



**Clarence W. Burley, Jr.**  
Class of 1956

Clarence W. Burley Jr. a two sports letterman was born in Lyons, Georgia. As the first in his family to go to college, he enrolled at Tuskegee University. He loved all sports, but found a home on the football team as starting center. From this position he lettered four years (1952-1956). He was named senior captain in 1956. One of his most memorable football moments was a game winning interception and score during the 1954 homecoming game against Lane College. Burley also excelled in track and field as a Javelin thrower. He won 1<sup>st</sup> Place at the Atlanta Conference in 1953 and 1954.

Majoring in Commercial Industries-Auto Mechanics, Burley managed to maintain good grades with a full schedule of athletics and work. He was mentored by his coaches and professors, who provided him employment and helped him to develop a strong sense of self direction. His student employment provided him with funds to complete his education and to participate in other campus activities. He joined Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity in 1953. Burley credits the confidence in self gained from his work experiences, and mentoring support and encouragement he received from his coaches and professors as the reasons for his success as Airman 1<sup>st</sup> Class Airplane Crew Chief in the United States Air Force. His career success continued as a civilian when he steadily climbed the ranks in his occupation as an Airplane Mechanic, Foreman and Inspector for United Airlines, retiring after 32 years of service.

Burley's desire to bring out the best in others led him to a successful political career. He was elected to the East Palo Alto City Council, where he served two terms and mayor for two years. (1967-1975). Clarence was also a member of the Ravenswood Recreation District Board (1975-1979) and the Ravenswood City School District (1980-1985). Burley was able to fulfill his passions to inspire youth in his community through his position as coach and manager of the East Palo Alto Little League (1965-1975) which won the Joe DiMaggio Championship in 1975. He was also privileged to coach and mentor several young men who went on to professional baseball careers: Anthony Brewer/Royals, Michael Brewer/Dodgers, Rudy Law/Dodgers, Sam Floyd/Minnesota Twins, Tate Smith/Astros and Darrell Parker/Royals.

Clarence is avid supporter of his Alma Mater and Sports at Tuskegee.