

A sepia-toned portrait of David T. Mason, an older man with a mustache, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a striped tie. He is standing in front of a large bookshelf filled with books. The text "David T. Mason" and "1914~2003" is overlaid on the left side of the image.

David T. Mason  
1914~2003

# Memorial Service for

## David T. Mason

Saturday, November 22, 2003

Ceremonial Courtroom • University of Maryland School of Law  
Baltimore, Maryland

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### Presiding

Professor Larry S. Gibson

### Invocation

Bishop Mark R. Dorsey

### *"Give Us This Day"*

Stephanie C. Hill

### On behalf of the Judiciary

The Honorable Robert M. Bell

### On behalf of the Bar

The Honorable George L. Russell, Jr.

### On behalf of State Government

Jasper R. Clay

### *"My Living Shall Not Be In Vain"*

Dr. Askew S. Sanders

### On behalf of the Guardsmen

Charles G. Tildon, Jr.

### On behalf of the Saturday Morning Breakfast Group

Benjamin F. Mason

### On behalf of the Law Clerks

Alice G. Pinderhughes, Esquire

### *"His Eye Is On The Sparrow"*

Stephanie C. Hill

### On behalf of the Family

J. Darrell Peterson, Esquire

### The Tribute

The Honorable David W. Young

### Benediction

Reverend Luther W. Starnes



## David T. Mason

David Talbert Mason, Maryland's first African American appellate judge, died of cancer on November 16, 2003. He was 88 years old.

Judge Mason was born in Providence, Rhode Island on December 6, 1914. There he attended public schools until 1929, when he moved to Baltimore. He enrolled in Douglass High School, where he became captain of the football team and a member of the basketball and track teams. Later, he attended Lincoln University on scholarship. After leaving college, he worked for the first Social Security Administration, the 1940 Census Bureau, and the U.S. Employment Service. During this time, he refereed college and high school football and basketball games and was president of the Baltimore Board of Athletic Officials.

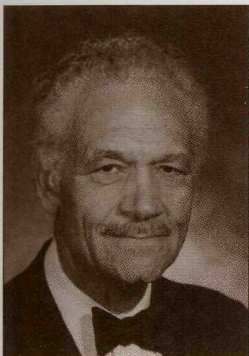
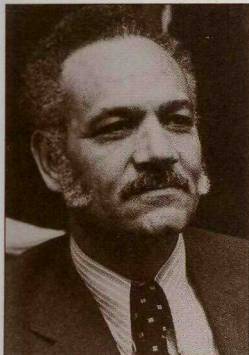
David Mason was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1942, and was honorably discharged in 1946. In the military, he was an instructor at a special training unit.

After leaving the service and while employed full-time, Dave attended the University of Maryland School of Law. He graduated in 1951 and was admitted to the bar the same year. He began his law practice in the office of W.A.C. Hughes, a prominent civil rights attorney.

Soon, he was involved in a high profile case. He sued the Baltimore Police Department for illegally stopping and frisking him. He lost in the lower court but won on appeal. This victory reduced the routine stopping and frisking of black men without probable cause.

In 1964, Dave Mason joined the newly established law firm of Howard and Hargrove. This firm, subsequently, produced two federal judges, an appellate court judge, two district court judges and a City Solicitor.

During his long and distinguished career, Judge Mason was a trailblazer. He was the first black Appeals Referee with the Department of Employment Security. He was an Assistant State's Attorney for Baltimore City and an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Maryland. He became Chief of the Criminal Division, where he was responsible for all appeals of criminal cases in Maryland.



Subsequently, he became the first full-time Chairman of the State Parole Board and Secretary of the Department of Employment and Social Services, now the Department of Human Resources. He was the first black member of a governor's cabinet.

In 1974, Governor Marvin Mandel appointed David Mason to the Court of Special Appeals, the second highest court in Maryland. He served on the Court until his retirement in 1983.

Judge Mason also distinguished himself in neighborhood and political affairs. He was a founder and president of the Hanlon Hill Community Association and Chairman of the Board of the Ashburton Neighborhood Association.

Politically, Dave Mason served as Chairman of the powerful Fourth District Democratic Club, whose membership included most of the black elected officials in Baltimore. In 1997 and 1998, he was a Delegate to the Maryland Constitutional Convention, which he regarded as one of his most rewarding experiences in life.

Many groups, including the NAACP, the Urban League, and the *Afro-American* newspaper have honored Judge Mason. For most of his adult life, he was an active and enthusiastic member of the Guardsmen, a social organization of professional black men with chapters from California to Florida. He was national president of this group on two different occasions. In addition, he was a senior participant in the Saturday Morning Breakfast Group.

After Judge Mason retired, he took up the game of golf and moved to Florida, so that he could play during the winter. He frequently commented that golf was a most enjoyable and frustrating game, and that he could not understand why it was so difficult "to break 100."

Dave Mason was modest and unpretentious, never voluntarily identifying himself as a judge. He had a great sense of humor, wry wit, and an ability to get along with people of all stations in life. He is survived by his wife Margaret, his daughter Donna, his son-in-law J. Darrell Peterson, two granddaughters Darryll and Dyllan, nieces, nephews, cousins, an extended family of former law clerks, and many friends.

**MASON WINS PING PONG CHAMPIONSHIP**

David Mason, Sophomore ping pong contestant, easily captured the Lincoln University singles title last week by defeating George Marshall in straight sets, 21-10. The match though proving exciting at times was a complete set up for Mason whose coolness, deliberateness, and accuracy were the deciding factors against his opponent.

**Lawyer Asks \$25,000 For 'Illegal' Act**

**NAACP Protests To Commissioner; Citizens Outraged**

**BALTIMORE**  
One of the patrons "frisked" by police during a raid on the Tijuana night club, last Saturday night, is suing one of the policemen involved for \$25,000 damages.

Dave Mason, prominent attorney, filed the lawsuit in Superior Court, Thursday afternoon, against Sgt. Charles ... identified as the policeman leading the raiding

The Baltimore Afro-American

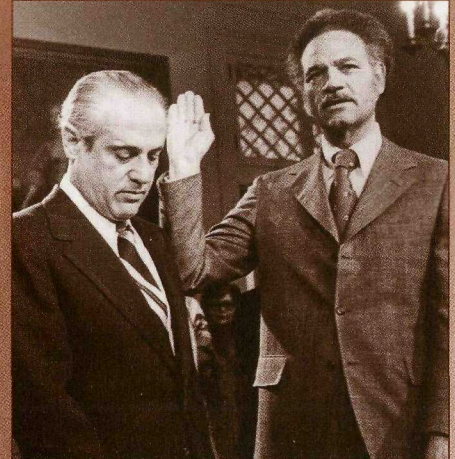
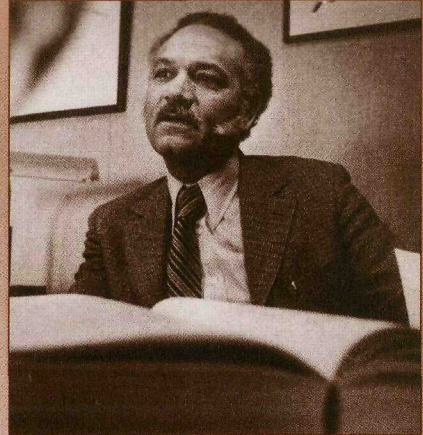
**David T. Mason Practicing Law**

Newly established at 343 Dolphin St. in association with W. A. C. Hughes Jr., David T. Mason was graduated in June from the Law School of the University of Maryland.

**Mason to head-up revamped parole, probation agency**

By MAX JOHNSON  
Another historic appointment by Gov. Spiro T. Agnew is expected to come either today (Friday) or during the weekend. The governor is to name David T. Mason, assistant

vamped regulations and procedures aimed at top efficiency. The Mason appointment is for eight years, and the other four are for staggered periods of two to six years. The board appointments



**Food stamp ruckus distresses Mason**

David T. Mason, Secretary of the Department of Employment and Social Services, has said he, too, is Bauman's query, Secretary Mason said: "We have also been concerned, as

**Dave Mason hits HEW on public assistance funds**

David T. Mason, Maryland Secretary of Employment and Social Services, is sure you at the outset that Governor Mandel and I are dedicated to the removal of and all cr... is — under-

**Mr. Mason's Rise to the Top**

In the mid-1950's David T. Mason remarkable rise from the bottom to the top of the bureaucratic system. Mr. Mason has acquired a reputation for sound administrative ability. Rita C. Davidson, whom the Governor has moved to the Court of Special Appeals. Mrs. Davidson was a vocal champion of the downtrod-

**Mason Due For Post In State Cabinet**

**Mason Tackles Welfare Dept. Problems**

By Bruce F. Freed  
David T. Mason will not be sworn in as the new secretary of the state Department of head, who is retiring to a seat on the Court of Special Appeals, to get his first briefing on the department's operations. My mission is to be chief administrator of this agency. giving him "empathy" with the 1930's in finding jobs as sensitive to the needs of people," he said. "We were just ordinary poor people in the 1930's like many other people."

**Welfare post reported going to parole chief**

**David Mason hiked in Atty. Gen. office**

**Mason named 4th District board head**

Dave T. Mason, assistant Maryland attorney general, Monday night was unanimously elected chairman of the board for the Fourth District, Inc. Mr. Mason, assuming his

man Murray Abramson, chairman of the city delegation, in blocking the efforts of Jack Pollack forces to force through the Legislature complete re-registration of the Met Theatre on May 29. The regular meeting of members and precinct workers will be held at 8:30 o'clock Monday night, April 19. Loyal Randolph, the organi-



**New cabinet officer Mason brings low-key approach to welfare**

**Mandel Names Mason Special Appeals Judge**

By DAVID AHEARN  
News American Bureau  
ANNAPOLIS — Gov. Mandel today appointed David T. Mason as a judge on the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. He is a member of the Judiciary Committee and as chairman of the Anne Arundel delegation. He is a member of the Anne Arundel Charter Board which drafted the charter — adopted by voters nine years ago — that gave the county a home-rule government.

Maryland Constitutional Convention-1967



*In the army*



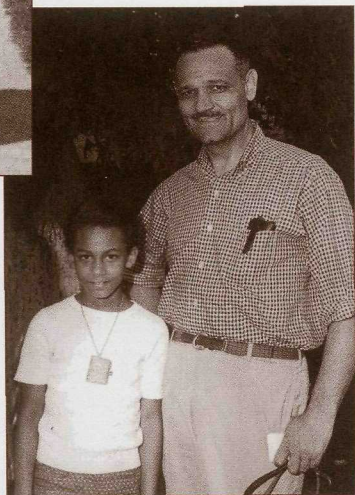
*David and Margaret*



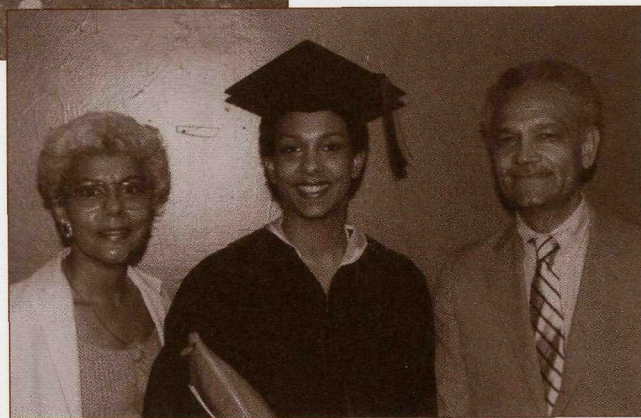
*Donna and Darrell's  
wedding*



*Douglass High School  
football 1931*



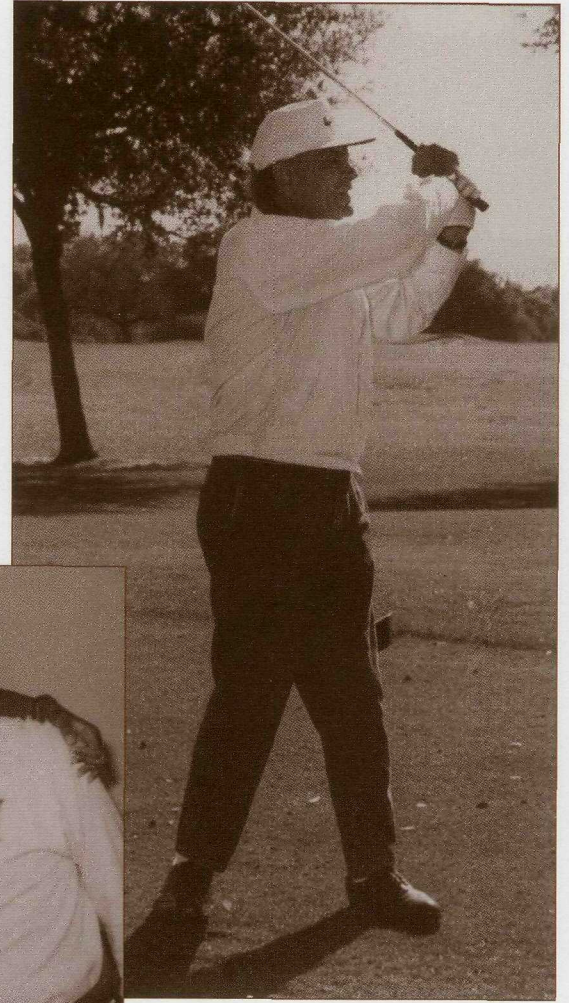
*With Donna*



*Proud  
parents*



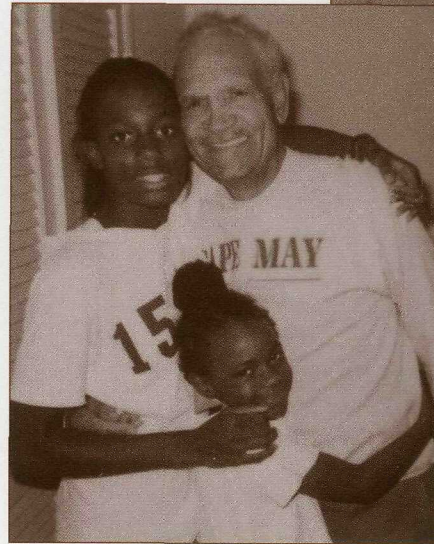
*The Guardsmen*



*Trying to break 100*



*With his law clerks*



*Granddaughters*



*The family gratefully acknowledges with deep appreciation your expressions of sympathy and many other acts of kindness and love.*

To honor David Mason's legacy,  
please make a contribution to the  
University of Maryland Baltimore Foundation  
for the Law Student Scholarship Fund.  
Contributions are tax deductible and  
should be sent to the  
Office of Development and Alumni Relations  
University of Maryland School of Law  
500 West Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201