

September 15, 2008

Dear Fellow Citizens,

In District 2, the late S. E. Palmer, who resided at 2430 Frankston Highway was a high profile community leader. My proposal to the council and community is to honor Mr. Palmer. This petition for District 2 is to seek the name change Frankston Highway to S. E. Palmer Parkway/ Frankston Highway, beginning at S. Vine to Loop 323. This recognition will not change anyone's current address.

S.E. Palmer's accomplishments:

Education:

Prairie View College, B.S., (Prairie View A&M College) Prairie View, Texas
Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College (Colorado State University) Fort Collins, Colorado

Homesteads:

The first residence on Frankston Highway, 155
New Hope Community, Smith County

Employment:

Vocational Agricultural Area Supervisor, Texas Education Agency, Austin, Texas.

Vocational Agriculture teacher, Stanton High School, Whitehouse Independent School District, Whitehouse, Texas.

Civic:

The lead plaintiff in a law suit that created single member Districts 2 and 3, which allowed minorities the opportunity to be elected to the Tyler City Council.

Fought for civil rights to help promote integrated schools.

Worked to secure city services for the citizens on Frankston Highway.

Organized to bring electricity and telephone services to the New Hope Community, Bullard, Texas.

Worked to promote better rural roads in the New Hope Community in Smith County.

Church:

Supporter/member and Deacon of Bethlehem First Baptist Church, Tyler, Texas.

This petition is being submitted to the Tyler City Council for approval to add S. E.

Palmer's name to Frankston Highway as S. Palmer Parkway/Frankston Highway.. A community meeting for this project will be announced in the future.

Respectfully,

**Donald Sanders
City Councilman
District 2**

Sidney Earl (S.E.) Palmer
1903 - 1986

S. E. Palmer was born and reared on a farm in a remote area of Newton County, Toledo Bend, Texas in 1903. He was the fifth sibling of six, born to his parents, John and Mary Palmer.

Education was a priority of his parents. They helped organize a school in the community for the children to attend. Grades one through eight were taught in the church by one teacher. S. E parents saw to it that the teacher boarded in their household during the school year. The knowledge that he acquired at school continued at home during the teacher's stay. He completed his early education in Toledo Bend, and moved to Prairie View, Texas to attend the academy.

Mr. Palmer completed his high school education at Prairie View Normal Academy. After obtaining his high school degree, he entered Prairie View College, (Prairie View A&M) and graduated in 1931 with a B.S. degree in Vocational Agriculture.

He started his teaching career in Kendleton, Texas as principal of the Pilot Point Colored High School. Two years later, he became principal of the Colored High School in Wortham, Texas. In 1938 he moved his family to Smith County, New Hope Community, to teach Vocational Agriculture at Stanton High School, Whitehouse School District.

His first homestead was built in the New Hope Community in 1939. Using his acquired knowledge in the field of vocational education, he set forth to make his home and surroundings to be as modern as could be of that day. A windmill was installed to provide running water into his home for his family's use. A generator was built to provide electricity for the home.

He was a person that always tried to help the citizens of the community. Mr. Palmer organized a group of community citizens to obtain telephone services on a party line basis for the group. Electricity was not a common utility in the households during this time. He organized the citizens, petitioned the electric company to provide electric services to the community.

Travel on county roads on rainy days would almost come to a standstill for the school buses and its citizens to travel. Again, he organized and petitioned the county to improve the roads in the area so that the citizens could be afforded better roads for transportation.

In the community he had a small cattle ranch, and a vegetable farm.

In 1941 he was employed as one of three supervisors by the Texas Education

Agency, Austin, Texas as an area supervisor for teachers. who taught Vocational Education (Agriculture).

He graduated from Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College (Colorado State University) Fort Collins, Colorado with a MS degree in Vocational Education in 1947.

He was the first to build his home on the newly undeveloped Frankston Highway, 155. This area, a few blocks from South Vine, only had electricity as a public utility. Other city services did not exist for this neighborhood, and the St. Louis Community. Mr. Palmer worked with the citizens to get water, and sewage services to these communities.

He was employed as supervisor with the Texas Education Agency until his retirement in 1969.

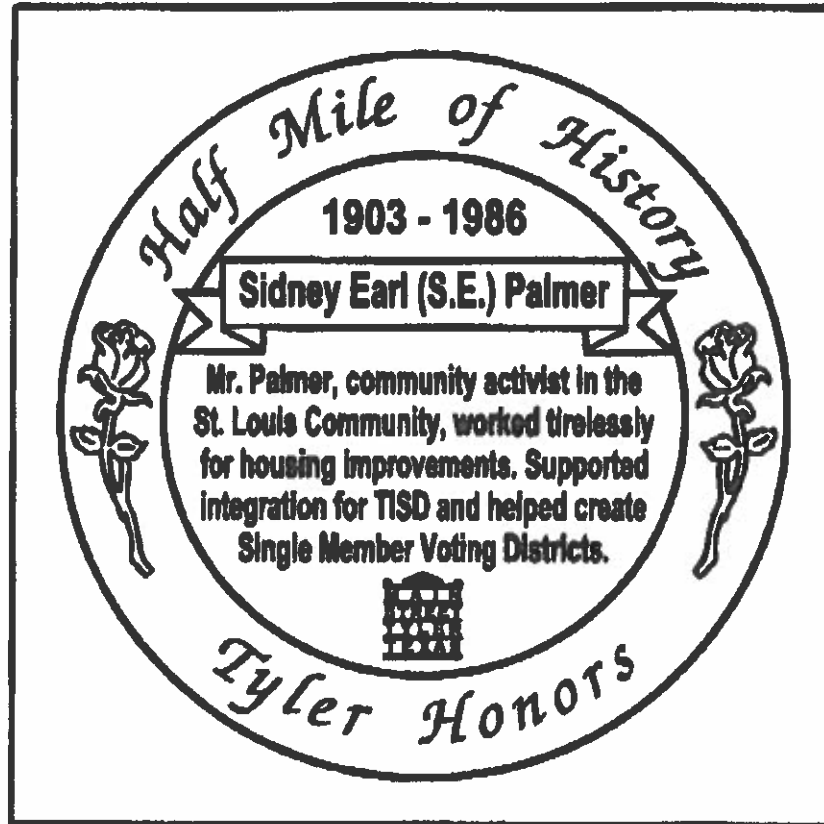
He worked with other citizens in the Tyler community to help achieve integrated schools in TISD.

Minority representation was not evident at any level of the city or county governments in Tyler. Mr. Palmer felt that as citizens who paid local taxes they needed to have a voice as to how they were to be governed . He was the lead plaintiff in a law suit against the City of Tyler, along with Mr. Cleotha Whitaker, and Mr. Ernest Square, to create single member Districts 2 and 3, which allowed minorities the opportunity to be elected to the Tyler City Council.

He was a member of several organizations, Life member, NAACP, Vocational Educational Association, Tyler Organization of Men, Masonic Lodge, and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

He was a supporter, member, and Deacon of Bethlehem First Baptist Church, Tyler.

S. E. Palmer was married to the late Vita O. Childs Palmer, and has two remaining children, Mauvelyene Palmer Henry, Houston, Texas, and Sidney Eloyce Palmer Green, Tyler, Texas.



Total Cost - 500.00 each delivered

**The Lettering on this stone is smaller than we recommend
We cannot guaranty the lettering.
Sign and fax back to 817-624-8428**

K. Bridgman

08/12/09

Fort Worth Monument Company
5811 Jacksboro Hwy
Fort Worth, TX 76114
Fax Number: (817) 624-8428

James,

Please remit proofs to 903-531-1170.
We are expecting to have our ceremony on September 24th.
Please let me know when these will be ready for shipment.

SIDNEY EARL (S.E.) PALMER
1903 -1986

Mr. Palmer, community activist in the St. Louis Community,
worked tirelessly for housing improvements. Supported
integration for TISD and helped create Single Member Voting
Districts.

Thanks,
Heather
Senior Planner
903-531-1174



NOMINATION FORM
HALF MILE OF HISTORY

Section A: Nomination Information

Name of Nominated person, place or event: Sidney Earl (S.E.) Palmer

The nominee is being honored for outstanding contributions in the area(s) of (please check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment/Media	<input type="checkbox"/> Philanthropy
<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Government/Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion
<input type="checkbox"/> Arts and Culture	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science
<input type="checkbox"/> Aviation	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention/Innovation	<input type="checkbox"/> Sports
<input type="checkbox"/> Business/Corporate Leadership	<input type="checkbox"/> Law	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Service	<input type="checkbox"/> Medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil/Gas	

Section B: Nominator's Information

Name of person making nomination: City of Tyler (Brandon Montgomery)

Address: 212 No. Bonner

City: Tyler State: Tx Zip: _____

Daytime telephone: 903.531-7246 Email: _____

Relationship to nominated individual:

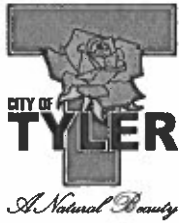
Nominated Individual's year of death: 1986

Section C: Narrative

The narrative section of the application is the most important. It is the primary source of information judges use to make their selection of new inductees. Two (2) typed pages of 12-point type is the maximum acceptable length of the narrative. Any additional material will be referred to only for verification of accuracy of the nomination. No submitted materials will be returned.

The narrative section must contain an explanation of the nominee's enduring contribution that make this person/place/event worthy of the honor. Please describe the impact the nominee has had on the community, county, region, nation and/or world. For Individuals, please include any honors earned by the nominee as well as a list of organizations in which the nominee has been involved. Also, please indicate their educational background as well as the length of time the individual has lived in Smith County. Inclusion of photos is preferred but optional. Do not send original photos. All submitted materials will become property of the City of Tyler and its Historical Preservation Board.

Please submit nominations to:
City of Tyler Historical Preservation Board
Attention: Half Mile of History
P.O. Box 2039
Tyler, Texas 75710



**CITY OF TYLER, TEXAS
CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**



Agenda Number:

Date: April 22 2009

Subject: Request that the City Council consider designating Sidney Earl (S.E.) Palmer as a Half Mile of History recipient.

Page: 1 of 2

Item Reference: Half Mile of History Preservation Program

The Half Mile of History is a cultural and historic landmark program paying tribute to people, places and events that have contributed to the City of Tyler and/or Smith County. The Half Mile of History is a permanent, outdoor walk-around loop that covers an approximate one-half mile stretch of sidewalk surrounding the square in the heart of downtown Tyler. People, places and events chosen for the Half Mile of History are honored with a commemorative plaque placed in the sidewalk.

One of the responsibilities of the Tyler Historical Preservation Board is to recommend people, places and events to be included in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. On April 1, 2009, the Tyler Historical Preservation Board voted unanimously to recommend Sidney Earl Palmer for inclusion in the Half Mile of History Preservation Program. A brief narrative follows:

Sidney Palmer was born and reared on a farm in a remote area of Newton County, Toledo Bend, Texas in 1903. He completed his early education in Toledo Bend, and then moved to Prairie View, Texas to attend high school at the Prairie View Normal Academy. In 1931, he graduated from Prairie View College with a Bachelor's of Science degree in vocational agriculture. In 1947, he graduated from the Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College in Fort Collins, Colorado with Masters Degree in vocational education.

He began his career in teaching in Kendleton and Wortham Texas and in 1938 moved his family to Smith County, specifically the New Hope Community, to teach vocational agriculture at Stanton High School, in the Whitehouse School District.

His first homestead was built in the New Hope community in 1939. Using his acquired knowledge in the field of vocational education, he set forth to make his home as modern as possible for the day. A windmill was installed to provide running water for his home and a generator was built to provide electricity. Mr. Palmer was a community activists, he organized a group of community members to obtain telephone service on a party line for the group; he organized a group to petition the electric company to provide service to the community, and he organized a group to petition the County for better roads in the area.

Agenda Number:

Page: 2 of 2

In 1941, he was employed as one of the three vocational educational supervisors by the Texas Education Agency and held that position until his retirement in 1969.

When he moved his family to Tyler he settled in the St Louis Community near Frankston Highway (State Highway155), just a few blocks from South Vine Street, he was the first homeowner in the area. Again he continued his community activist's ways and worked tirelessly to get water and sewage services for the area.

He worked with citizens in Tyler to help achieve integrated schools in the Tyler Independent School District. He played an instrumental role in the creation of single member Districts 2 and 3 that gave minorities an opportunity and voice in electing the Tyler City Council. He was a member of several organizations including the NAACP, Vocational Educational Association Tyler Organization of Men, Masonic Lodge and Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

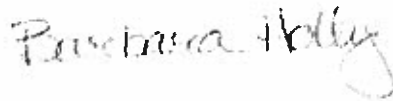
He was a supporter, member, and Deacon of the Bethlehem First Baptist Church in Tyler. He died in 1986, leaving two children, Mauvelyene Palmer Henry of Houston and Sidney Eloyce Palmer Green of Tyler.

On Friday, March 27, 2009, a portion of Frankston Highway (State Highway155) was dedicated as the S.E. Palmer Highway in honor of Mr. Palmer, the community leader.

As a result of Mr. Palmer's lasting contributions to the community of both the City of Tyler and Smith County, the Historical Preservation Board unanimously recommends honoring him as a Half Mile of History recipient.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Tyler Historical Preservation Board, by a unanimous vote, request that the City Council approve the designation of Sidney Earl Palmer as a Half Mile of History recipient.



Drafted/Recommended By: Barbara Holly
Department Leader

Edited/Submitted By:
City Manager

Bernadette Spitz

From: Heather Newman

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2009 11:31 AM

Subject: City to host dedication ceremony for the S.E. Palmer Memorial Highway



CITY OF TYLER COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE
Heather Newman
Marketing/Public Relations Specialist
Office (903) 531-1272
hnewman@tylertexas.com

Media Advisory

March 26, 2009

City to host dedication ceremony for the S.E. Palmer Memorial Highway

What: A portion of SH 155 will be dedicated as the S.E. Palmer Highway in honor of this community leader (background information below).

When: 10:30 a.m., Friday, March 27, 2009

Where: St. Louis Baptist Church
4000 Frankston Hwy
Tyler, TX

Background on Mr. Palmer:

S.E. Palmer was born and reared on a farm in a remote area of Newton County, Toledo Bend, Texas in 1903. He was the fifth sibling of six, born to his parents John and Mary Palmer.

Education was a priority. His father helped organize a school in the community for children to attend. Grades one through eight were taught in the church by one teacher. S.E.'s parents saw to it that the teacher boarded in their household during the school year. The knowledge that he acquired at school continued at home during the teacher's stay. He completed his early education in Toledo Bend, and then moved to Prairie View, Texas to attend the academy.

Mr. Palmer completed his high school education at Prairie View Normal Academy. After obtaining his high school degree, he entered Prairie View College (Prairie View A&M) and graduated in 1931 with a B.S. degree in vocational agriculture.

He started his teaching career in Kendleton, Texas as principal of the Pilot Point Colored High School.

Two years later he became principal of the Colored High School in Wortham, Texas. In 1938, he moved his family to Smith County, New Hope Community, to teach vocational agriculture at Stanton High School, Whitehouse School District.

His first homestead was built in the New Hope Community in 1939. Using his acquired knowledge in the field of vocational education, he set forth to make his home and surroundings as modern as possible in that day. A windmill was installed to provide running water for his home and a generator was built to provide electricity.

He was a person who always tried to help others in the community. Mr. Palmer organized a group of community members to obtain telephone service on a party line for the group. Electricity was not a common utility during this time; never the less he organized a group of citizens to petition the electric company to provide service to the community.

On rainy days, travel on county roads would almost come to a standstill. Again, he organized the community and petitioned the County to improve the roads in the area.

In 1941, he was employed as one of the three vocational education supervisors by the Texas Education Agency and held this position until his retirement in 1969.

He graduated from Colorado Agricultural & Mechanical College (Colorado State University) Fort Collins, with a MS degree in vocational education in 1947.

He was the first to build his home on the newly undeveloped Frankston Highway 155. This area, a few blocks from South Vine, only had electricity as a public utility. Other City services did not exist for this neighborhood and the St. Louis Community. Mr. Palmer worked with the citizens to get water and sewage services.

Mr. Palmer also worked with citizens in Tyler to help achieve integrated schools in the Tyler Independent School District.

Minority representation was not evident at any level of City or County government at this time. Mr. Palmer felt that as citizens, minorities needed a voice in how they were governed. He played an instrumental role in the creation of single member Districts 2 and 3 which allowed minorities the opportunity to be elected to the Tyler City Council.

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**Biography
of**

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1903 - 1986**

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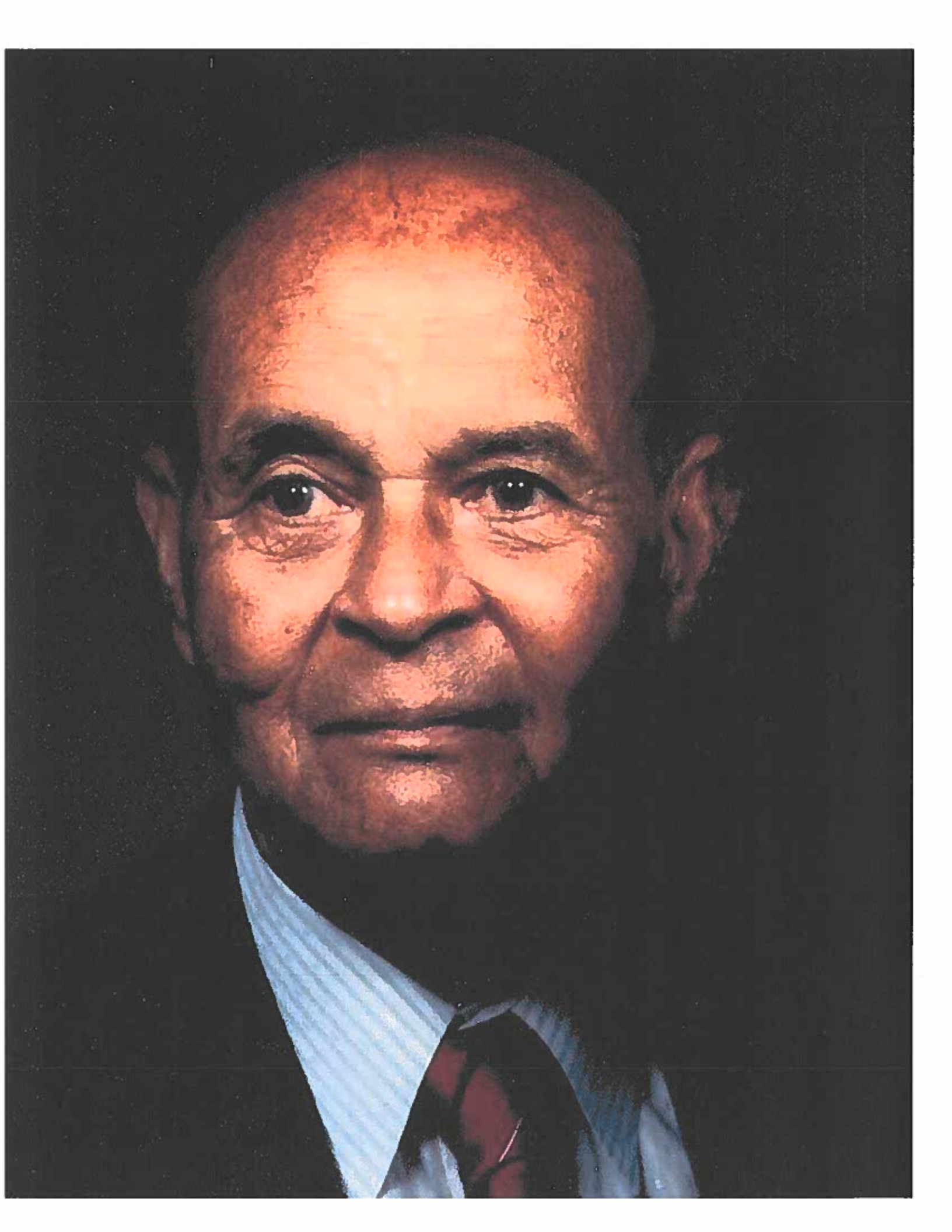
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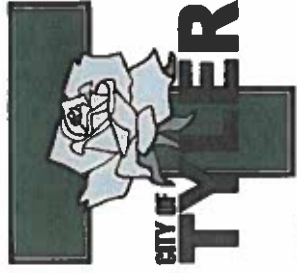
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A National Beauty

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S.E. Palmer Highway 155 Dedication Event



March 27, 2009