



Dr. Henry E. Cheaney

July 1, 1912 - July 18, 2006

Dr. Henry Ellis Cheaney

Frankfort- Services for Dr. Henry Ellis Cheaney, 94, of Cold Harbor Dr., will be held at 11:00 a.m. Monday at First Baptist Church, 100 W. Clinton St.

He died Tuesday at Frankfort Regional Medical Center, following an illness. Burial will be in Fernwood Cemetery, Henderson Co.

He was born July 1, 1912, in Henderson Co. He was the son of Steven Ellis Cheaney and Mrs. Magnolia Radford McGuire and was married to the former Ora Mae Williams, a graduate of Kentucky State University, Indiana University, a registered dietician and at the time of her retirement was a Professor in the Department of Home Economics at Kentucky State University. After graduating from Douglas High School and attending the West Kentucky Industrial College in Paducah, he matriculated at Kentucky State Industrial College, today know as Kentucky State University where he distinguished himself in both academics and athletics.

After completing his Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1936, he was invited to join the faculty at his Alma Mater. He remained on the faculty of Kentucky State University until his retirement at the end of 1981-1982 academic year. He earned the Master of Arts Degree in History from the University of Michigan,

and the Doctor of Philosophy in History from the University of Chicago. He also earned four Honorary Degrees from Kentucky State University and Berea College. He also served his country in the United States Navy during World War II.

Although his official title at Kentucky State was Professor of History, during his long tenure he served in many other capacities: coach of the college debate team, coach of the college boxing team, director of college publicity, supervisor of the college YMCA, college alumni agent and college chaplain. He also served as a visiting professor in the graduate schools of the University of Kentucky and Eastern Kentucky University.

Dr. Cheaney was a noted writer, researcher and author. He co-authored Kentucky's Black Heritage, a text used in the public schools of Kentucky; and authored an article on Kentucky in the Encyclopedia International. He was one of two professors selected by the Kentucky Historical Society to write the complete history of Blacks in the State of Kentucky from the beginning to the present.

He held memberships in the following selected organizations: American Historical Association, Southern Historical Association, Association for the Study of Afro-American Life and History, American Association of University professors, Honorable Order of Kentucky Colonels, Kentucky Historical Society, Kentucky Association of Teachers of History. He was an active member of First Baptist Church in Frankfort where he has served as a Sunday School teacher and church officer.

He received numerous awards and citations from educational, fraternal and civic groups, including but not limited to, KSU Student Government Association, KSU Alumni Association, KSU Athletic Committee, KSU African Study Group, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and Gamma Sigma Sigma Service

Sorority.

Dr. Cheaney was presented the A. Phillip Randolph Humanitarian Award, that organization's highest honor. A special Award of Merit was presented by the two chapters of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity in which he served as a charter member. He was awarded the KSU Distinguished Service Award from Kentucky State University.

Dr. Cheaney has been described by his students who have become professors, lawyers and government officials as a "living legend," "deserving of every superlative, and simply "the best teacher anytime and anywhere."

Dr. Cheaney is survived by his wife, Mrs. Ora-Mae Williams Cheaney, Frankfort; two sisters, Sue Ellen Tucker, Lima, OH; and Hazel Edgerson, Henderson, KY; and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

Rev. K.L. Moore will officiate.

Pallbearers will be family and friends.

Friends may call Monday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service at the church.

Harrod Brothers Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements.

Online condolences may be made at www.harrodbrothersfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Henry E. Cheaney*

October 06, 2023 at 03:15 PM



“ *To the Family:
I am so sorry to hear of your lost. I moved to Atlanta about 18 years ago, but was touched by Dr. Cheaney my younger years in growing up in Frankfort. He will be deeply missed. My prayers and love are with you.*

Sincerely, Kym "Hall" Spencer

KYMBERLY "HALL" SPENCER - May 29, 2007 at 11:55 PM



“ *Thinking of you. Your family is in my thoughts and prayers.*

Garey

Garey M. Pennington - August 02, 2006 at 01:12 PM

JS

“ Dear Ora Mae Cheaney & family,

I wish to extend my deeply felt sympathy and share the sadness of our loss of Dr. Cheaney. I regret that I am unable to be present to personally communicate my feelings of care and concern.

I will miss him more than I probably even know at this point. He has been a beacon of light in my life since I was a child. His guidance and inspiration was truly heaven sent. He remains forever a part of my heart and my soul.

May God's support and blessings be with you through this difficult time and throughout the days to come.

I love you all,

Jerome K. Saunders

Jerome K. Saunders - July 26, 2006 at 05:00 PM

DB

“ *I first remember meeting Dr. Cheaney in the Fall of 1966 when I enrolled as a freshman. He taught history, and I met Mrs. Cheaney in my major classes. She taught Home Economics.*

I saw a lot of both of them, and I remember telling my mom about this pair. They were both very thorough with their classes. Mom didn

Dr. Rebecca Buckner - July 25, 2006 at 08:18 PM

MS

“ *I had Dr. Cheaney for history back in the 1970's. He was a fantastic teacher and a great man. My life is better because my path crossed with his.*

Matt Shuy - July 23, 2006 at 09:07 PM

WC

“ I take this opportunity to express my condolences and sympathy to the family, friends, and associates of Dr. Henry E. Cheaney. I first became acquainted with Dr. Cheaney in 1969 when the University Press of Kentucky was established and thereafter during the many years that he served on the Press's Editorial Board representing Kentucky State University. He was, I believe, that university's original Board member. He was during his years of service a strong supporter of the Press and an active participant on the Board. Those who served with him appreciated and respected his wise counsel and advice on matters that came before the Board. We on the staff of the Press were grateful for his contributions to the establishment of the new statewide press and for his continued participation on behalf of his university. It was, indeed, a privilege to have known and worked with him. But his legacy speaks better for him than any tributes we may offer.

Sincerely,

Wm. Jerome Crouch

Editor-in-chief emeritus

University Press of Kentucky

Wm. Jerome Crouch - July 22, 2006 at 11:06 PM

JD

“ The Dixon family is very sadden at the passing of Dr. Cheaney, he was a lifelong friend to our father, William Dixon and his family. He will be greatly missed. Our prays are with Mrs. Cheaney and family.

James & Patricia Dixon - July 22, 2006 at 11:56 AM

RV

“ *To: The Cheaney & Edgerson Family:*

May God Be With You and The Family: My God Will See You Through this Time Of Saddness. May Your Faith Comfort You During This Difficult Time. In Heartfelt Sympathy:

Randall Vincent Family & Reginald Vincent Family

Randall Vincent - July 21, 2006 at 11:39 PM

DB

“ *Dr. Cheaney was a good, kind man. I met him and Mrs. Cheaney when I worked at Capital Camera. They impressed me with their love of life, humor, and love of people. I hope God will give Mrs. Cheaney the strength she needs in this trying time.*

David W. Bryan - July 21, 2006 at 04:54 PM

DD

“ *Dr. Cheaney was the absolute best instructor I ever encountered, as well as a beloved friend of the William E. Dixon family. He will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. My sincere condolences to the family.*

Donna Dixon-Robards

Donna Dixon-Robards - July 21, 2006 at 04:50 PM

LG

“ I attended Kentucky State University in the early 1980's, and graduated with a BA in Social Work. During my time at the institution of higher learning, Dr. Cheaney was a "legend". Dr. Cheaney was extremely intelligent, bright, curious, well spoken, and a super nice gentleman. He always spoke, and had a very caring smile in one's presence....I was sad to hear of his passing. As we know "LIFE IS SHORT". THEY SAY IT TAKES A MINUTE TO FIND A SPECIAL PERSON, AND HOUR TO APPRECIATE THEM, A DAY TO LOVE THEM, BUT THEN AN ENTIRE LIFE TO FORGET THEM.....DR. CHEANEY WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED...MAY GOD BLESS THE LOVE ONE'S LEFT BEHIND THAT IS SADDEN BY HIS PASSING.

Lynn C. Giles - July 21, 2006 at 04:08 PM

DH

“ I am saddened to hear of the passing of my fraternal brother, Honorable Dr. Cheaney. Dr. Cheaney was a charter member of our illustrious fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma, at KSU. I had the opportunity to meet Dr. Cheaney in 1991 at KSU, and I was humbled by that experience. I am forever grateful to him for his contributions to Phi Beta Sigma so that, "Our cause speeds on its way!" Fraternally, Bro., Dr. Art Hayden, Xi Lambda Alumni, 1991.

Dr. Art Hayden - July 21, 2006 at 02:56 PM

MB

“ *To the family of Dr. Cheaney:
May God be with you during this time of sorrow. Earth has no
sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.*

*Love,
Mary Lucille (Bush) Baskette
4805 E Indian Trail
Louisville, KY 40218-3815
(502)459-4906*

Mary Lucille (Bush) Baskette - July 21, 2006 at 08:14 AM

JP

“ *My heartfelt sympathy is extended to the family of the late Dr. Henry
E. Cheaney. As a former student at Kentucky State University, it
meant so much to me for him to welcome me to Kentucky State
University's campus. He made a difference to the students.
Kentucky State University indeed had a "true" professor. I know we
will miss him, but look to God for strength. It is only good night for
now, we will see you in the morning. Until then, walk together, don't
you get weary, for soon and very soon we are going to see the King.
Judith La Rone Perkins, Jeffersontown, Ky. 40299*

Judith La Rone Perkins - July 21, 2006 at 07:16 AM