



REE E. PAYNE
Class of 1950

Ree E. Payne, outstanding defensive guard 1946-1950. Nicknamed "The Terror" by Coaches Abbott, Owens and Dean Adams. He consistently lived up to this name on the playing field, particular during the gridiron struggle between Tuskegee and Wilberforce University in Chicago. His prowess as guard on the front line of defense was such that the secondary could rest, assured that "nothing, but nothing" would pass. Mr. Payne was a serious football player and adhered to the philosophy of General McArthur "on these fields of friendly strife are sown the seeds that in other years on other fields will bear fruits of victory."

After graduating in 1950, he became the first Black postal clerk to be hired in the Birmingham, Alabama post office. In 1951, he entered the Air Force as second lieutenant after being commissioned at Tuskegee and served admirably at bases throughout the United States. He retired with the rank of Captain from the Air Force Reserve in 1968. After his discharge from the Air Force in 1953, he returned to Birmingham, Alabama and worked as a division scout executive until 1962 when he was transferred to the Pennisula Council Boy Scouts of America in New Port News, Virginia. His entire professional life was spent in various positions throughout the United States working with young people sharing his experiences and providing them with proper direction and guidance. His leadership and guidance and encouragement paved the way to outstanding citizenship for many young men.

Mr. Payne personifies a "typical Tuskegegean" - one who spends a significant amount of time working, volunteering for worthwhile endeavors and always willing to accept civic and community responsibilities. He is a loyal supporter to "Mother Tuskegee" and is likely to continue to contribute his time, money and love to local and national alumni activities and Alma Mater.