Dr. Leslie A. Hayling, Sr.

Leslie A. “Big Daddy” Hayling, Sr. was born on 17 March 1927 to the late Dr. William S. and Louise M. Hayling in Trenton, New Jersey. He graduated from Trenton Central High School and Trenton School of Industrial Arts, Trenton, New Jersey.

After graduation from high school, Leslie volunteered for military service in World War II. He enlisted and was selected for the Aviation Cadet Program in Tuskegee, AL where he graduated in 1945 as a member of the legendary Tuskegee Airmen.

After the war he enrolled at Howard University and in 1952 he graduated from the Howard University College of Dentistry. Upon graduation from Dental School, he returned to Trenton New Jersey with his wife, Adrienne, where he practiced Dentistry for 62 years. He treated tens of thousands of patients from all walks of life. Dr. Hayling was instrumental in directing and establishing the careers and practices of many newly minted Dentists throughout New Jersey. As a proud alumnus, he returned almost yearly to Howard University. He was the only Alumnus to attend the 65th Howard University College of Dentistry Awards Ceremony.

Dr Hayling was a renaissance man with many interests. His interests included Dentistry first and foremost, flying, art, music and a zest for life. He had a photographic memory and his laugh was contagious.

Dr Hayling’s military education includes: Tuskegee Airmen Cadet Program

Dr Hayling’s civilian education includes: Howard University and Howard University School of Dentistry

Dr Hayling’s military awards include: Unknown

Dr Hayling’s civic/professional awards and honors include: community service awards from the New Jersey State Senate; New Jersey Assembly; City of Trenton, Aviation Advisory Council of New Jersey; and the Symphony Association.


On 24 July 2017, Dr Hayling died peacefully after a lengthy illness. He was 90 years old. His wife of 65 years, Adrienne Maddox Hayling passed away 13 Sep 2018. They are survived by a son, Dr. Leslie A. Hayling Jr., also a Dentist. His older brother, the late (2 Oct 2020) Dr. William H. Hayling was an Obstetrician.