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Established in 1970

Committed to Cultural Diversity

43
years of
community service

Charles Washington Remembered



Portland Observer publisher dies at age 60

Portland Observer Publisher and Editor-in-Chief Charles H. Washington died Saturday. He was 60 years old.

Washington led the newspaper, the oldest African-American publication in the state, since 1995 when he took over the company from his mother, Joyce Washington.

He joined the Portland Observer in 1990 as public relations director and assistant editor after a 15 year entrepreneurial stint in small business ownership and property management.

He developed a new marketing strategy, restructured operations, and was instrumental in propelling the paper into the mainstream publication and influential community voice that it is today.

He was a strong advocate for local schools and improving the economic base of Portland's minority communities.

Last month, when the Portland Observer Foundation sponsored a community banquet to award scholarships for young people and recognize leaders from the community who are advocates for disadvantaged and minority communities, the event showcased the publication's mission.

Washington's goal as publisher was to create a media outlet that was dedicated to diversity, the African-American community, but also the Latino, immigrant and newly gentrified communities. As Portland grew in diversity, the Portland Observer grew.

With the help of his brothers and wife, Elizabeth, Washington worked hard to ensure that his mother's legacy as a tireless advocate for the community continued.

He established in 1996 the Joyce Washington Memorial Scholarship Fund for gradu-

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Portland Observer Publisher
and Editor-in-Chief Charles
Washington