

When God Called Milton Home

When I was informed that Milton had passed, my heart was heavy.

For 56 years, I had the privilege of being his wife. I watched him become the man so many came to know and respect as **Dr. Hinton**.

I recently found something among Milton's papers that gave me insight into **Milton's thoughts**.

I found these musings about God, death, and love. I do not know whether Milton wrote every word himself or whether he was inspired by something he had read or heard.

Milton wrote of a loving God who looks down upon His children and, when their earthly work is complete, calls upon His angel of death.

And God looked down upon Milton.

He saw a man who had labored faithfully in His vineyard for 99years. He saw that Milton was tired. He saw that he was weary and suffering.

And God commanded the angel standing at His side:

"Go down, Death. Go down to Wellspring Health Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, Room 206, and bring Milton to Me."

And Death heard the summons.

He loosened the reins of his pale white horse and came swiftly.

For days as **myself, Harold, Sheila, Milbeth, Sonny, family, and friends** gathered around Milton's bed, he turned his eyes away from those watching over him.

He saw something they could not see.

He saw the old Death Angel.

But Death did not frighten him.

Perhaps, in that moment, Death looked to Milton like a welcome friend—one who had come not to punish him, but to release him.

And Death took him gently, like a child, and carried him home, laying him upon the loving breast of Jesus.

For decades, people called him **Dr. Hinton**.

They knew the professor.
They knew the scholar.
They knew the leader.
They knew the man whose wisdom and presence commanded respect.

But when God called him home, He did not call for Dr. Hinton.

God called for Milton.

Because before the titles, before the accomplishments, before the years of leadership, he was simply **Milton—a Child of a Loving God**.

So today, I do not believe we should say goodbye to Milton.

Because Milton understood something profound:

Love defies death.

Even as the Death Angel carried out God's command, there was another presence—unseen, but always there.

Love.

Love was there beside him. Love surrounded him. And love does not end when life does.

Love lives beyond death.

As long as the **flames from the candles of love** that each of us carries in our hearts continue to burn brightly, **Milton lives**.

He lives in his family.

He lives in his friends.

He lives in the many lives he touched.

He lives in the lessons he taught, the wisdom he shared, and the example he left behind.

And he lives in the memories of the many people who proudly called him **Dr. Hinton**.

But perhaps now, when we think of him, we can simply call him **Milton**.

Because that is the name God called.

And as long as the flames of love continue to burn, Milton lives.

~Betti J. Hinton~

Pallbearers

Vincent L. Hailey
Hon. William L. Mallory, Jr.
Milton Hinton, Jr.

Marvin L. Rogers, Jr.
Rick B. Hawthorne
Stephen L. Davis

Honorary Pallbearers

Dwight Mayo
Calvert Smith, Ph.D.
Harold Wells

Lanthan Camblin, Ph.D.
James Anderson
Aubrey DuBose

James Carroll

Flower Bearers

Melissa Kelly
Dorothea Long
Kayla Hinton

Amber Murphy
Tricia Mayo
Bethel Baptist Ushers

Acknowledgements

The family wishes to acknowledge with deep appreciation the many expressions of love, concern, prayers, and kindness shown to them during this hour of bereavement.

May God Bless and Keep You!

- The family of Dr. Milton Waverly Hinton

Thank You

With heartfelt gratitude, we thank:
Evergreen Retirement Center • Wellspring Health Care
Tie Bell • James Dumas • Querida Fahden
Roman Walton

Special Thanks

Wilhelmina Branson • Rev. Sharon Brown • John Elliott
Marie Gemelli-Carroll • Jill Jackson • Ann Keller
Dorothea Long • Mark and Kimberly Mages
Phyllis McCallum • Kimberly Shay • Jackie Taggart
Rev. Sheila Wells • Lloyd Zimmerman

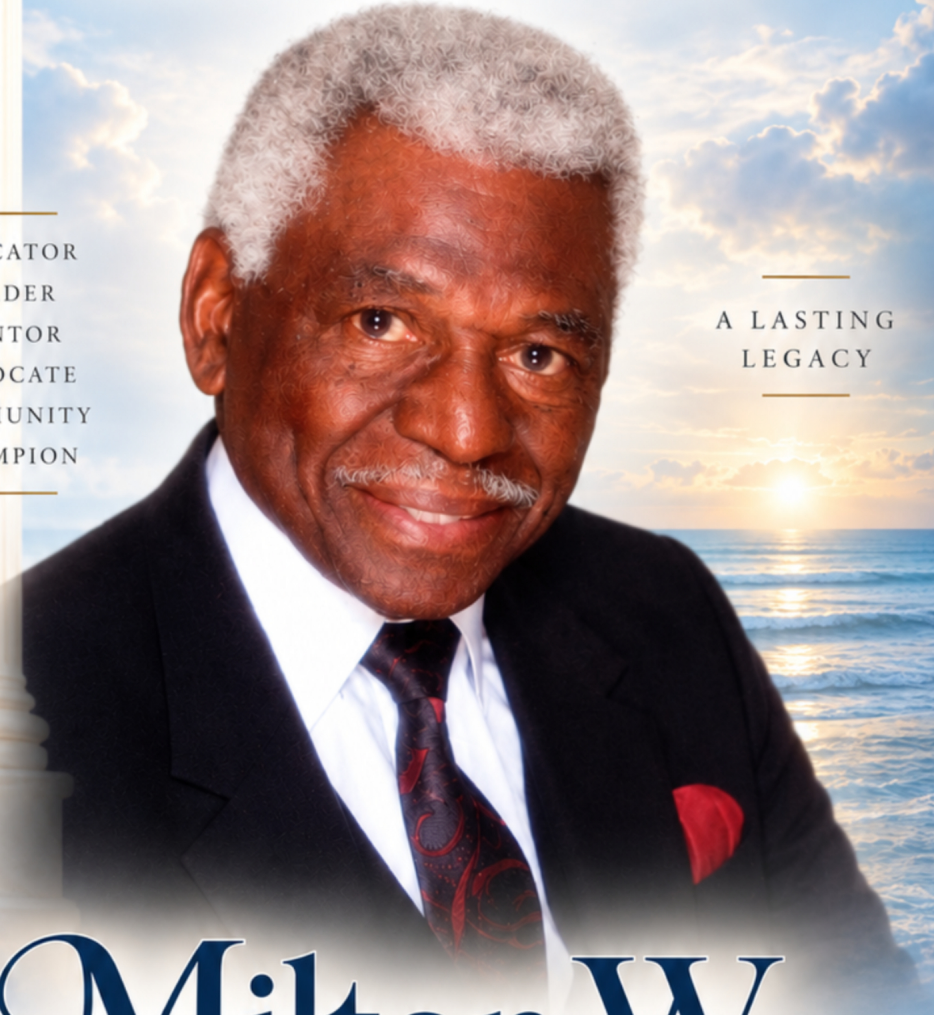


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CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF

EDUCATOR
LEADER
MENTOR
ADVOCATE
COMMUNITY
CHAMPION

A LASTING
LEGACY



Milton W.
HINTON, Ed.D.

SUNRISE
June 11, 1927

SUNSET
August 22, 2026

Saturday, September 12, 2026
Visitation 10:00 a.m.
Funeral Service 11:30 a.m.

Bethel Baptist Church - Walnut Hills
2712 Alms Pl.
Cincinnati, Ohio 45206

Remember Milton W. Hinton, Ed.D.

Milton W. Hinton, Ed.D., distinguished educator, civic leader, and lifelong advocate for equity and justice, passed away on August 22, 2026, at the age of 99.

Milton was born on June 11, 1927, in Glassboro, New Jersey, to the late Rev. Waverly Hinton and Cora Johnson Hinton. The youngest of four sons, he grew up alongside his brothers, John, Earl, and Harley Hinton.

Education became both the foundation of Milton's professional life and one of the primary ways he served others. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from Glassboro State College and later earned his doctorate from Columbia University. His career in education began in the public schools of Glassboro and Philadelphia, where his commitment to teaching and creating opportunities for others began to take shape.

Milton's dedication to civil rights and community service was equally profound. He served as president of the Gloucester County, New Jersey, Branch of the NAACP for 13 years and later served another eight years as president of the expanded Gloucester County Branch. His leadership reflected a deeply held belief that education, civic engagement, and organized action could bring about meaningful change.

Milton later joined Virginia State University, where he headed the Department of Special Education. It was while teaching at Virginia State that he met Betti Jenkins, the woman who would become his loving wife and lifelong companion.

In 1970, Milton and Betti moved to Cincinnati, Ohio, beginning a new chapter that would leave an enduring mark on the university and the greater Cincinnati community. At the University of Cincinnati, Milton served as a professor and chairman of the Department of Early Childhood and Special Education before becoming Vice Provost of Minority Affairs.

As one of the few tenured African American professors at the University of Cincinnati at the time, Dr. Hinton worked intentionally to increase visibility, representation, and opportunity. Through profiles published in the *Cincinnati Herald*, he introduced the broader community to the University's African American professors. He also drew upon his national network of relationships with historically Black colleges and universities to recruit African American students and professors to the University of Cincinnati.

Following his retirement from the University of Cincinnati in 1992, Dr. Hinton's commitment to service continued. He created the Committee of 51, a group composed of citizens from different walks of life who gathered to discuss issues affecting minority and integrated communities. His organizing efforts and dedication to civic engagement drew the attention of the Cincinnati Branch of the NAACP, whose members encouraged him to seek its presidency.

In 1994, Dr. Hinton was elected president of the Cincinnati NAACP Branch. During his three terms in office, he grew the Branch's membership five-fold and remained an outspoken advocate for fairness, equity, and justice. During his first year as president, Cincinnati Bengals running backs coach Jim Anderson brought more than 25 Bengals players to the NAACP office to become members, a memorable demonstration of the growing reach of the

Order of Service

Dr. Bryan Walker, Pastor
Courtis Fuller, Emcee



Musical Prelude	
Parting View	The Family
Opening Prayer	Rev. Sheila Wells
Scripture	Rev. Sheila Wells
	Old Testament~Psalm 23:1-4 New Testament~Romans 8:38-39
Selection	Bethel Praise Team
Acknowledgements	Maria Simpson
Proclamations	Jan-Michele Lemon Kearney Alicia Reece Catherine Ingram Greg Landsman
Remarks	David Whitehead Roger Collins, Ph.D. Harold Wells Jonathan Holifield, J.D. Robert Collins, MD Rio Dickens Celestin, MD Milton Hinton, Jr.
Selection	Bethel Praise Team
Eulogy	Dr. Bryan Walker
Benediction	Dr. Bryan Walker
Recessional	Clergy, Family & Friends

Final Resting Place

Spring Grove Cemetery
4521 Spring Grove Avenue
Cincinnati, Ohio 45232

Those wishing to honor Dr. Hinton's legacy may make a memorial contribution to the Dr. Milton W. Hinton and Milbeth Hinton Allen Legacy for Autism Fund of the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

Remember Milton W. Hinton, Ed.D.

organization under Dr. Hinton's leadership.

His approach to leadership reflected the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Let's build bridges, not walls." Under Dr. Hinton's leadership, the City of Cincinnati passed the NAACP's proposed 19-point corrective action plan addressing discrimination against city workers. His diligence also extended to improving police and community relations through the Citizens Police Review Panel. He established a University of Cincinnati chapter of the NAACP and worked to strengthen its youth council, increasing opportunities for young people to assume meaningful leadership roles.

Dr. Hinton's life was dedicated to education in its many forms. Whether standing before students in a classroom, leading within a university, organizing citizens, mentoring young people, or advocating for civil rights, he consistently answered his call to teach and serve.

In 2001, the Cincinnati Regional Chamber named Dr. Hinton a Great Living Cincinnati, recognizing the breadth and significance of his contributions. Dr. Hinton joined Bethel Baptist Church in 1992, where he remained connected to a church community that would later recognize both him and Betti for their service and commitment to others. His life of service continued to be recognized throughout the years. In 2023, Bethel Baptist Church honored Milton and Betti Hinton at its annual Christmas Gala, recognizing them for their compassion, character, and commitment to community.

Among the many memorable moments Milton and Betti shared was the opportunity to attend an inaugural ball in Washington, D.C., following the historic 2008 election of Barack Obama as President of the United States. For a man whose life's work had been so deeply rooted in education, civil rights, equality, and creating opportunities for generations to come, witnessing that historic moment was especially significant.

As an educator, civic leader, civil rights advocate, husband, and father, Dr. Hinton lived the values he spent a lifetime teaching.

Beyond his many titles, accomplishments, and years of public service was Milton the husband, father, grandfather, relative, friend, and neighbor. The homes Milton and Betti shared on Leyman Drive and Bishop Street were filled with joy, laughter, and love. Milton enjoyed fishing and took great pleasure in sharing his catch with family and friends. Each October, those friendships and good times came together during his annual fish fry, where the fish he had caught throughout the year were shared and enjoyed by those whose company meant so much to him.

Dr. Hinton was preceded in death by his parents, Rev. Waverly Hinton and Cora Johnson Hinton, and his brothers, John, Earl, and Harley Hinton.

He leaves to cherish his memory his loving wife, Betti Hinton; son, Milton Hinton Jr.; daughter, Milbeth Allen (Delano); granddaughters, Nia and Kayla Hinton; cousin, Roberta Scott; sisters-in-law, Delories Brooks (James), Barbara Baker, Keretha Whitfield, and Carolyn Washington; brothers-in-law, John Jenkins III and Alton Coley Jenkins (Terri); and a host of nieces, nephews, extended family members, friends, colleagues, former students, and countless others whose lives were touched by his leadership and service.