



### *Afterglow*

*I'd like the memory of me to be a happy one,  
I'd like to leave an **afterglow** of smiles when day is done.  
I'd like to leave an echo whispering softly down the ways,  
Of happy times and laughing times and bright and sunny days.  
I'd like the tears of those who grieve to dry before the sun  
Of happy memories that I leave behind when day is done.*

### *Acknowledgement*

*The family sincerely appreciates the expressions of sympathy  
extended to them during this time of berevment.*

*Funeral Arrangements Entrusted to:*

**Benta's Funeral Home, Inc.**

630 St. Nicholas Avenue New York, New York 10030  
212-281-8850



*In Loving Memory  
of*



*Dale Raymond Wright*

*July 19, 1923*

*December 13, 2009*

### *Service*

*Saturday, December 19, 2009 - 12:00 Noon*

*Benta's Funeral Home, Inc.*

*630 St. Nicholas Avenue • New York, New York 10030*

*Rev. James Booker, Officiating  
Mr. Tyrone Patrick, Musician*

## *The Obituary*

Dale Raymond Wright - devoted and beloved parent, journalist, author, editor, entrepreneur, sportsman, Pulitzer Prize nominee, and community advocate passed away in the Bronx, New York on December 13, 2009.

Dale, son of Mildred Elaine Smith Wright and George William Wright, was born on July 19, 1923 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. He moved with his family to Canton, Ohio as a teenager, graduating from Canton's McKinley High School. A U S Marine Corps veteran, he proudly served his country during World War II in the Central Pacific Theater and was honorably discharged at the rank of Staff Sergeant. An enterprising and ambitious young man, he took full advantage of the GI Bill, completing undergraduate course work at Howard University, and graduating with Honors in 1950 from Ohio State University's prestigious Columbus School of Journalism. Wright undertook post graduate courses in business operations, mass communications, information and nonprofit management at Columbia University, New York University, and the State University of New York.

In 1955, Dale Wright married Dolores Virginia Grigsby, a renowned model, curator, socialite, and community activist. The couple settled in the Riverdale section of the Bronx in 1964. They divorced in the mid '70's but remained steadfast friends who proudly shared parenting responsibilities throughout their lifetimes. He split his time and home/business bases in Riverdale, Manhattan and Long Island to remain close to his children.

Dale was an extraordinary combination of journalist, entrepreneur and community advocate. For 20 years, he owned and operated "Dale Wright Associates" - a business specifically designed to serve the public relations needs of emerging and established New York area Black businesses. He distinguished himself for many years in the field of organizational communications and government relations, serving as the Press Secretary and Public Relations Director to New York political luminaries, including Mayor Edward I. Koch, Senator Jacob K. Javits, and Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller. As the Associate Editor of *Ebony* and *Jet Magazine*, Dale provided office oversight, conceived, planned, wrote and edited news stories and feature articles. He also provided leadership to the New York State Drug Abuse Control Commission, the Division of Human Rights, and the Office of Equal Opportunity. He was a Senior Account Executive at Hill and Knowlton's Publicity and Marketing Division, one of the nation's largest public relations agencies.

## *The Obituary*

As an internationally celebrated journalist and Professor, Dale's awards included the Heywood Broun Memorial for most distinguished reporting in the U.S. and Canada, the Paul Tobenkin Memorial for best news writing in the U.S. on racial intolerance and bigotry, the Society of the Silurian's Award for Public Service, the Gentry Award for Outstanding Achievement, and NAACP's Award for Best News Writing. His newspaper series was expanded into a book, *They Harvest Despair: The Migrant Farm Worker*. As an investigative reporter for the New York World Telegram and Sun, his 10-part undercover investigative report series on the conditions of migrant farm workers in Long Island and Florida was among four final Pulitzer Prize entries. Wright worked tirelessly as a member and leader of a host of civic and social organizations such as the National Association of Black Journalists, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, and Sigma Delta Chi's Society of Professional Journalists, the New York Reporters Association, the Newspaper Guild of New York, the New York Urban League, and the Coalition of 100 Black Men.

Dale's watershed account of the misery of migrant farm workers plight and his first hand experience as a 'stoop worker' created a furor when they appeared in the New York World Telegram and Sun. Twice reprinted in the Congressional Record, and distributed widely by social service agencies interested in improving the conditions of migrant workers, his articles sparked corrective legislative action taken by the states of New Jersey and New York.

An avid traveler, Dale's ports of call included Kenya, Israel, Guam, Saipan, France, Mexico, and Monte Carlo.

Dale Raymond Wright is honored on this day by his two devoted adult children, Amilcar K Metrit, (born Dale Raymond Wright Jr.), an Information Technology Unit Project Leader and Kimberly Elaine Wright-King, a Diplomat with the U.S. State Department, and their spouses, Mildred (Diva) Guzman-Metrit and Alton J. King. Dale is well remembered by the Wright, Grigsby, Guzman, King, Rooks, and Wilson families, cousins Deborah and Dottie Wright of Brooklyn, NY; Danielle Wright of Chicago; Shirley and Judith Chavis of Columbus, Ohio; many loved ones in Monongahela, PA; and a host of family and friends.