



GEORGE LEWIS BROWN, JR.
Class of 1957

George Lewis Brown, outstanding athlete, coach, educator, and statesman, a man of action. He has been recognized for his contributions to athletics on the playing field and throughout his professional life. George is a unique man; he has led an active double life - military and civilian. He graduated from Spencer High School, Columbus, Georgia; entered junior college in Chicago, and later decided that was not the place for him. At 17 he left college and joined the Army, completed basic training in South Carolina and moved on for a tour of duty in Japan where he found himself playing fullback on the base football team. He returned to the United States in 1949 and more football. Discharged from the Army that same year with football scholarships waiting for him at Fresno State and San Diego State, instead of accepting the scholarships, he decided to join his Army friends who were coming to Tuskegee Institute.

At Tuskegee he again found a place on the football team, where he earned two letters, one in 1950-51 and again in 1955-56, after another tour of duty with the United States Army and more Army football.

After graduating from Tuskegee in 1957, George entered the University of Michigan for a degree in Physical Training Administration. His professional career began with a position at Dillard University coaching football, tennis and track. His tenure at Dillard was short. He left Dillard and moved to St. Petersburg to coach baseball at Gibbs and later to St. Petersburg Junior College. George was the first black to be assigned as a head coach of a major sport in the State of Florida.

His dedication and hard work brought fame and recognition to him as a civilian and in the military. From Tuskegee to Florida and around the world, he received honors and awards including, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities, 1956; Rifle Club Letter, 1952-53; Distinguished Military Student, 1951 and 52; Commissioner 2nd Lieutenant, 1952; Man of the Year, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, St. Petersburg, 1983; and was awarded the highest peacetime award for outstanding military service - The Legion of Merit - in 1984.

His memberships and other activities include consultant, member of the St. Petersburg Junior College Speakers Bureau, Sports Official for Little League in Pinellas County, and the NAACP.