



## MAURICE HORTON, SR.

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Maurice Horton, Sr. was born in Curtis, Arkansas. Nurtured in a Christian home, he dedicated much of his young life to service through Mt. Friendship Baptist Church. President of his class, he graduated from Peake High School, Arkadelphia, Arkansas in 1953. Mr. Horton attended AM&N College (now the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff) for two years prior to applying to Henderson State Teachers College, Arkadelphia, Arkansas.

In 1955, he transferred to Henderson State, which under the state's legally imposed racial segregation, had traditionally accepted only white students. In 1957, Maurice R. Horton, Sr. received a BSE degree in mathematics and was the first black student to graduate from Henderson State Teachers College in its 77 years of existence. During the same year that Horton graduated from Henderson, the crisis at Little Rock Central was boiling over.

In 1960, he returned to Henderson, receiving his MSE in mathematics. Further studies continued at Kansas State University, Manhattan, Kansas, Auburn University, Auburn Alabama and the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas, receiving certification in supervision and administration.

Mr. Horton taught mathematics Peake Junior High School, Arkadelphia and Washington High School, El Dorado, Arkansas. In 1965 he joined the Dollarway School District, Pine Bluff, Arkansas, where he served as a mathematics teacher, high school principal, curriculum coordinator and was named superintendent of schools in 1993, where he served until his retirement.

Mr. Horton was active in his church, St. Paul Missionary Baptist (trustee/treasurer), civic and educational organizations. Upon his retirement he joined the Rotary Club of West Pine Bluff's (RSVP) Retired Senior Volunteers Program, where he continued to touch, enrich and have a positive influence on many lives. Additionally, with an appreciation for the learning and teaching experiences he received at Peake High School, he served as president of the Peake High School Foundation, a foundation established to preserve the school and secure funds for the restoration of the historical Rosenwald Building.

In 2007 the Dollarway School District honored Horton by naming a new building in his honor the Horton-Richardson Building will serve as a permanent reminder of Horton's legacy ... a man who served generations of Dollarway students.

In 2012 as a tribute to the memory and legacy of Mr. Horton, his family established the Maurice R. Horton, Sr. Emerging Leader Memorial Scholarship at Henderson State University, Arkadelphia, AR. Additionally, the Maurice R. Horton, Sr. Memorial Scholarship is funded at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff (UAPB).