

Phil C. Robinson Ed.D



Phil Clayton Robinson, Ed.D (1920-2006) Born in Richwood, Louisiana. He graduated from Southern University in 1946 having earned a bachelor's degree in education and a distinguished member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

He came to Detroit in 1946 and began working at the Detroit Department of Transportation. He continued his education and earned a masters degree from MSU in education. He became a teacher in the Detroit public school systems and in 1956 he was promoted to principle of Northrop elementary school.

Phil believed that education is the strongest form of individual empowerment for future generations. He was well known for taking a personal interest in his students and the status of their family homes. He would often make home visits and worked with parents to help them improve their economic stability.

Phil also worked side by side with Lula Belle to establish quality community based healthcare facilities in their community. He obtained permits and converted the downstairs flat of their home to open a neighborhood pediatrician medical office for Lula Belle to serve local neighborhood families.

In 1962 Phil and Lula Belle opened a multi physician practice on Detroit's west side called the Linwood Medical Center to expand the scope of medical services they could provide to the community. In 1964 Lula Belle was diagnosed with cancer and passed away the following year. Phil with 3 children and facing great adversity continued on and as a member of the Detroit Institute of Arts Founders Society (Friends of African Art) donated funding to acquire Romare Bearden's collage, "Black Mother and Child" in 1970.

Phil completed his doctored degree in Curriculum and Administration from Walden University in 1972 and served on the university's National Advisory Board. It was his desire to continue the legacy of Lula Belle and worked together with community leaders and social service professionals to help establish The Lula Belle Stewart Center Inc. The agency's focus was to provide a full range of social services for expectant and teen mothers. The agency provided healthcare, prenatal care, housing, continued education, daycare, foster care, auxiliary resources. They partnered with the Big-3 to create a paid internship program for fathers. The agency was recognized by congress as exemplary for best practice and designated as a national standard operating from (1972-2007).

In 1976 Phil married Phyllis E. Smith and became a dad to her two young children; son Robert 5 and daughter Marcy 6. In 1980 Phil and Phyllis established a highly successful academic leadership consulting firm called PR2 & Assoc. Inc.. Their consulting firm completed multiple consulting contracts for various educational organizations, academic leadership academies and vocational administration.



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Phyllis E. Robinson Ed.D

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He was elected the National President of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) in 1984. During his tenure he developed a proclamation called; The Year of The Teacher. This comprehensive project resulted in a national initiative.



Phil sent a personal letter from his office as ASCD President to every governor in the country describing the goals and objectives of the Year of the Teacher initiative. Phil had a friend in both houses of congress and collaborated to develop legislation. In 1985 the 99th Congress passed; H.J. Resolution 151 and the Senate passed; S.J. Resolution 48, designating 1985-1986 "The Year of the Teacher". Phil also received a personal letter of support from the White House under President Ronald Regan.

The initiative was ultimately adopted in some form by every U.S. state resulting in significant improvement in the status, input, ASCD access and compensation for educators. During his ASCD presidency the national educator membership registration increased by over 50%.

Phil received recognition from the National Federation of Teachers President and he received the National Distinguished Principle award from the U.S Secretary of Education. He was invited to 17 states to give speeches and meet with local ASCD organizations.

Phil's passion was excellence and equity in education, healthcare and social justice. He never pursued accolades nor desired praise or awards however he was the recipient of many standards of recognition including; Induction to The Michigan Education Hall of Fame in 1988 as the first Detroit educator, He was awarded the Distinguished Educator award by the National Alliance of Black School Educators and numerous other awards in education and academic leadership.

In 1994 Nelson Mandela was elected president of South Africa. Phil traveled to the country on multiple occasions hosting groups of professionals and associates. He partnered with J. Colton Mays and Dr. James C. Mays of historic Mays printing Company. Together they delivered thousands of books, met with educators and administrators to support an education reform project for the South African National Congress.

Phil dedicated his life to civil rights, education, healthcare and social services. He was motivated by his faith and family always working with inspired action.

Michael Robinson worked with the city of Detroit Historic Advisory Board to honor the collective body of work of Lula Belle and Phil. In 2024 The Detroit city council issued an official Proclamation for historic designation of their Westside family home; The Dr. Lula Belle Stewart-Robinson, Historic District House.

