

# Former Maryland Delegate Arthur A. King, 58, Dies

Arthur A. King, 58, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates from 1966 until 1974 who had been a prosecuting attorney in Martinsburg, W.Va., since 1987, died of cancer Jan. 25 at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Martinsburg.

Mr. King, a Democrat, was the first black person to represent a Prince George's County district in the General Assembly. He represented the 2nd (Central Suburban) legislative district, which includes the Mount Rainier area.

He sponsored legislation to combat housing discrimination and to simplify divorce laws. He opposed the creation of an elected school board in Prince George's County.

Mr. King often found himself at odds with the county's Democratic Central Committee. In 1974, when he ran for a Democratic Party nomination for the state Senate, the committee backed Tommie Broadwater Jr., who defeated him and went on to win the Senate seat.

After that, Mr. King went to Colorado, where he was a federal prisons administrative law judge. He returned here in the late 1970s. In the early 1980s, he moved to Martinsburg, where he served as a public defender. He later had a private law practice there and in Hagerstown, Md., before becoming a prosecutor.

Mr. King was born in Beltsville and was a graduate of Lakeland High School in College Park. He graduated from Maryland State College and received a master's degree in agriculture from the Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture in Trinidad and a law degree from Catholic University.

Before running for the House of Delegates in 1966, he had operated a family business in Simpsonville that provided animals for medical research.

He had been a member of Queens Chapel United Methodist Church in Beltsville.

His marriages to Eartha King and Florence King ended in divorce.

Survivors include his companion, Brenda Branson of Martinsburg; two brothers, Eugene L. King and James W. King, both of Baltimore; and four sisters, Ethel K. Lyons, Morten L. Jones and Katherine J. Ivery, all of Washington, and Juanita Brooks of Baltimore.