



James Lightfoot

Class of 1962

James Lightfoot, an exceptional athlete, educator, and humanitarian, enrolled at Tuskegee University in 1957 to obtain a degree in Health and Physical Education. His superb athletic skills and his dedication to sports equipped him to excel in two sports, football and track. Lightfoot lettered in both sports each of the four years he played. He served as captain of the "Golden Tiger" basketball team for two years and was named A-SIAC and Most Valuable Player in 1959. As a member of the track team Lightfoot participated in the 880, 440, mile, 220 yard dash and 4x110 relay team placing and scoring each year. Lightfoot participated in sports events in the community and counties around the University as a monitor of sports events, referee, time keeper, and official for track and field events. These activities served as training events for Physical Education majors.

In 1963, Lightfoot began his career with Pittsburgh Public Schools as a permanent substitute teacher, but shortly thereafter he was made a permanent teacher, teaching at the elementary and high school level. From these positions he advanced to Vice Principal and later to Dean. He taught physical education and coached basketball. His basketball teams advanced to the state play-offs in 1975 and 1976 winning the state championship in 1979. He also coached football and track. During these years of teaching, Lightfoot continued his educational pursuits earning a Master, and Doctor of Philosophy degree in education and certification in administration. After 35 years of service in education, Lightfoot ended his service in Education at one the highest achieving schools in Pittsburgh.

Lightfoot's humble beginning and his awareness of what the help of others can do for you have been a driving force in his accomplishments. He has never forgotten the hands that helped to guide his success as he continues to give back by helping those in need by being a role model and a wonderful husband and father. He states that "were it not for people like Robert and Gloria Mungin, Coach Owens, and others he probably would have never attended or graduated from Tuskegee". He contributes regularly to the Red Cross, United Way, and Habitat for Humanity, World Vision, and Meals on Wheels. Currently he is working with his wife, who is a clinical counselor, providing pastoral care to married couples and families.

Lightfoot is actively involved and affiliated with many state, local, and national organizations including Phi Delta Kappa Honor Society, Pittsburgh Administrators Association National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers and currently, Chaplain for ARRP.