



## Otis Melvin McDaniel

Class of 1970

Otis McDaniel, the fourth of five children of D. C. and Pnewmalean McDaniel to attend Tuskegee, arrived a little apprehensive about how he would live up to his own ideals, fulfill his father's dream and continue a legacy already begun. Being keenly aware of his father's desire that all of his children would attend and graduate from Tuskegee, his journey began.

Greetings and first introductions of coaches and athletes were made in Logan Hall. Otis met Coach Oscar Downs who became his friend and mentor for the next few years. Coach "Bear" Downs constantly reminded him to be persistent, work hard and be prepared when his time came. McDaniel's time came when he earned a starting position as a Golden Tiger defensive end. From this position he lettered each of his four years as a member of three SIAC championship teams. McDaniel's stellar performance positioned him to receive offers from the Hamilton Tiger Cats and the Toronto Argonauts of Canada, and to be drafted by the New England Patriots in 1970.

McDaniel's time came again when he was commissioned as 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Army in 1970. He answered this call, completing 24 years of active and reserve duty with a tour of duty in Desert Storm and Desert Shield, retiring in 1995, with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During his military career he was awarded the VII Corp and 7th MEDCOM Commander's Outstanding Service Awards, the Southwest Asia Service Medal and three bronze stars and the Kuwait Liberation Medal.

McDaniel's professional life included six years as a biology teacher/coach and 27 years in the pharmaceutical industry. During his teaching/coaching career he coached several young men who played in the NBA, NFL and Major League. His time in the pharmaceutical industry found him contributing in key positions which included professional sales representative, medical research associate, district sales manager, manager of government affairs and the first black regional manager with TAP Pharmaceutical. He was the first minority sales executive in Georgia.

McDaniel is active in many community, church and university activities. He worked untiringly as one of the organizers and coordinators of the TNAA Homecoming Golf Classic and the SIAC Celebrity Golf Tournament. He is a member of Newnan Chapel United Methodist Church where he is chairman of the Pastor Parish Relationship Committee and a member of many other boards and auxiliaries. Additionally, he serves as a member and 2nd Vice President of the Pine Valley Council of Girl Scouts.

He is presently retired and working the "Honey Do List," while helping his son get grounded as an entrepreneur.