




*Sunrise*  
JANUARY 18, 1939

*Sunset*  
NOVEMBER 14, 2021

CELEBRATING  
THE LIFE  
AND  
LEGACY  
OF

DR.  
*Richard*  
KEVIN  
*Dozier*

December 3, 2021  
12:00 Noon

  
The Old West Florida Enrichment Center  
2344 Lake Bradford Road  
Tallahassee, FL 32310



# Obituary

Dr. Richard Kevin Dozier, PhD, AIA departed this life on Sunday, November 14, 2021, in Tallahassee, Florida after losing a brief battle with pneumonia. He was born on January 18, 1939, to Wilbur Clarence and Carol Maunee (Smitherman) Dozier of Buffalo, New York, the second of five children born to this union.

Richard attended Public Schools 12 and 8, then East High School in Buffalo, before dropping out to 'see the world' by joining the U.S. Navy in 1956. He served as a Radarman, attaining the rank of Petty Officer Second Class before completing his enlistment at Naval Station San Diego in 1960. After leaving the Navy, he worked as a lineman and then a technician, for Bell Telephone, while taking night classes at Los Angeles Technical College. Here he found his calling and decided to pursue a career in architecture. He earned a degree and worked for a time in Los Angeles, before relocating to Royal Oak Township near Detroit, accepting a position with a small architectural firm there. Richard honed his skills rapidly and as a standout young architect, began looking for more education and opportunity. He was one of a talented group of young Black architects recruited to attend a ground-breaking program at Yale University, designed to increase diversity within the field of architecture.

Yale proved no real challenge to young Richard, as he not only successfully completed the special program, earning his Master's in Architecture, but then remained to teach at Yale for several years as an Assistant Professor. While at Yale, he developed a love of the history of architecture and more importantly, the history of the few Blacks in architecture. This interest sharpened his focus and directed his path toward Historically Black Universities (HBCU's) which eventually led to Tuskegee Institute where he became the Chair of the Architectural Program.

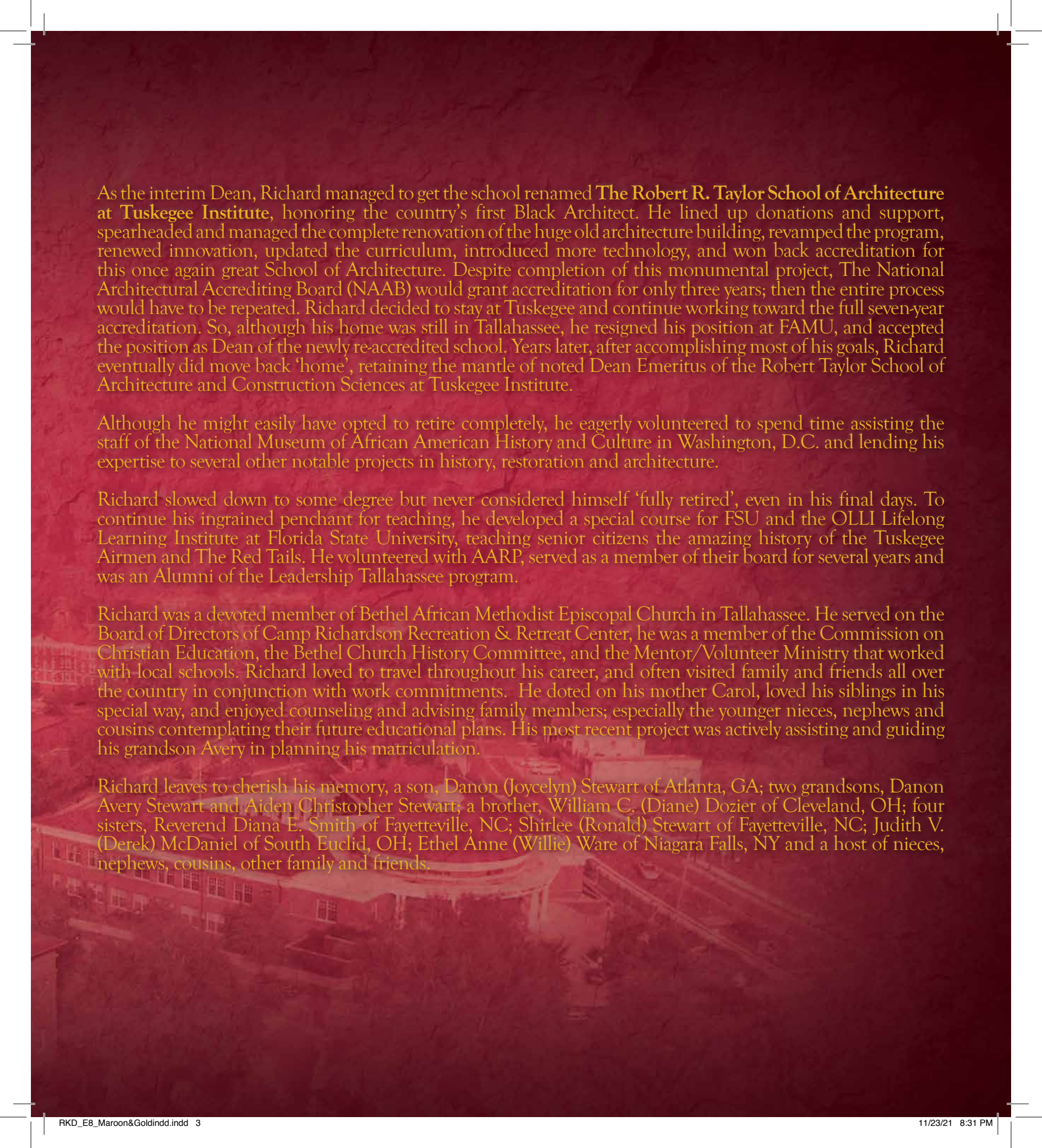
While at Tuskegee, Richard taught classes for many years, expanded his interest in history, immersed himself in the salvage and restoration of historically significant buildings, and developed into an accomplished professor. To bolster his expertise, he took a year off to study restoration techniques under the masters in Rome and traveled to several countries in Africa. Upon his return, he completed his dissertation at the University of Michigan and received his doctorate in Architecture. Armed with his PhD, Dr. Dozier moved on to Morgan State University, accepting a full professorship and guiding the school to their first ever NAAB accreditation. For many years he traveled throughout the South, researching, documenting, photographing, and cataloging nearly every church or other significant building by Black architects in cities large and small. It was during this time that Richard built, developed, and toured with, a highly regarded exhibit for the National Smithsonian Institute.

His impeccable resume and talents drew attention from all corners of academia, and he was sought out by Florida A & M University and came to Tallahassee as a full professor and Associate Dean of Architecture. He continued his work and studies in history and restoration, teaching, lecturing, presenting, and accepting accolades and awards across our broad country.

Richard loved teaching at FAMU, invigorated by the ability to mentor and challenge young architects, contribute to numerous amazing projects of restoration and reclamation of our Black History, and no doubt would have remained there, but for the challenge of a lifetime.

The venerable Tuskegee Institute's Architecture Program had somehow lost their accreditation and was in danger of losing the entire program if something wasn't done quickly. They needed, and searched for, a consummate professional architect and educator with the ability to turn the program around literally overnight. With considerable effort and not so subtle pressure, they succeeded both in convincing Dr. Dozier to take on the challenge, and convincing FAMU to allow him a sabbatical to do the job.





As the interim Dean, Richard managed to get the school renamed **The Robert R. Taylor School of Architecture at Tuskegee Institute**, honoring the country's first Black Architect. He lined up donations and support, spearheaded and managed the complete renovation of the huge old architecture building, revamped the program, renewed innovation, updated the curriculum, introduced more technology, and won back accreditation for this once again great School of Architecture. Despite completion of this monumental project, The National Architectural Accrediting Board (NAAB) would grant accreditation for only three years; then the entire process would have to be repeated. Richard decided to stay at Tuskegee and continue working toward the full seven-year accreditation. So, although his home was still in Tallahassee, he resigned his position at FAMU, and accepted the position as Dean of the newly re-accredited school. Years later, after accomplishing most of his goals, Richard eventually did move back 'home', retaining the mantle of noted Dean Emeritus of the Robert Taylor School of Architecture and Construction Sciences at Tuskegee Institute.

Although he might easily have opted to retire completely, he eagerly volunteered to spend time assisting the staff of the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. and lending his expertise to several other notable projects in history, restoration and architecture.

Richard slowed down to some degree but never considered himself 'fully retired', even in his final days. To continue his ingrained penchant for teaching, he developed a special course for FSU and the OLLI Lifelong Learning Institute at Florida State University, teaching senior citizens the amazing history of the Tuskegee Airmen and The Red Tails. He volunteered with AARP, served as a member of their board for several years and was an Alumni of the Leadership Tallahassee program.

Richard was a devoted member of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Tallahassee. He served on the Board of Directors of Camp Richardson Recreation & Retreat Center, he was a member of the Commission on Christian Education, the Bethel Church History Committee, and the Mentor/Volunteer Ministry that worked with local schools. Richard loved to travel throughout his career, and often visited family and friends all over the country in conjunction with work commitments. He doted on his mother Carol, loved his siblings in his special way, and enjoyed counseling and advising family members; especially the younger nieces, nephews and cousins contemplating their future educational plans. His most recent project was actively assisting and guiding his grandson Avery in planning his matriculation.

Richard leaves to cherish his memory, a son, Danon (Joycelyn) Stewart of Atlanta, GA; two grandsons, Danon Avery Stewart and Aiden Christopher Stewart; a brother, William C. (Diane) Dozier of Cleveland, OH; four sisters, Reverend Diana E. Smith of Fayetteville, NC; Shirlee (Ronald) Stewart of Fayetteville, NC; Judith V. (Derek) McDaniel of South Euclid, OH; Ethel Anne (Willie) Ware of Niagara Falls, NY and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, other family and friends.



# *Mother to Son*

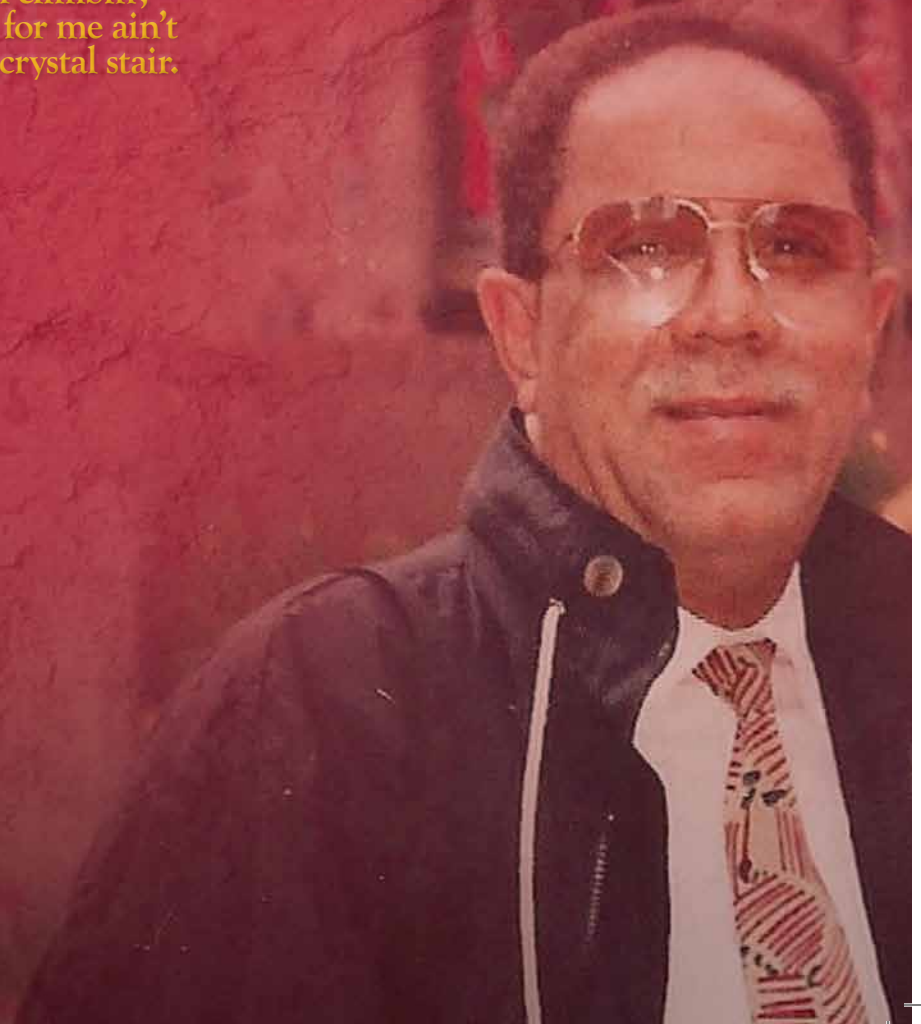
by Langston Hughes



Well, son, I'll tell you:  
Life for me ain't been no crystal stair.  
It's had tacks in it,  
And splinters,  
And boards torn up,  
And places with no carpet on the floor—  
Bare.

But all the time  
I've been a-climbin' on,  
And reachin' landin's,  
And turnin' corners,  
And sometimes goin' in the dark  
Where there ain't been no light.  
So boy, don't you turn back.  
Don't you set down on the steps  
'Cause you finds it's kinder hard.

Don't you fall now—  
For I've still goin', honey,  
I've still climbin',  
And life for me ain't  
been no crystal stair.







# *Service of Celebration*

Prelude

Processional

Prayer..... Reverend Tracey A. Sneed  
Niece

Musical Selection..... Carl McBride

Scripture Reading..... Reverend Tracey A. Sneed  
Niece

Words of Expression/Reflections

Please keep remarks brief (3 minutes or less)

Resolutions..... Rodner B. Wright  
Dean, FAMU School of Architecture and Engineering Technology

Acknowledgements..... Yolanda S. Dillard  
Niece

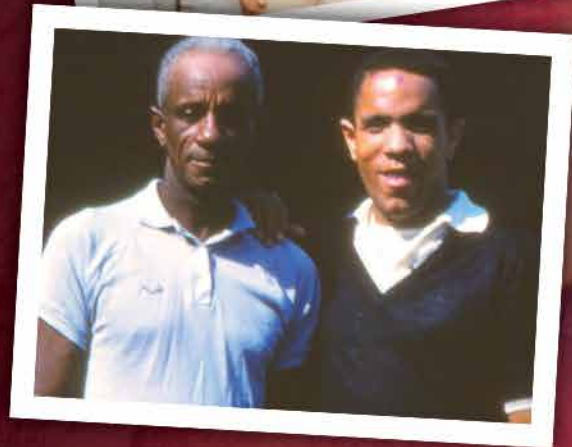
Musical Selection..... Carl McBride

Eulogy..... William C. Dozier  
Brother

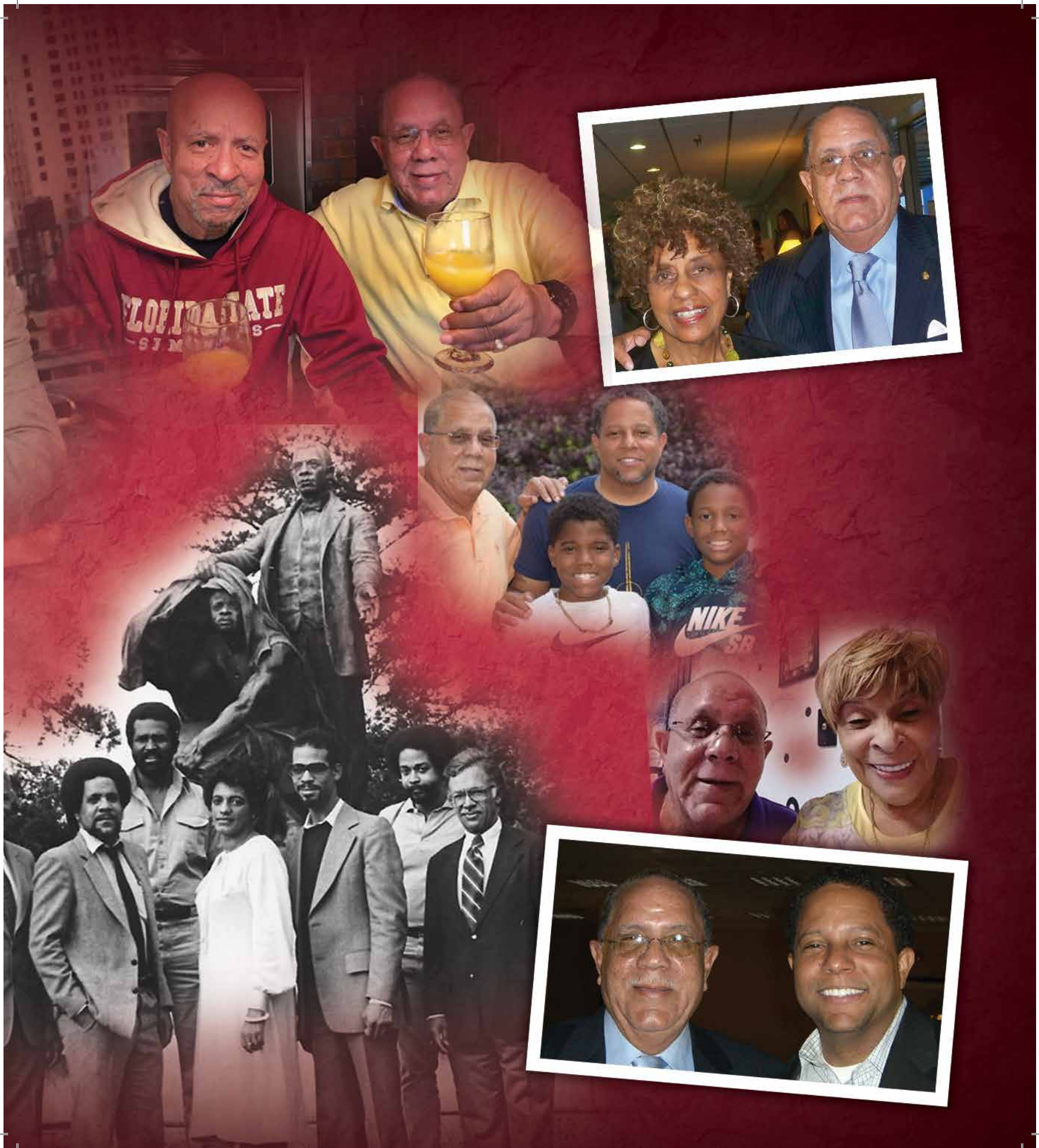
Recessional

DR.  
*Richard*  
KEVIN  
*Dozier*











## *Acknowledgements*

The family of Dr. Richard Dozier lovingly appreciates your prayers, calls and all expressions of love shown to each of us during our time of bereavement. A special thanks to Jaworski and Anitra Vance and Otis and Karen Kirksey for their tireless acts of kindness, love, support and so much more.

## *Active Pallbearers*

Aiden C. Stewart  
Cliff O. Gisemba  
Michael M. Young

Avery Stewart  
Derek A. McDaniel  
Terence Smith

## *Honorary Pallbearers*

Dana Embrose  
Kevin Young  
Omar Walton  
Richard Kevin Stewart  
Ronald Stewart

Danon Stewart  
Korliss Dillard  
Otis Kirksey  
Robert A. Sneed III  
William Dozier

## *Final Resting Place*

Tallahassee National Cemetery  
Tallahassee, Florida

## *Professional Care and Services Entrusted To:*

Tillman Funeral Home of Tallahassee  
4006 Crawfordville Road  
Tallahassee, Florida

SCAN THE Q R CODE  
TO VIEW THE PROGRAM

  
*Memorial*  
KEEPSAKES

