James W. Griffin
Class of 1938
(Posthumous)

"My years at Tuskegee Institute were perhaps the most challenging, yet rewarding, years of my life. To attend college with the intense pressure of full-time work, full-time studies and full-time football participation, required a total and complete dedication to educational advancement and to Tuskegee Institute (University). I am extremely proud to say that I was able to meet the challenge of academic and athletic life," stated James W. Griffin.

Griffin came to Tuskegee after graduating from Snow Hill Institute where he was Valedictorian of his class as well as an outstanding athlete. His school staff was so impressed with his excellent academic performance and outstanding athletic ability, that they gave him a gold football charm, and made the necessary arrangements for him to attend Tuskegee Institute.

At Tuskegee, Griffin excelled in the positions of tackle and guard. Because of his high school game experience, his agility, and strength, he was required to play the entire game.

Griffin graduated from Tuskegee Institute with a Bachelor of Science in Commercial Industries. He served in the United States Army during World War II earning the rank of Lieutenant. After his military tour, he worked as a pipe fitter for Ford Motor Company in Detroit, Michigan.

Griffin spent much his life sharing his "Tuskegee Experience" and encouraging others to invest in their future. He also organized and supervised recreational activities, coached little league sports, provided transportation for youth recreational activities, and planned award banquets for community youth. He was charter member of his community block club, a founding member of the R. J. Shuster Masonic Lodge. Griffin also planned recognitions for retiring African-American Apprentice workers of the Ford Motor Company.

James W. Griffin was probably one of Tuskegee's greatest ambassadors in the North Central Region because he used every opportunity he has to tell his "Tuskegee Story." He and his wife returned to Tuskegee as