## Coast Industries Founder Remembered

## Local entrepreneur grew national business

Henry Daniel Scott Jr., a local entrepreneur who grew a business into a national company with 300 employees, is being remembered after his death at the age of 80. Funeral services were held Nov. 28 at Bethel AME Church in northeast Portland.

He was born in Vidalia, La. on April 1, 1925, the second of nine children to Henry D. Scott Sr. and Mary Dickson Scott. A son of a Louisiana sharecropper, his humble beginnings instilled the will to get ahead, to strive for success and to provide for his family.

In 1944, he took advantage of an opportunity to relocate to Portland to build a better future. After World Consolidated Freightways.

Scott met Bernice Merriweather with his older brother Manuel. in 1949 after she moved to Portland 1951. To this union three children the active participation of his fam-



Henry D. Scott Jr.

by working in the Kaiser shipyards and a friend started a part-time janibuilding Navy ships. He encourtorial service in order to earn extra aged his parents, five brothers and income. "One eight hour job was three sisters to relocate to Portland never enough for me," he once said.

In 1957, he and his wife officially War II ended and the shipyard launched Coast Janitorial Service. closed, he worked as a mechanic for As the business grew other family members joined the firm, beginning

Coast Janitorial Service grew from Texas. They were married in into a successful business due to ily members combined with his While working his day job, he business philosophies of "nothto spend less than you earn." employees nationally.

In 1990, the Oregon Economic By 1970, the company achieved \$1 million in annual sales and ac- Development Department praised quired Empire Security Services the firm as "a unique model of black as its second operational divi- entrepreneurship in a highly comsion. In 1987, the company was petitive industry. In addition to his business enincorporated as Coast Industries,

deavors, Scott was a member of the Under his leadership, the janito- NAACP, the Urban League and rial service was transformed into Bethel AME Church. His favorite one of Oregon's largest minority- recreational activity was boating

bia and Willamette rivers.

former Portland Mayor Bud Clark proclaimed May 14, 1990 as "Henry and Manuel Scott Appreciation

He was preceded in death by his parents and wife; brothers Manuel and Albert Sr.; and sis- bers and friends.

He is survived by brothers H.B. He received many awards and Scott, Samuel Scott and Terry recognition on behalf of Coast In- Scott; sisters: Bernice Noble (James dustries. Upon his retirement, Noble), Ethel Love, Shirley McCoy; sister-in-law Elnetta Scott (Albert Scott Sr.); children Bernadette (Baruti) Artharee, Jerome Scott, Robert Scott and Doug Scott; 5 grandchildren; 3 great-grandchildren; and many other family mem-

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#### Local woman worked for success

three children born to Arthur A. and worked at Emanuel Hospital, Cox Sr. and Etoile Hicks-Cox.

Charlene was quite the business- dence. woman. Throughout her life she interacted with various jobs and

In the state of Oregon, in earlier years, it was very hard to get any type of professional license for African Americans. When Charlene followed in her mother's footsteps by becoming a beautician, she left Oregon to attend beauty school in California. When she returned to the state to take an apprenticeship with her mother, a licensed beautician already operating under a compromise license, special arrangement were made for her examination on the site of her mother's beauty shop.

She was once offered a position in Hollywood as an actress for the part in which turned it down and let them know

that her first priority was her son. She was all about family and everyone who knew her will tell you

Throughout her own career as a beautician, Charlene solely oper- Jr. and husband Willie Tanner. ated seven beauty shops. Four of them were on Union Avenue, now Jerome Cox-Tanner (Schawna); Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, two of them were on Williams Avenue and one was in the basement

of her home on Rodney Avenue. Later, she had a desire to become a nurse, a rare occupation for Afri-friends.

Charlene Cox-Tanner was born can Americans at the time. She atin Seattle on June 22, 1928, one of tended nursing school, graduated, Good Samaritan and Portland Provi-

> When her father Arthur A. Cox Sr. died, she took full control of Cox



Charlene L. Cox-Tanner

Dorothy Dandrige played, but she & Cox Funeral Chapel in Portland along with her son, continuing to maintain the family business just as it has always been.

Preceding her in death was her mother and father; sister Ruth Lancaster; brother Arthur A. Cox

She is survived by her son grandchildren Yolanda, Kevin (Angie), Shellene and Rashad; great grandchildren Necia Cage, Alexis, Aspyn and Kylea Tanner; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and

Diagnosed with

glaucoma at an early

age and rendered com-

pletely blind at 12,

Neville Peter has grown to become one of

gospel's most sought

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"Personal."

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Faithfulness," "Near the Cross," and "Amazing Grace."

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