BIOGRAPHY

Clayo Casteal Rice

Mr. Clayo Casteal Rice was born in South Carolina. He attended Bridgeton High School, Bridgeton, New Jersey. He was a member of both the basketball team and the track team.

In 1944, while still a student at Bridgeton High School, Mr. Rice was drafted into the Army Air Corps. After being trained at Tuskegee University as a Pilot, Mr. Rice got his Wings and graduated on 11 March 1945 in Class 45-A. This was two months before the war ended in Europe so Mr. Rice never saw any combat.

After the war, Mr. Rice returned home and worked at Hall's Dry Cleaning. Eventually Mr. Rice relocated to Philadelphia and opened Rice's Dry Cleaners. A number of years later, he went to work in Wilmington, Delaware as a General Motors Assemblyman.

Mr. Rice attended President Barack Obama's first inauguration in 2009. The highlight of the trip was the opportunity to speak to the young Airmen working on the Inauguration Committee. On 21 February 2012, Mr. Rice was honored at Mt. Zion Church, Bridgeton, NJ for his service to the country and his contribution to African-American History. Even though they were illegal, Mr. Rice loved a good Cuban cigar.

Mr. Rice's military education includes: Aviation Cadet Program

Mr. Rice's civilian education includes: Bachelor's Degree, Unknown; Honorary Doctorate, Social Services, Tuskegee University, Tuskegee, Alabama.

Mr. Rice's military awards include: Unknown.

Mr. Rice's civic awards, honors and memberships include: Boy Scout Leader; NAACP member; and honored by Mt Zion Church, Bridgeton, New Jersey.

Mr. Rice passed away 12 June 2013 at JFK Hospital-Stratford Division (now Jefferson Stratford Hospital), Stratford, NJ. He was 89 years old. He was the eternal bachelor having never married. He leaves to cherish his memory, one sister Annie Rice Thompson, several nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.