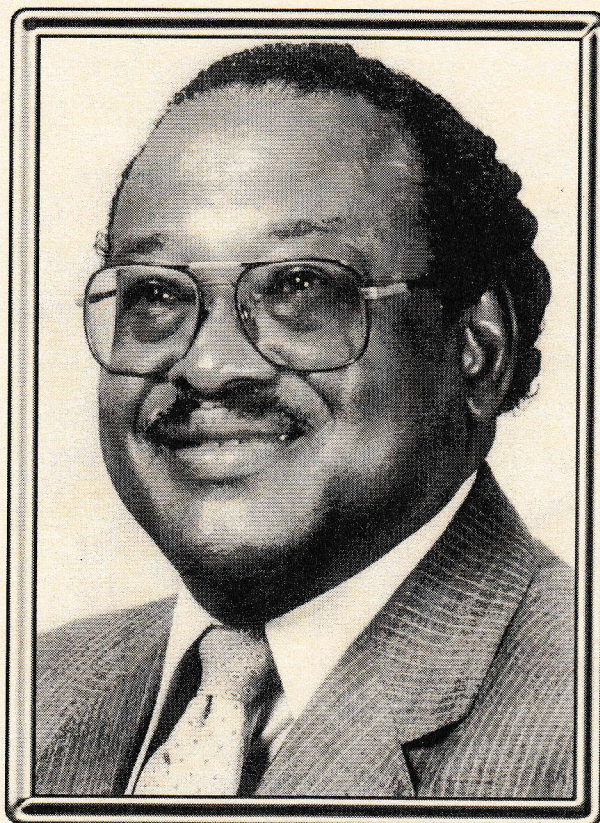


MEMORIAL SERVICE

A Celebration of The Life
of



Reginald Armistice Hawkins

November 11, 1923 - September 10, 2007

*Saturday, October 13, 2007
11:00 A.M.*

*University Church
Johnson C. Smith University
Charlotte, North Carolina*

*Reverend Edward B. Newberry,
Officiating*

Obituary

Rev. Dr. Reginald Armistice Hawkins

Reginald Armistice Hawkins passed away peacefully on September 10, 2007 at Carolina Medical Center-Mercy. He was born on November 11, 1923, the third child of the late Charles C. Hawkins and Lorena Smith Hawkins, in Beaufort, North Carolina, where he attended elementary and high school. Following his graduation from high school, he traveled to Charlotte, North Carolina to enter Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in the fall of 1941 as a freshman.

During his years at JCSU, he distinguished himself as an all-around athlete. In 1942, Reginald was the first boxing and wrestling champion at JCSU. During 1943, he was quarterback of JCSU's football team, a member of the Varsity "S" Club and a member of the Hall of Fame. Upon his graduation from JCSU with a Bachelor of Science degree, he attended Howard University School of Dentistry. He received the Doctor of Dental Surgery (DDS) degree in 1948. Later, after receiving the call to the ministry, he returned to JCSU to study at the Seminary. He earned the Bachelor of Divinity Degree in 1956 and the Master of Divinity in 1973.

From 1951 until 1953, Dr. Hawkins was a Captain in the United States Army Dental Corps. With the exception of his tenure in the military, the Reverend Doctor Hawkins practiced dentistry in Charlotte, North Carolina from 1948 until 1987. As a dentist, he served with distinction over the years as past president of the Old North State Dental Society and in 1965 won a suit against the North Carolina Dental Society forcing the organization to admit Black dentists. In fact, his entire life was interspersed with active participation, as a leader, in successful litigation in civil rights causes that helped influence desegregation in schools, housing, public accommodations, recreation, health care, employment, religion and economic development.

There were many storms weathered by Dr. Hawkins. Perhaps some clue to his future tenacity and successes can be found in the meaning of his given name, Reginald, which means "of mighty power." Dr. Hawkins was born on Armistice Day, and he explained that this was the origin of his middle name. Through troubled times, he held to his faith and belief, as expressed in II Samuel 22:23, "God is my strength and power: and he maketh my way perfect." Dr. Hawkins certainly experienced divine intervention when his home was bombed on November 22, 1965 and no family members were maimed or killed. His office was broken into and

valuable papers taken; he was shot at several times, and jailed under false charges of voter registration and Medicaid fraud. Dr. Hawkins forced the power structure in Charlotte, North Carolina to change its ways, and it caused great resentment. Therefore, elements within the Charlotte community joined forces and in an attempt to totally discredit him and the activities that would benefit so many people of color, they forged ahead with untruths. This scheme only served to make Dr. Hawkins more determined than ever to use his influence to fight for those who could not.

As chairman of the Mecklenburg Organization on Political Affairs, he made the community politically aware through voter registration drives and organized citizen involvement. Such interests led him to become the first Black person in the United States and in North Carolina history to run for the office of Governor in 1968 and 1972--forcing a runoff in both campaigns. During the 1968 election, Dr. Hawkins challenged the National Democratic Party to include more representation for Blacks and women at its National Convention in Chicago, Illinois and won.

As a minister, the Reverend Dr. Hawkins was very active. He was ordained as a minister of the United Presbyterian Church in 1956 by the Catawba Presbytery. From that point forward, he served the church in many ways as pastor, and, most notably, as a founding member of the Commission on Religion and Race of the United Presbyterian Church, USA. Additionally, he served as a member of the Council on Administrative Services and the Mission Council of the General Assembly for many years and was a founding member of the North Carolina Good Neighbor Council.

Dr. Hawkins received numerous awards and recognition over his many years of service. In 1965, JCSU awarded Dr. Hawkins a honorary Doctor of Divinity and Doctor of Laws degrees. In 1967, Dr. Hawkins received the "Centennial Year Award," for outstanding achievements in the area of civic affairs from JCSU. He is listed in *Who's Who in America* in Health Care, in Politics, in Religion, and in International Affairs. Other listings include *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*, *Who's Who in Black America*, and *Personalities of the South*. Dr. Hawkins was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Health and the Academy of General Dentistry. The history of his work is chronicled in numerous scholarly journals and periodicals. Dr. Hawkins took great pleasure from the fact that five graduate students received Ph.D.s based on the study of his life and works in civil rights activities.

During 2004, Dr. Hawkins received several awards. Governor Mike Easley of North Carolina awarded Dr. Hawkins "The Order of the Long Leaf Pine." Britt Cobb, the Commissioner of Agriculture, recognized him as "Ambassador of

Agriculture.” Bishop S. C. Madison of the United House of Prayer for All People gave the “Laurel Wreath and Trailblazer” award. The American Association of Retired People (AARP) featured an article on his civic rights activities in its national magazine.

Documentation of Dr. Hawkins’ works can be found in libraries at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, the Historical Archives of the Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Kentucky and the Levine Museum of the New South in Charlotte, North Carolina. Other resources are the National Museum of Dentistry at the University of Maryland at Baltimore, Maryland (associated with the Smithsonian Institute) and the North Carolina Century Tar Heels Who Made a Difference, 1900-2000.

Retirement did not curb Dr. Hawkins’ involvement in activities that he found satisfying. He was State President of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; he was a member of the Charlotte (NC) Presbytery and the Beta Kappa Chi National Honorary Scientific Society, Inc. He had life memberships in the American and National Dental Associations, the NAACP, and the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Hawkins resided with his wife, Anne Davidson Hawkins, in Tega Cay, South Carolina on Lake Wylie prior to his death. Other surviving him are four children from his union with Catherine Richardson Hawkins: two sons, Reginald A. Hawkins Abdullah Salim, Jr., Esq. (Salma) of Beltsville, Maryland and Wayne B. Hawkins (Tanya) of Palm Beach Gardens, Florida; two daughters, Pauletta C. Hawkins/Bibi Khaalis (Hamaas) of Washington, District of Columbia and Lorena H. Bailey, M.D. (Purcell, M.D.) of West Friendship, Maryland. He is also survived by a brother, James Hawkins, Esq. (Darnell) of Richmond, Virginia and a sister, Margaret H. Thomas (Colonel David) of Springfield, Virginia; nine grandchildren, two great grandchildren, six nephews, one niece; a godson, Dewey Hall (Olean) of Charlotte, North Carolina; and a host of relatives and friends. One sister, Hazel H. Adams and three grandchildren predeceased him.

Memorials may be sent to the Reginald and Anne Hawkins Scholarship Fund (for Football) at The Office of Institutional Advancement, Johnson C. Smith University, 100 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, North Carolina 28216.