

R J Hampton - My Life Story

Reginald Jeffery Hampton was born in Newport, Arkansas. He began in Real Estate when he purchased his first home at the age of 14 from selling pecan, rags, working in the cotton fields, selling bottles for a penny, selling iron for a penny a pound, cutting spinach, selling worms, picking strawberries, selling newspaper and whatever he could do to make a penny.

Hampton's education began at Newport Elementary School and Newport High School. Although Hampton did not graduate from High School, but, is a product of 12 Colleges and Universities in addition to Shorter College, Philander Smith College, A.M.N./University of Pine Bluff, University of Little Rock, University of Magnolia Arkansas, Jackson Theological Seminary, Gammon Theological Seminary of Atlanta, GA, University of Miami School of Business, The American University of Washington, DC. In 1980, Hampton was granted a Rockefeller Foundation Grant to study for the MBA. Hampton was ordained a deacon in the A.M.E. Church at the age of 20 and the youngest Presiding Elder in the A.M.E. Church at the age of 21. Hampton was the only presiding elder who presided over two Annual Conferences at the same time in the United States of the A.M.E. Church. The two Annual Conferences covered 3/4 of the state of Arkansas. At the age of 21 he was ordained an elder, the highest order of Methodism.

Hampton businesses were located in Camden, Hot Spring, Little Rock, Newport, DuValls Bluff, North Little Rock, and Remmell, AR. In 1967 Hampton established the weekly and by-weekly Arkansas Mirror newspaper out of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. One year later, he opened his own printing company Hampton's Publishing Company in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. Hampton's newspaper, the Arkansas Mirror covered all of Arkansas. Hampton's newspaper published thousands of papers for one of Rockefeller's campaign.

Hampton established three Adult Educational Schools for the state of Arkansas in Pine Bluff A.M. & N. College, Fordyce and Carthage, Arkansas. He was a consultant for United Dollars Stores which

covered 8 states and 300 stores. Hampton operated his own Dollars Stores in Fordyce, Camden, Little Rock and Texarkana, Arkansas.

Hampton organized several Black males and females that opened the first Dollar Stores in Arkansas owned and operated in Marianna, Arkansas. Among those were some of the most prominent people in Arkansas. Among them were Judge Ollie Neal, Dr. Roosevelt Brown, Dean Goldsby, Hurley M. Jones and Pat Mann. Hampton established a cosmetic business in Camden and Texarkana Arkansas. Hampton's Advertising & Consultant Company was retained by many major companies in South Arkansas, among them were Budweiser and Coke Cola.

In 1968 Hampton was elected as president of Shorter College and serviced twice as the president; and ledge the college to full accreditation by the North Central Association for the Accreditation of Colleges and Universities in 1980.

Hampton resigned as President of Shorter College to run for Governor in 1970; he was first Black in American according to Bill Simmons, managing editor of the Little Rock Associated Press.

Hampton philosophy has always been, "People of color should be actively involved in all phases of government. In a democratic society, the economic, the social day to day affairs of all people are tied into the practical political processes which govern all our lives...Civil Rights, Civil Privileges, Civil Responsibilities, they are all in the end a matter of practical politics."

Some Blessings I Was Able to Share

1. Adopted a homeless man who is 73 years of age. I provided him an apartment to liv in, food, clothing, and medicine which I am still providing for and have done for over 20 years. When I met Tommy, who we all call Tony, he was sleeping under a bridge downtown on Broadway.
2. I gave one of the preachers I supervised a house for he and his family.

3. I fed 5,000 church members in Oklahoma.
4. I fed 10,000 people in Fort Worth, Texas
5. I gave the Homeless Veterans Association some property to build a shelter on Cedar Street in Little Rock.
6. I gave eight lots to the Fordyce Cemetery Association in Fordyce, Arkansas.
7. From my restaurant in Hot Springs, Arkansas, I fed the needy on Sundays.
8. From my church, Visitors Chapel A.M.E. church in Hot Springs, I provided Christmas for the young pastors who were in school and unable to provide Christmas for their families.
9. I gave St. Paul Baptist Church of Little Rock, Arkansas 1/2 block of land for parking and social gatherings.

Hampton is married to Regina Stewart Hampton, his 3 children are Timothy Hampton, Dr. Jeffrey

B. Hampton and Regina LeNora Hampton.