in church and cultural groups, died of prostate cancer March 17 at his home in Washington.

Mr. Allen worked for the State Department from the mid-1940s until retiring in 1981.

He served as head of Washington Chapter 90 of the Duke Ellington Society for 29 years before becoming president emeritus in 1992. During his years as president, he helped start its International Duke Ellington Conference. He was an authority on the music of Ellington and Jimmie Lunceford.

Mr. Allen was a member of First Seventh-Day Adventist Church of Washington, where he sang in the choir and had served as music director.

He was born in New York and raised in Pittsburgh, where he first heard band music and met musicians. Later in life, Mr. Allen was a singer, arranger and choral director, and conductor of the Allen A. Cappella Choir, which performed here and on network radio.

Mr. Allen was a 1939 graduate of Oakwood College in Alabama. During World War II, he served with the Office of Strategic Services and in the Army.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, the former Imogene Dozier, of Washington; a son, Terrell III, of Brentwood; four daughters, Tracy Allen of Washington, Patricia A. Drummond of Silver Spring, and Stephanie Terry and Terri Allen, both of Hyattsville; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

By Patricia Willard
THE WASHINGTON POST
Monday March 22, 1993

When Terrell told us recently at a meeting of the Society that he was forced to resign the presidency which he had held for over thirty years because of health problems, little did we know how ill he was, for he seemed to be so healthy, vibrant as usual, and looked to be in the best of health. I became the interim president and realized that Terrell's act would be difficult if not impossible to follow. Terrell remained active, attending every meeting until the very last. The last most of us saw him was at our Christmas party in January. He even provided us with our annual treat, his magnificent egg-nog; so delicious, heavy and calorific that you could not drink it, you needed a fork to eat it.

Terrell loved life, Terrell loved people; life loved Terrell, and people loved Terrell. He lived a life of fullness, and he lived it his way, abundantly. We never heard an unkind word, never saw him really frown, we never saw him angry, and he administered with compassion and good-heartedness. And he wore a "forever" smile. Above all Terrell loved music, all music that is; Classical, the blues, BeeBop, and above all- JAZZ. He had a huge collection of recordings, L.P.'s, 78"s, 45's 78's and lately compact discs C.D.'s. He would frequently regale his friends with music from the collection, and could tell us who was playing what, and recall the artists's accomplishments, the bands he played with, and when he had last heard or seen the artist in person. He could well have been a professional: a disc jockey, a jazz critic, a music commentator, or a jazz writer. And when we suggested this fact, he would laughingly accept the praise with equanimity. Terrell had a particular flair for the King's English. He had the ability to speak it with fluent ease, and write it with ebullience and enthusiasm, and we looked forward each month to read his delightfully composed newsletters.

Terrell attended many of the International Ellington Conferences, and at the last one held in Washington, D.C., he was the presider. He was making plans to attend the next one this summer in New York City and was scheduled to appear on the program with other presidents of societies all over the world.

Terrell, we will long remember you and your tenure. We will recall your smiling countenance and forever cherish the moments we have spent with you. We assume that you now have the time to listen to the music of the Duke; and as the Duke would say at the end of every performance- a "good-bye" in dozens of foreign languages, and while the band was softly playing the strains of its theme song, Billy Strayhorn's "Take the A Train" he'd then say- "Ladies and Gentlemen, the boys of the band want you to know that they love you madly." We paraphrase the Dukes' words and say, " Terrell all the boys and the girls of the Duke Ellington Society and all of your friends loved you madly, and will miss you, miss you madly."



Helen Frazier and accomplished a few few things for the betterment of the Society. We received a few suggestions from the membership in reference to the improvement of the society. We agreed that we would contact radio stations and TV stations to get them to announce our meetings and to invite the public to join the society.

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The Nominating Committee composed of Helen Frazier, Angela Grimmer, Patricia Willard-~~ing~~ to bring in a slate of nominees for our election to be held in June.

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We discussed the annual picnic held at the summer home of Ted and Marion Shell at Lake Caroline. We missed last year and decided that we would continue this year. We selected two dates from which to choose, July 10th or 17th. More later.

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Our next meeting, April 3 at 8;30 sharp is explained by the following written by Dr. Ted Hudson who is responsible for the arrangements. The presentation will be chaired by Pat willard:

"TALL, TAN, AND COUNTED: THE PAPERS OF DUKE ELLINGTON" by DeBorra Richardson, and Reuben Jackson, will be the feature of our April 3rd meeting. Duke Ellington Collection archivists at the Smithsonian, Richardson and Jackson, will present a narrated slide show and music to explain the nature, scope, and arrangements of Ellington artifacts, music, photographs, memorabilia, scrap-books, business records and other materials there. They will also mention how the collection ^{has} been, and may be, used by researchers and other interested persons.

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THE DUES ARE STILL \$30.00 PER MEMBER AND \$50.00 PER COUPLE. IF THE ENVELOPE HAS A STAR AFTER YOUR NAME, YOU ARE NOT FINANCIAL AND WE HOPE TO HEAR FROM YOU SOON.

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Our last meeting was a great success; We, the members had our favorite Ellingtonia played from Compact discs we brought from our collections. One of the features was a 12 minute piano solo featuring the Duke playing his favorite compositions.

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Do not forget the Annual Duke Ellington Conference set for New York City, August 11th through the 15th. at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza. It's going to be fun!!

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SEE YOU SATURDAY NIGHT, 8:30 SHARP AT THE OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY.

T.A. SHELL