

Obituary



Robert Tapscott was one of thirteen children born to John W. and Annie M. Tapscott. Whether as a singer, golfer, church leader, or businessman, "Tap" as he was affectionately known was a true renaissance man long before that phrase was coined.

Robert Tapscott graduated from Phyllis Wheatley high school in 1948. He attended and later graduated from Tennessee State University. Following his graduation, Tap dedicated his talents to helping 5th ward students in Houston at the Julia C. Hester House where he served as athletic director. Hester House later named their pool as the "**Robert Tapscott Aquatic Center**" in honor of his service. In 1963 he became the first black parole officer in the State of Texas. Following a series of promotions, he became Director of Parole Supervision with the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles. Under his leadership and directorship, Texas became noted as the top parole system in the United States.

His singing talents first became apparent when he was a boy soprano singing solos in many childhood choirs. At Tennessee State he was not only a noted singer, but also a Drum Major known for his strut. As his extraordinary voice mellowed, people all over the United States marveled at his rich bass tones. For example, Tap was noted for singing a truly memorable rendition of "Old Man River" at Carnegie Hall. As he continued in demand, Tap often sang at fraternity meetings where he enjoyed the fellowship of the fraternal brothers of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. for more than 64 years. One thing is clear, those that had the pleasure of hearing Tap will attest to his unique musical talents.

When Tapscott moved to Austin his teams routinely won local golf tournaments as he used his signature bright pink ball to become recognized as a masterful putter. Once in Austin, Tap was introduced to the Austin music scene through a chance encounter with another great Austin musician, Geneva Rawlins when he went to hear her well-known house band called "Geneva and the Gentlemen" sing at a local venue. Never bashful, Tapscott introduced himself to Geneva and in a scene right out of a musical, joined them in singing several impromptu tunes to the grateful crowd lucky enough to have selected that night to attend.

Loyal to the end, Tap was married for 65 years to his college sweetheart Margaret. Each year they would many spend many days in the Spring watching the girl's state championship games as a way of honoring his dear Margaret's legacy as an All State girls' basketball player.

Robert Tapscott was a former long term member of the Finance committee for Wesley UMC church and also a valued member of the Wesley Intergenerational Choir. He closed every Wesley Christmas Eve service by singing his own unique version of "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas". In his final days, the lyric of "faithful friends who are dear to us gather near to us once more" could not have been more appropriate as he was visited by many of the people whose lives he had touched.

Preceding him in death are his parents John Wesley Tapscott and Annie Mae (Smallwood) Tapscott. Siblings Carl Mack, Johnnie Mae Harrison, Maxine Tapscott, Ruth Cotton, Marian Regis and Norman Tapscott.

He leaves to cherish his memory his wife Margaret Tapscott, two sons Robert Tapscott II (Sandra), Jonathan Tapscott (Yvonne) and one daughter Jacqueline Tapscott McAfee. Two Godsons Gregory Maxwell and Shannon Lewis. Three brothers James Tapscott (Connie), Richard Tapscott (Carolyn) and John Tapscott. One sister Doris McWashington. Ten grandchildren, fourteen great grandchildren, one great great grand daughter, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Order of Celebration

Pre-Praise Wesley UMC Music Ministry

Processional and Final Viewing Clergy, Bearers and Family

Old Testament Rev. Dr. Joseph C. Parker, Jr., Esq.
Pastor of David Chapel Baptist Church, Austin, TX

New Testament Rev. Rosie Johnson
Wesley UMC

Hymn of Assurance "Blessed Assurance"

Prayer Rev. Dr. Freddie Dixon, Sr.
Wesley UMC

Music of Praise Wesley UMC Music Ministry

Church Resolution Sis. Bette Washington
(All others passed in for acknowledgement)

Special Remarks:
State Representative – Mr. Harold Dutton
Phyllis Wheatley Class of 1948 – Mr. Newton Hinton
Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. – Mr. Eric Willis
Longtime neighbor – Mr. Norris Carr
Best friend – Mr. Henry Johnson
Wesley Music Ministry – Mr. Leonard Woods
Eldest Son – Mr. Robert Tapscott II

Family Tribute In Song Ms. Valerie McWashington

Organ Melody Mr. Barry Franklin

Eulogy Pastor Sylvester Chase, Jr.

Music of Testimony "For Every Mountain"

Fraternity Omega Psi Fraternity Memorial Service

Christian Committal Service

Recessional



...My endless love.

A Glimpse Into Robert Tapscott's Life



Casket Bearers

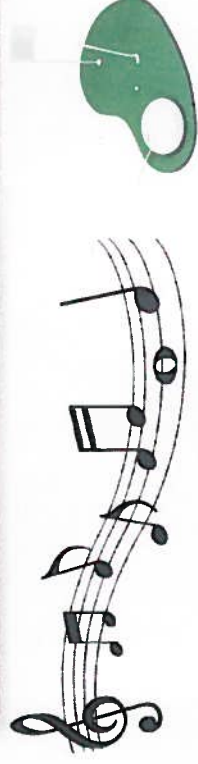
- I will sing halcyon*
- Kenni Tapscott
 - Lionel Smith
 - Kenny Smith
 - Gregory Maxwell
 - Shannon Lewis
 - Glen Wilson
 - Charlie Hill
 - Bennie Bowser, Jr.

Acknowledgement

Acknowledgement

The family would like to thank the following for the Compassionate care they gave:

- Dr. Jeffrey James & Staff
- Dr. Richard Helmer, II & Staff
- Dr. Jack Moncriel & Staff
- Dr. Gordon White & Staff
- Seton Hospital Staff – ICU/IMC



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Barry J. W. Franklin CFSP

"An Independent Professional Establishment Providing Services That Are Meaningful, Appropriate and Affordable"

**Celebrating The Life
Of**

Mr. Robert Tapscott



Saturday, March 12, 2016
11:00 a.m.

Wesley United Methodist Church
1160 San Bernard Street
Austin, Texas 78702

Rev. Sylvester E. Chase, Jr., Pastor