Mr. Harry "Nick" Nims

Nick Nims was not one to raise his voice to make a point. But he raised the roof as a Hall of Fame high-school basketball coach, raised the bar as a Leon County educator and raised a generation of responsible adults. Mr. Nims, 88, passed away Saturday, October 24, 2009 in Tallahassee. He is the first and only African-American in the state of Florida to have coached his (old Lincoln) High School basketball teams to 10 consecutive black state tournaments before the school closed in 1967. His records still apply today. Mr. Nims also served as Lincoln's Guidance Counselor and Director of Guidance Services (1962 – 1968), making history as Leon County's first male guidance counselor of any descent. Mr. Nims was also a teacher, basketball coach and an athletic director for Quinn High School in Apalachicola, FL from 1949 – 1951 before coming to Lincoln High in Tallahassee to teach industrial arts, mechanical drawing and physical education. A top basketball player in high school, he was also tapped as head basketball coach and assistant football coach.

When the original Lincoln High School was closed due to integration in 1967, Mr. Nims became Assistant Principal of Griffin Middle/High School from 1967 – 1968, then he once again made history as the first African-American Administrator at Rickards High School, before becoming the first the African-American Administrator (1969) and first African-American Principal of Fairview Middle School (1971) in Tallahassee. Mr. Nims retired as principal of Fairview in 1982. At his retirement celebration, the city of Tallahassee presented Mr. Nims with a resolution proclaiming a day as "Nick Nims Day."

Mr. Nims gave tirelessly of his time and resources serving as President of the Leon County Teacher's Association (before merger), 1968; Vice President and member

of the Board of Directors of the of the Leon County Teachers' Credit Union, 1971 – 1976, Tallahassee, Florida; Chairman of the Nominating Committee of the Leon County Teachers' Association/Leon County School Board Collective Bargaining Session, 1975 – 1976; Member of many School Accreditation Visiting Committees and Florida Department of Education School Plant Survey Teams; served as a member of the National Association of Middle School Principals & National Association Secondary School Principals; Member of the Florida Association of Secondary & Middle School Principals (Charter Member); and the Florida Administrators and Superintendents Association and many, many more.

Mr. Nims' honors and awards included being named The Florida Delegate to the President's Whitehouse Conference on Children and Youth (Washington DC) 1956; Coach of the Year (Basketball), Florida Interscholastic Athletics Association, 1956; In 2006, Mr. Nims was inducted into the Negro High School Basketball Hall of Fame in Tampa, Florida; at his Memorial Service in the Rickards High School Auditorium on December 13, 2009, Mr. Nims received Resolutions and Proclamations honoring his many years of dedication and devotion from the Florida House of Representatives, the Leon Board of County Commissioners, the Leon County School Board, the Mayor of the City of Tallahassee and from the Tallahassee City Commission; Recognition and honor dinner from the Historical Black High Schools Athletes Organization (HBHSAO) in 2006. In 2008, Mr. Nims suffered a fall in his home. He passed away on October 24, 2009.

Please see attached items commemorating the life of the late Mr. Harry "Nick" Nims

Tallahassee's Homepage
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Nick Nims remembered as coach, educator, role model

BY GERALD ENSLEY • DEMOCRAT SENIOR WRITER • OCTOBER 28, 2009

Nick Nims was not one to raise his voice to make a point. But he raised the roof as a Hall of Fame high-school basketball coach, raised the bar as a Leon County educator and raised a generation of responsible adults.

Nims, 88, died Saturday. He coached the segregated Lincoln High boys basketball team to 10 consecutive black high-school state tournaments before Lincoln closed in 1968. He was the first black administrator at Rickards High (1968) and first black principal of Fairview Middle School (1971), which he led until his retirement in 1982.

Harry "Nick" Nims was a successful basketball coach and beloved guidance counselor at Tallahassee's all-black Lincoln High in the days of school segregation. He went on to be the first black principal of Fairview Middle School. Nims, 88, died Oct. 24, 2009. (Special to the Democrat)

Nims also served as Lincoln's guidance counselor, a role in which the dapper dressing Nims shared lessons about good grooming and polite behavior.

"He was one of those rare instructors-mentors who taught you not only what you needed to learn in school but what you needed to learn to be a man," said the Rev. Wilbert Hobbs, who graduated from Lincoln High in 1967. "He was a phenomenal guy in terms of what he did for kids and making them responsible people."

A native of one of Tallahassee's oldest black families, Nims graduated from Lincoln High, served in the Army during World War II, then earned a degree at Florida A&M. Nims was a cousin of R. Frank Nims, a former Lincoln High principal for whom Nims Middle School is named.

In 1951, he joined the Lincoln High faculty to teach industrial arts, mechanical drawing and physical education. A top basketball player in high school, he was also tapped as head basketball coach and assistant football coach.

He led the Lincoln Tigers to 10 consecutive black school state basketball tournaments. Lincoln won the Class A state championship for black schools in 1956 and played in a national tournament for black high schools, losing in the finals to a team from Tennessee.

Nims was famous for his devotion to his players: He got up before dawn to pick up players in a school bus for practice on the school's outdoor clay courts. He was renowned as firm but approachable.

In 2006, Nims was inducted into the Negro High School Basketball Hall of Fame in Tampa.

"He was not an enforcer-type coach, he was a teacher," said Buddy Edwards, who played for Nims at Lincoln. "He was very even-keeled. He never raised his voice or argued with anyone."

Nims was president of the county's black teachers union (1968), before moving into school administration. He served on several state boards and won Leon County schools' first Administrator of the Year award (1975). He received statewide recognition for his leadership of Fairview.

No funeral service is planned.

ATTACHMENT TWO

Harry Nick Nims

Harry Nick Nims Harry Nick Nims, 88, died Saturday, October 24, 2009. He was a lifelong resident of Tallahassee, Florida, descending from one of the oldest black families in the city. His grandparents, parents and uncles were merchants. Nims attended the local Famcee and Lincoln High School. After graduating, he joined the Army during World War II. Thereafter, Nims returned to Tallahassee where he acquired an undergraduate degree in education from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, and later a master's degree in education at the same institution. Nims taught two years at Quinn High School in Apalachicola, Florida, and in 1951 joined the teaching staff of Lincoln High School in Tallahassee. He taught drafting, physical education, driver education, served as the school's basketball coach, assistant football coach and athletic director. In 1956, Nims' Lincoln Tigers basketball team won the state championship among segregated schools. From 1962 to 1968, Mr. Nims was Lincoln's director of guidance, Leon County's first male guidance counselor. After 20 years as a teacher, coach and guidance counselor, Mr. Nims left Lincoln High School in 1968 to become assistant principal at the new Fairview Middle School. Also, in 1968, he was president of the county's all-black teachers' union. At Fairview, Nims helped pioneer the open-space middle school concept in Leon County and was cited in a college textbook written at the University of Florida as having one of the most well-operated middle schools. During the 1974 -75 school year, Nims received the county's first Administrator of the Year Award. He served as a member of many school accreditation visiting committees and Florida Department of Education school plant survey teams. He also served as president, vice president and member of the Board of Directors of the Leon County Teacher's Credit Union from 1971 to 1976 and chaired the nominating committee of the Leon County Teachers' Credit Union/Envision Credit Union from 1979 to 2006. After a career spanning 33 years, Mr. Nims retired in 1982. He spent his retirement years landscaping his yard, traveling and attending football and basketball games at Florida A&M University and at Florida State University. Well-known throughout Tallahassee, he was unendingly greeted by former students and their parents, former co-workers and friends, as well as by friends of his daughters, Nikki and Marsha Nims, both residents of Tallahassee. Nims was preceded into Spirit by his wife, Nedra White Nims, who was also a public school teacher in Leon County. A grandson, Nickolas Nims and his wife, Erica Nims, reside in Georgetown, Kentucky, with their two children. His siblings include Sarah Montgomery, Barbara McGill (John), Albert Nims (Lillie) and a host of cousins, nieces and nephews. No funeral services are planned, however, donations may be made to Big Bend Hospice. The Nims daughters extend special appreciation to Marshalea Henry, his devoted nurse; the staff of Clare Bridge Assisted Living; and to Big Bend Hospice.

Harry "Nick" Nims Biographical

Harry "Nick" Nims 502 Bragg Drive, Tallahassee, FL 32305

A native of Tallahassee, Florida. Attended public schools in Tallahassee, the original Lincoln. Received the B.S. Degree in Health and Physical Education and the M.A. Degree in Education from Florida A. and M. University.

Widower (Nedra W. Nims), has two daughters, one grandson, and one great-granddaughter. Ruling Elder, Trinity United Presbyterian Church, Tallahassee, FL.

Dedicated many years of service to educating and guiding our youth. He was a teacher, a basketball coach, and an athletic director for Quinn High School (Apalachicola, FL) from 1949-1951, and Lincoln High School from 1951-1962 (Tallahassee, FL). Director of Guidance Services at Lincoln High School from 1962-1968, an Assistant Principal and Principal at Fairview Middle School from 1968-1983 (Tallahassee, FL).

Through the many years he has received many honors and special contributions:

The Florida Delegate to the President's Whitehouse Conference on Children and Youth (Washington, DC) 1956

Coach of the Year (Basketball)--Florida Interscholastic Athletics Association, 1956

President of the Leon County Teachers' Association (before merger), 1968

Vice President & Member--Board of Directors of the Leon County Education Association, 1969

Administrator of the Year (first), Leon County Schools, 1974-1975

Leon County Superintendent of Public Schools' Appointee--First Leon County Teachers' Association/Leon County School Board Collective Bargaining Session, 1975-1976

Member of many School Accreditation Visiting--Committees and Florida Department of Education School Plant Survey Teams

President & Vice President (2 terms) and Member--Board of Directors Leon County Teachers' Credit Union, 1971-1976, Tallahassee, FL

Chairman, Nominating Committee, Leon County Teachers' Credit Union/Envision Credit Union, 1979—2006, Tallahassee, FL

Member, Screening Committee--Leon County Public Schools, 1973

He holds many Memberships and Affiliations:

National Association of Middle School Principals & National Association of Secondary School Principals

Florida Association of Secondary & Middle School Principals (Charter Member)

Florida Administrators and Superintendents Association