

Remembering Howard M. Fitts, Jr.



Friday, November 17, 2023

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. Service11:30 a.m.

Memorial Service. 12:30 p.m.

**Covenant Presbyterian Church
2620 Weaver Street — Durham, NC 27707
The Rev. Lakesha Bradshaw Easter, Pastor
Officiant**

Obituary

As written by Dr. Howard M. Fitts, Jr.

Howard Monroe Fitts, Jr., was born on June 8, 1921 in Wilson, NC to Howard M. and Elizabeth Plummer Fitts. However; his mother, at the time of his birth went to Greenville, NC where she could be cared for by her sister, Dello M. Battle, and brother-in-law, James A. Battle, MD.

Howard, Jr. grew up in Wilson, NC, attended public schools, was active in the Presbyterian Church, was very proud of his sister-like cousin, five years older, Elizabeth Battle Beckett, throughout his secondary school years. Elizabeth lived with the Fitts to attend school there. His biological sister, Rosemary, was years younger than he.

His higher education began with prep-school attendance: Palmer Memorial Institute (Dr. Charlotte Hawkins Brown). His college years were completed at NC College for Negroes, now known as North Carolina Central University (NCCU) where he received his B.S. degree in Biology in 1941. He later received a MSPH at NCCU offered by UNC School of Public Health (segregation prevailed) under the leadership of Dr. Lucy Shield Morgan. He earned his master's degree in Public Health Education in 1946. In later years he earned the Ed.D. in Health Education from Teachers College at Columbia University.

Howard, Jr. was drafted into the US Army in 1942. Altogether his military service extended for three years. He served in multiple countries (USA, North Africa, France, Italy, Germany, Great Britain, and the Philippines). Howard was honorably discharged in 1945 at the close of World War II.

He served as a public health educator in the District Health Department, Chapel Hill, NC. He later returned to his alma mater to serve as a professor and later Chair of the NCCU Department of Public Health Education from 1954-1987. He was a recognized advocate for public health. He served the World Health Organization as a Short Term Consultant to the Government of India, New Delhi, India in 1971 and again in 1981. He served with the Pan American Health Organization Short Term Consultant to Turks and Caicos. His work experience included public school teacher, the practice of public health education, and in local health departments.

He was an active member of the Covenant Presbyterian Church USA, where he served as a Ruling Elder and faithful church school teacher and on numerous boards including the Board of Trustees, Barber Scotia College, Concord, NC.

He was married to the late Albertha Hudson Fitts of Baton Rouge, LA who preceded him in death.

He is survived by his son: Howard A. Fitts, son's wife Cina and daughter Alexander; his daughter, Rosemary Fitts Miller and her husband, Wilton and daughter Ashlie Saunders and great grandchild Kylo Mathis. He is fondly remembered by a host of other relatives and friends.

Transitioned to his heavenly home — January 30, 2023

Friendship is essential to the soul...

Order of Service

Prelude Dr. Brenetta Simpson
Director of Music

Processional

Opening Sentences of Scripture. *Matthew 22:36-40*. Rev. Lakesha Bradshaw Easter

Welcome

Prayer of Invocation

Hymn. AAH #120. Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You

Covenant Presbyterian Church Resolution. David Kearns
Clerk of Session

Tributes

Evester Bailey, Omega Psi Ph Fraternity, Inc.
LaHoma S. Romocki, NCCU, Department of Public Health Education

Reflections from family and friends (*limit time to 2 minutes, please*)

Silent Reading of the Obituary

Prayer of Comfort. Rev. Lakesha Bradshaw Easter

Hymn. AAH #148. How Great Thou Art

Old Testament Reading — *Psalms 91:1, 14-16*

¹Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. ¹⁴“Because he loves me,” says the Lord, “I will rescue him; I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name. ¹⁵He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble, I will deliver him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.”

New Testament Reading — *Matthew 25:21*

²¹His master replied, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!”

Words of Comfort Rev. Lakesha Bradshaw Easter

Hymn. AAH #157. To God Be The Glory

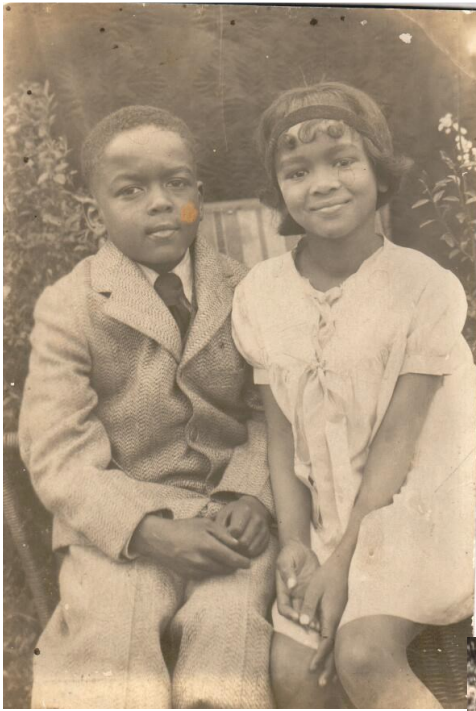
The Recessional

Postlude



Bert's & Howard M's Wedding
December 30, 1953





Howard, Jr. and Rosemary Fitts
Around 1933



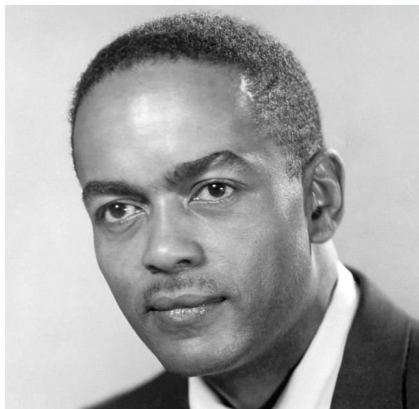
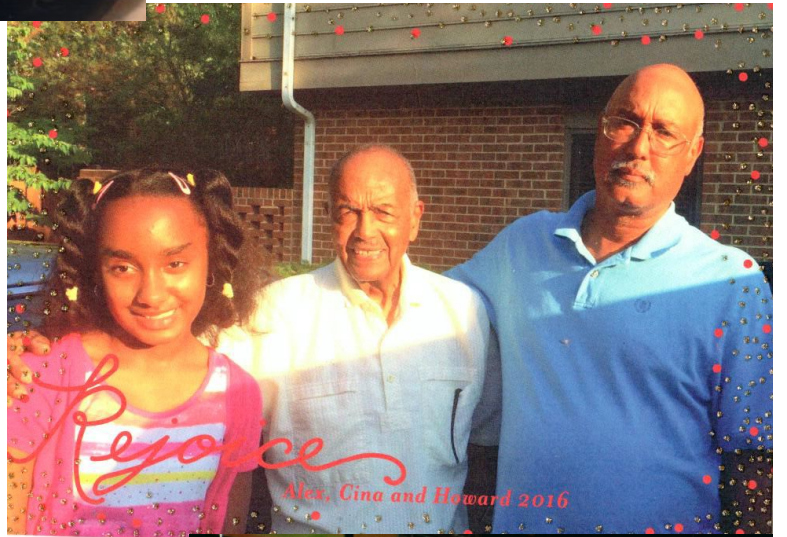
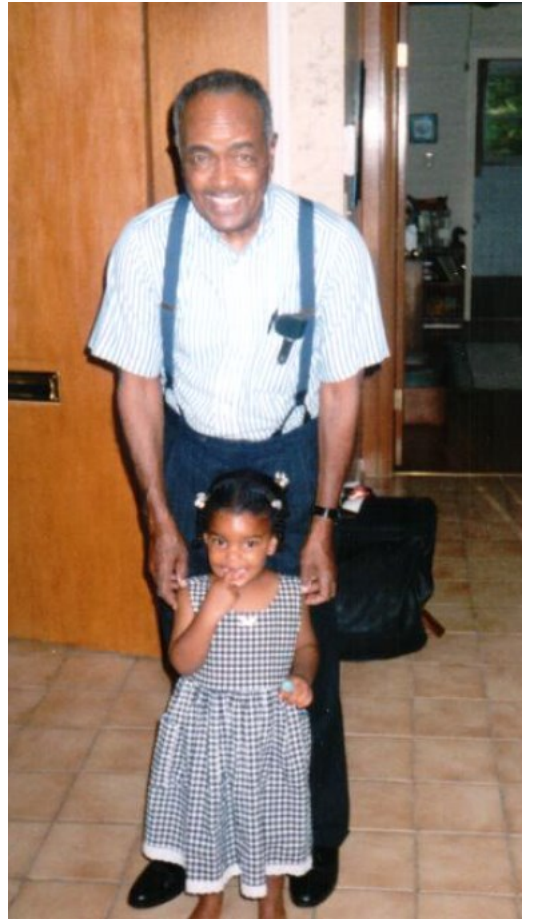
Howard M. Fitts & Calvin Beckett
Marseille, France
1945



Howard M. Fitts, Sr.
Howard M Fitts, Jr.
Just Out of the Army
1945



Clara, Ray, Howard, Bert
Christmas Dinner 1970



Faculty Members /Staff from Department of Public Health Education
North Carolina Central University



Because I have a
Brother
Friendship is Essential to the Soul
I Will Always have a
Friend ΩΨΦ
OMEGA PSI PHI FRATERNITY, INC.



Dr. Howard M. Fitts, Jr.
Celebrates 100th Birthday
June, 2021



Acknowledgments

The Fitts family wishes to express their sincere thanks for the many acts of love and kindness shown. There were so many people who helped along the way. Please know that your cards were all read, and your prayers have been felt. May God richly bless each of you and keep you safe. May God continue to bless you!



The Family Tree Author Unknown

A limb has fallen from the family tree
I hear a voice that whispers, 'Grieve not for me'
Remember the best times, the laughter, the songs
The good I lived while I was strong
Continue my heritage, I'm counting on you
Keep on smiling, the sun will shine through.
My mind is at ease, my soul is at rest
Remembering all...how I was truly blessed
Continue traditions, no matter how small
Go on with your lives, don't stare at the wall
I miss you all dearly so keep up your chin
Until that fine day we're together again.

