

RELIGION

Pioneering Business Leader Dead at 78 Son of a slave leaves legacy as local African American mentor

A memorial service will be held Saturday, Oct. 19 at 1 p.m. in Room 327 of the Smith Memorial Center at Portland State University for David M. Nero Jr., who died at his home in Portland on Sept. 17. He was 78.

Mr. Nero was born in 1924 on the family's cotton farm in Greenwood, Miss. The farm had been in his family since the Civil War. He often noted he "was the son of a slave and the grandson of a slave."

He served in North Africa and Italy during World War II as an infantry enlisted man in the segregated 10th Cavalry. After the war, he attended Officer Candidate School and served in Korea as a Captain in the U.S. Army Engineers Infantry and Transportation Corps, where he became one of the first African American officers to command integrated troops.

During his service in the military he was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, two Bronze

Stars and the Soldier's Medal for Heroism. He left the military as a Major.

Mr. Nero held a Master of Arts degree in Speech and Communication from Columbia College of Chicago. He did graduate studies in Business Administration at Los Angeles State College and California Coast University. He studied Torts, Criminal and Contract Law at Van Norman University College of Law. From 1972 to 1974 he was Assistant Professor in the School of Business and Technology at Oregon State University in Corvallis. From 1989 to 1991 he was a director of the Portland State University Foundation and remained an advisor to the Black Studies Department at PSU.

In 1970, he founded Nero and Associates, Inc. (NAI) a management and research consulting firm. In 1973, Mr. Nero became the first African Ameri-

can to be named "Oregon's Small Businessman of the Year."

Mr. Nero pointed to 1980 as the "break through" year when he took advantage of a Reagan administration program giving private companies opportunities to operate and maintain government installations. In January 1981, the company was awarded a \$4 million one-year contract to operate and maintain electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, and boiler systems, security and procurement at Air Force Plant 42 in Palmdale, Calif. with two option years. The Air Force exercised those options and in 1984 renewed the contract for five years.

The company remained a wholly owned minority firm and under Mr. Nero's guidance grew to over \$17 million in annual sales with over 400 employees with offices in 18 states. The business managed contracts with the U.S. Army proving ground in Yuma, Ariz., and numerous environmental studies for private companies and federal, state and local governments.

He derived great satisfaction from expanding opportunities for young people of all ethnic backgrounds. In an effort to get young



David M. Nero Jr. was an Oregon Small Businessman of the Year.

African Americans interested in the arts he would regularly take 10 or so northeast Portland youths to the symphony or the Portland Art Museum. He was a firm believer that role models were necessary to inspire young African Americans and enjoyed sharing his success with young people.

Mr. Nero was active in the community serving on the board of Oregon Citizens Concerned with Excellence in Education, the Urban League, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, the

Opera Society, NAACP, Republican Senatorial Inner Circle, World Affairs Council of Oregon and Republican National Committee. He was a director of the Sickle Cell Anemia Association, the National Alliance of Black School Educators and the Willamette United Way. He was a Regional Director, Office of Federal Contract Compliance for Region 10.

He is survived by his wife, Beverly, four sons, a daughter, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Namechange He Is Who He Is

(AP)— A man who wanted to change his name to God chose a new name when a Florida judge turned down his request.

The former Charles Haffey's new name is I Am who I Am.

The former Haffey said after his first choice was rejected in April, he went to the Bible to find a backup. He drew on a passage where Moses asks God who he is and hears: "I am who I am or I will be who I will be."

"That's kind of wordy, so I'm just going for 'I Am Who I Am' as my full legal name," he said. "My first name, of course, would be 'I Am.'"

The 55-year-old said he sought the name change as a way to gain release from feelings of anxiety and rage that have plagued him since he served in Vietnam.

Who I Am said he became a Christian and was baptized in April. It was shortly after that when he decided to change everything, beginning with his name.

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Muslim Insight Offered at Ethics Event

Abdulaziz Sachedina, Ph.D., a professor of religions studies at the University of Virginia, headlined the Providence Center for Health Care Ethics' Visiting Scholar and Interfaith Speaker Series on Monday, Oct. 7 at the University of Portland. Sachedina is an accomplished researcher and writer on Islamic biomedical ethics. He hosted meetings with healthcare professionals and hospital staff about serving Muslim patients, preparing for cultural and religious sensitivities, Muslim clinical ethics, Islamic directives on patient care and on understanding the human suffering associated with the death and dying in Islam.



St. Charles to Host Spaghetti Dinner

Authentic Italian recipes are on the menu for a spaghetti and meatball dinner to be held Sunday, Nov. 3 at St. Charles Church from noon to 6:30 p.m. The church, located at 42nd and N.E. Emerson will offer dinner plates for \$8 for adults and \$4 for children. Take-out trays are available.

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o b i t u a r i e s

DON LEE JONES—A homegoing celebration will be held Thursday, Oct. 17 at noon at Daniel Memorial Church of God in Christ, 1234 N.E. Killingsworth, for Don Lee Jones, 66, who died Oct. 11, 2002 at Care Center Nursing Home. He was a life long caregiver as he was a faithful and dedicated member of Daniel Memorial COGIC. Survivors include his mother, Della Shorter; cousins, Sam and Doris Gullledge, Francis Hampton and Pat Obie of Pasadena, Calif., Elmo and Hattie Shorter, of Arkansas, Gary Shorter of Illinois and Aunt Dot of Portland; lifelong brothers and friends, Rev. Harry Daniel Jr. and Arthur Richardson; the Daniel Memorial COGIC family and a host of friends.

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Sunday School: 9:45 AM
Morning Worship: 11 AM
Evening Worship: 6 PM
Wednesday
Family Training Hour, 7PM

Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve.

Joshua 24:15

gospelspots.com

R.J. TACKER—A memorial service was held Tuesday, Oct. 15 in Willamette National Cemetery for R.J. Tacker who died Oct. 7, 2002 at age 72.

Mr. Tacker was born April 11, 1930, in College Station, Ark. He served in the Navy. He moved to Portland in the 1950s. He was a retired welder in shipbuilding for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. In 1990, he married Mary Glass.

Survivors include his wife; daughters, Naomi and Ari; stepsons, Mark Williams and Albert Williams; sisters, Margaret Teasley, Mary Cox and Theresa Lowe; brother, Delmar; and seven grandchildren.