



"He is a youngish looking man, clean cut and dressed in a business suit that is well fitting and he always looks well groomed. His voice is rather low and his accent and choice of words show culture. His office is simply furnished with good taste and very clean, and the young secretary who presides at the information desk is alert, business-like and courteous; in short, there is nothing about the Pharr office that indicates a Negro atmosphere; the dark face of the professional men and his assistant are the only facts that indicate anything racial."

Brother Kelsey L. Pharr

Charter President of the Rho Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.



The Above Quotation is from:
Comstock, B. R. & Pharr, K. L. (1939) *Kelsey L. Pharr, Negro Undertaker*. Florida.
[Manuscript/Mixed Material] Retrieved from the Library of Congress,
<https://www.loc.gov/item/wpalh000385>

Some Interesting Facts About Brother Kelsey Leroy Pharr

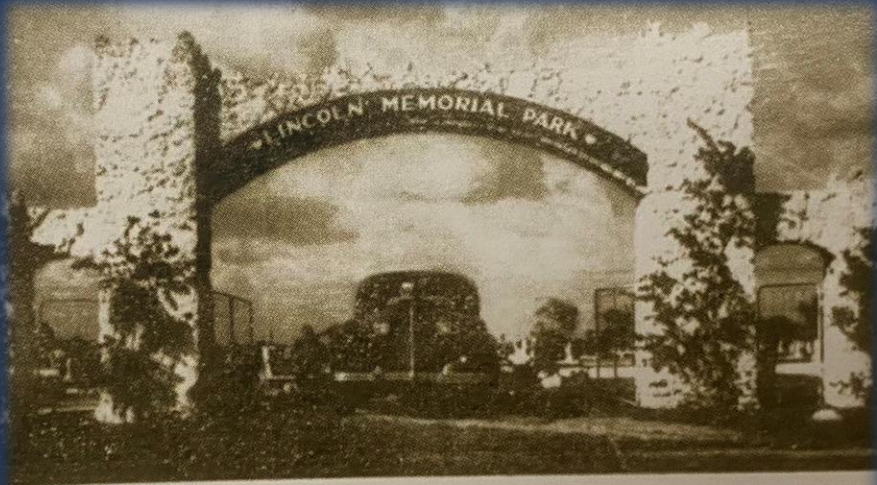
(May 14, 1891-April 3, 1964)

- *1912-When he first came to Miami, he worked at Henry Flagler's Royal Palm Hotel as a bellboy to gather money for school.*
- *1914-He became Miami's first licensed embalmer and funeral director.*
- *He owned Pharr Funeral Home located at 1025 NW 2nd Ave.*
- *Roddy Burdine loaned Pharr \$900 to help him expand his business. Pharr and Burdine were good friends.*
- *1924-Brother Pharr obtained property which he would organize to create the Lincoln Memorial Cemetery which is currently located at 3001 NW 46th Street in Miami, FL.*
- *1925-In October of 1925, he became a Charter Member of the Rho Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc– and its first Chapter President.*
- *He organized the first black Boy Scout troop in South Florida.*
- *Brother Pharr was the first black to own and operate an ambulance service.*
- *He opened and operated the first Western Union Service in the area.*
- *1943-Brother Pharr obtained an appointment as counselor for the Republic of Liberia and was knighted by the Liberian government.*

Lincoln Memorial Cemetery

3001 NW 46th Street

Miami, FL 33142



The South's Most Beautiful Negro-Owned Cemetery

**CIRCA Mid to
late 1930s or
Early 1940s...**



**How it looks
today—2023...**

Legend has it that Brother Pharr would cut down the remains of lynched victims and secretly bury them on the property of Mr. Fred B. Miller, a white man. Mr. Miller was so moved by Brother Pharr's compassion that he sold his property to Brother Pharr---as the story goes. And that's likely how that grave yard got started.

However, actual records do show that Brother Pharr did purchase land from Mr. Miller....

Other Sources

Lincoln Memorial Park: Grounds for Democracy: Landslide 2018 (TCLF). (n.d.). Wwww.tclf.org. Retrieved June 11, 2023, from <https://www.tclf.org/sites/default/files/microsites/landslide2018/lincoln-memorial-park.html>

Pharr, Kelsey Leroy. AT&T Miami-Dade County African-American History Calendar. | The Black Archives History & Research Foundation of South FL, Inc. (n.d.). Wwww.theblackarchives.org. Retrieved June 11, 2023, from <https://www.theblackarchives.org/archon/?p=digitallibrary/digitalcontent&id=80>

