

Charles Washington

By Bertha Calloway

Mr. Charles Washington was a man who spent most of his life helping others, particularly in the field of education. Although he never formally graduated from the school of journalism, he became one of the most articulate writers in this area writing editorials, articles, interviewing famous personalities such as the late Malcolm X, Tony Brown, Gordon Parks, Gwendlyn Brooks and others. An admirer of Malcolm X and his philosophy, Charlie felt that the interview with Malcolm X, a native born Omahan was the highlight of his career.

Charlie started working at the Omaha Star when the paper first started, although very young he expressed an interest in writing sports and while attending Jr High School became a regular contributor to the newspaper working under Mildred Brown Gilbert.

Charlie was well known for his comments and fiery attitude in dealing with public officials at meetings, and also for his private contacts that he used only when "a job had to be done" for the community. He was known as a person who could get things done, and was listed in the Omaha World Herald as one of the most influential Black people living in the State of Nebraska.

Charlie was the recipient of many awards, the latest and possibly the last large tribute being a testimonial dinner in which over 400 people honored him for his life long contributions to the community.

At one time Charles was the host of "OMAHA CAN WE DO," a community affairs program seen weekly on WOW-TV, he helped establish the Franklin Credit Union and was involved in the black-owned radio station KOWH. A great "BIG RED" Fan and a long-time supporter before the University of Nebraska team became so popular, Charles worked with the team and helped "smooth things out" between the interracial mixed team, later he received a special award from the Nebraska Chapter of the Football Hall of Fame.

Funeral services are Friday at 2 p.m. The Wake will be Thursday night at 7 p.m. for Charlie. He is survived by a sister, Emylynn Collins of Phoenix, Arizona, and a brother Robert N. Washington.

CITATION (APA STYLE)

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