



Rev. Dr. Samuel J. Murray

Class of 1971

Samuel J. Murray, a native of Birmingham, AL enrolled at Tuskegee University with a four-year basketball scholarship in 1967. He lettered each of his four years on the basketball team as a starting center. He served as co-captain of the basketball team during his senior year when the team won the Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC) Visitation Championship in 1971. Murray was drafted in 1971 into the National Basketball Association (NBA) by the New York Knickerbockers, and was also invited to "try-outs" with the Harlem Globetrotters. Murray also lettered two years in cross-country, and one year in track. While a member of the Tuskegee University Cross-Country Team, Murray placed first, set a new Conference record, and helped lead the team to the 1967 SIAC Cross-Country Championship in Atlanta, GA. Murray also led the Cross-Country Team to a repeat title in 1968. Tuskegee's Cross-Country Team was undefeated during Murray's participation as a team member. In 1969 Murray received a special invitation to complete as a National Association Intercollegiate Athletic (NAIA) Cross-Country runner.

As a Political Science major Murray was greatly motivated towards high academic achievement. His academic performance earned him recognition as a member of the "Dean's List." He graduated from Tuskegee University in 1971. While studying at Tuskegee, he was also a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) Cadet. As a Cadet, he was encouraged by the late Chief Alfred Anderson to enter the Flight Instruction Program. In order to transfer from the Army ROTC into the Air Force ROTC, Murray was required to take the Air Force ROTC Pilot Qualifying Examination. He earned the highest score ever recorded by a Tuskegee ROTC Cadet. Murray also earned the distinguished U. S. Air Force "Silver Wings" from Craig Air Force Base in Selma, AL, and was also assigned to fly the B-52 Bomber during the Vietnam War.

Murray has completed seminary training and earned the M. Div and the D. Min degrees from Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. Rev. Murray and his family currently call Indianapolis, IN home. There he is actively involved and affiliated with many community, professional, social and religious organizations, including membership in the Indianapolis-Tuskegee Alumni Club. In 1979, he chose to honor the memory of his wife, Jacqueline Jones Murray, by providing a scholarship to assist students in need, and purchasing a Legacy Brick in 2004. He considers his greatest contribution to Tuskegee University as that of protecting our country and encouraging his own daughter to attend Tuskegee University. Rev. Murray was able to witness his daughter's graduation and commissioning into the U. S. Air Force in 1996.