



CHARLES HENRY GRAY
Class of 1948

Charles Henry Gray, outstanding athlete, educator and humanitarian. His prowess on the playing fields at Tuskegee earned him recognition in two sports - football and track. He lettered each year of his tenure, winning the SIAC championship in the mile and two mile relays in 1947-48. Charles Gray's performance and leadership skills paved the way for him to serve as captain of the track team and co-captain of the team during the 1947-48 season and receive an invitation to play professional football in Canada. Instead of playing professional football, he chose to continue his education and pursue a master's degree at New York University. This choice was not by accident because Charles Gray's academic success at Tuskegee equaled his athletic performance. He distinguished himself by having the highest grade point average and won the Malone Award for his athletic and academic achievement in 1947.

His professional career span more than thirty years. It included positions as Head Football Coach and Assistant Professor of Health and Physical Education, Rust College, 1949-51; Head, Department of Health and Physical Education; and principal, Dade County Public Schools.

Mr. Gray retired in 1981 and continued in his retirement aggressively work to improve the quality of life for all people through organizations such as People United to Lead the Struggle for Equality (PULSE), Boys and Girls Club of America, Red Cross, Chamber of Commerce, 500 Role Models and the Inter-Generational Steering Committee. Among Gray's many awards and citations are the Bronze Key Stone and Service from Boys Club of America, the 1991 Living Legacy Award from the National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc., Distinguished Retired Educator Award from the Miami Alliance of Black School Educators, and Florida A&M Classic Committee. Gray was also instrumental in obtaining one hundred million dollars from First Union Bank of Florida for affordable home mortgage loans for low to moderate income families to purchase and repair homes. Mr. Gray is a life member of Omega Psi Phi fraternity, Boys Club of America and the NAACP and holds membership in numerous other civic organizations. His "multicultural intergenerational spirit of goodwill offers benefits to the community at-large." He has helped to educate the elderly and students alike, thereby, making our democracy stronger, more vibrant and more fully participatory. He is a stellar example that one person can indeed make a difference in shaping our future.