

To the Family of the Esteemed
Gentleman, Scholar, Sportsman and Officer
the Late Brigadier General Elmer T. Brooks '49, USAF (Retired)

Sunrise 1932 – Sunset 2020

A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

There is a time for everything,
A season for every purpose under heaven;
A time to be born and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;
A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up
A time to weep and a time to laugh,
A time to mourn and a time to dance.
A time to cast away stones, and a time to refrain from embracing
A time to get and, and a time to lose; a time to keep and a time to cast away
A time to rend and a time to sew, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastics 3:1-7

Elmer, as he is affectionately called by his classmates, embraced these principles and accepted his anointed time on November 15,2020 for he had carried out God's purpose for his life here on this earth.

Elmer is widely known for his extraordinary achievements in the senior ranks of the United States military and in government service. Yet during Elmer's Visionary interview, 2002, his HistoryMaker interview, 2006, and the Miami University (Ohio) Oral History Collection interview, 2008, Elmer devoted a significant portion of time talking about the three major sources of getting him ready for success in college, career and life. Those were his family, neighborhood and Dunbar High School.

Some of you know that Elmer attended the historic Paul Laurence Dunbar High School of Washington DC. He did so from 1946 to 1949 when he graduated with the likes of Joan Lucas White, Dr. Jeanne Craig Sinkford, Dr. Louis Ivey, and Professor Charles Weir to name but a few. But, did you know that at Dunbar, Elmer was a noted member of the Honor Society and a valuable player of the Basketball and Football teams, and that he was nominated for Dunbar's Hall of Fame?

The 6'3" Elmer Brooks was captain of the 1948-1949 basketball team. This is the team that went on to win second place in the South Atlantic High School Conference with an astounding record of 14 wins and 4 losses. The team played before record crowds for the first time in the National Guard Armory and thrilled the fans, time and time again, with victories over every high school team in the city except Armstrong. As a result, Elmer made the All-High Team and was voted by his classmates as the Most Outstanding Basketball Player.

Also, you probably don't know that following his extraordinary career in the military and the government, Elmer gave generously of his time, talent and treasure to his High School Alma Mater. Elmer was one of the co-founders of the Dunbar Alumni Federation (DAF) in 2002. As a devoted donor to the scholarship program, he helped to create better futures for hundreds of Dunbar students by enabling them to attend colleges and universities across the country.

He co-chaired the Membership & Fundraising Committee. Two of his most important achievements were to give voice and expertise: (1) to the establishment of the DAF Endowment Fund to ensure funds would be perpetually available for Dunbar students to obtain a formal, higher education; and (2) to catalyze DAF's involvement in the public policy arena that led to the planning and building of the \$125 million dollar state of the art teaching and learning campus that opened in 2013.

Dunbar alumni, faculty and students are proud of Elmer's contribution to the life and works of our Alma Matter and recognized him in the very first assembly of Legends & Pioneers by DAF with a medallion and a plaque which graces the first floor in position 1-075.

May his wife Kathryn, the other members of his family and all others who knew him, loved him, respected and admired him find comfort in knowing that he did his job well in the eyes and hearts of the Dunbar family. Be assured we will continue to lift him up and his life story as a model and inspiration for generations to come!

In Elmer's honor, the Board of Directors do hereby present this official Resolution of Tribute, this day of Friday, December 4, 2020 on behalf of the Dunbar Alumni Federation, Inc. of the historic Paul Laurence Dunbar High School. Peace and blessings. Keep a pluggin' away.

Sincerely,

Carrie L. Thornhill, Chair

James E. Pittman, Chairman Emeritus