

MILTON FRANKLIN

MILTON FRANKLIN WAS BORN IN GORGAS, ALABAMA, TO JAMES AND BENNIE

Franklin. They later moved to Jasper where he attended Parrish Junior High School before graduating from Walker County Training School in 1946. In 1949, he entered Alabama A&M in Huntsville where he lettered in football, basketball, and track. He was selected as the Co-Captain of the football team. He also received a B.S. and Masters of Education from A&M.

In 1950, Milton began a coaching career at Reedtown High School in Russellville, Alabama, but was interrupted by a 2 year stint in the U.S. Army. In 1956, he was hired to coach football, basketball, and track at Sterling High School in Sheffield, Alabama. He taught and coached there for the next 12 years. In 1959, he was named the North Alabama High School Athletic Association Football Coach-of-the-Year. In 1971, he was hired at Sheffield High School to become the first black head

basketball coach in history of the Shoals area. After working in the field of education as a coach, teacher, and vocational coordinator for 41 years, he retired in 1991.

In 1992, he was inducted into the Alabama A&M University Athletic Hall-of-Fame. Then in 2001, he was inducted into the Colbert County Sports Hall-of-Fame, where he now serves as a committee member of that organization.

In 2001, he was selected as the "Man-of-the-Year" by the Muscle Shoals District Missionary Baptist Association. He was also selected as the "Man-of-the-Year" by the Muscle Shoals Brotherhood of Layman, as well as, the "Citizen-of-the-Year" by the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Organization in 2008. In 2015, the Sheffield Board of Education voted unanimously to name the newly remodeled Sheffield High School gymnasium the "Milton Franklin Gymnasium" in honor of his service to the school and the community. Mr. Franklin is a member of the First Missionary Baptist Church in Sheffield, where he has served as a deacon for over 38 years. He also teaches Sunday School and is a member of the choir.

He has been married to his wife, Ida, for over 61 years and they have two children: Lenita and Byron, and six grandchildren.

