

*Celebration of the Life  
of  
Brother Eddie Elliott Byers, Sr.*



*March 28, 1921*

*June 23, 1997*

THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1997

1:00 P.M.

GETHSEMANE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH

531 Campus Street

Charlotte, North Carolina 28216

Reverend David R. Baker, *Pastor, Officiating*

## Obituary

During the early morning hours of Monday, June 23, 1997, Eddie Elliott Byers was called home to his final resting place, following a long and courageous battle with cancer. Mr. Byers, a native Charlottean, was the eldest son of the late Eddie E. and Bethel A. Byers. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Mildred Roberta Byers Neal and Edith Athalia Byers of Charlotte and one brother, Thomas Howard Byers of Savannah, Georgia.

He was a lifelong member of Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church where he received his Christian nurturing. The public schools of Charlotte provided his academic prelude to a lifetime of educating others.

Upon graduating from Second Ward High School, he attended Johnson C. Smith University. His college years were interrupted, when he was called to serve his country in World War II. Upon his return, he resumed his education at J.C.S.U., graduating Summa Cum Laude with the class of 1948. Also while matriculating at Smith, Eddie had the good fortune to meet, date and later marry Lois Harris of Birmingham, Alabama.

Mr. Byers' first teaching experience occurred at the Tucker's Grove Elementary School in Lincoln County, where he served as a teacher and principal.

During the summers, Eddie furthered his education at Columbia University, New York, N.Y. where he received a master's degree. He did additional studies at the University Of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Eddie, taught social studies at Carver High School in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Returning to Charlotte in 1955, Eddie remained with the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools until his retirement in 1986. He taught first at York Road High School, however upon completing a degree in school administration, Eddie became assistant principal at Sterling High School and principal at Plato Price High School for one year. When the city and county schools merged, Eddie served as assistant principal and later principal at Piedmont, Kennedy and Northwest Jr. High Schools. His career ended with a principalship at Westerly Hills Elementary School in 1986.

Eddie's dedicated religious service at Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church included the Trustee Board and Senior Choir for almost his entire adult life. He was also a faithful member of the M. L. Greene Sunday School Class.

In the community, he was on the Board of Directors of The School Workers Federal Credit Union and Vice-chairman of the Charlotte Area Fund. He was president of the Class of 1948 of J.C.S.U. and the Swanks Social Club for a number of years. In addition, he was also a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, served on the Committee of 25 appointed by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education to assess the needs and disparities among the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, and he was a charter member of the Charlotte Chapter of Phi Delta Kappa. He maintained membership in various professional organizations, including the National Educators Association, The North Carolina Association of Educators, The North Carolina Association of Retired Educators, The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Retired School Personnel and The Charlotte Branch of the NAACP.

Eddie received several awards for outstanding and dedicated service from the Pi Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church, The Charlotte Area Fund, The Swank Social Club and Johnson C. Smith Alumni Association.

After retiring from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, Eddie found that he had more than enough time to enjoy his favorite pastime - reading; he wanted to remain active, so he began working part-time as a tax preparer for H&R Block. Eddie also enjoyed gardening and traveling. He derived great joy from delivering meals for Friendship Trays and participating in the Senior Games, where he won Gold and Silver Medals.

As a husband, a father, a teacher, a civic leader and a friend, this stalwart warrior for decency, fairness and the elimination of ignorance devoted his talents and abilities with superb results. He left his mark in every facet of life in which he was involved. A scholar who never lost the common touch nor found security in taking the popular safe positions leaves an everlasting memory upon all whose lives he touched.

He is survived by a loving wife of 46 years, Lois Harris Byers; one daughter, Karen Michele Byers Mansel, and son-in-law, Rudolph Mansel; one son, Eddie E. Byers, Jr; two grandchildren, Crystal Michella Mansel and Eric Kingsley Byers; one brother, Alexander H. Byers; sisters-in-law, Rachel Byers of Charlotte, Elouise Jackson of Chicago, Illinois, Norvella Tarver of Birmingham, Alabama, Emma Henderson (Fletcher) of Tuscaloosa, Alabama and Miriam Johnson (Edward) of Moreno Valley, California; brother-in-law, Aaron Harris (Edna) of Birmingham Alabama; nieces, nephews, and a host of other relatives and friends.