



January 11, 2011

National President Patrick Melvin and the members of the NOBLE Executive Board join with the members of the Chicago Metropolitan and Georgia Chapters to report the passing of Founding Member and retired Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department, Fred Rice; and Lieutenant Colonel Frederick D. Snellings, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

NOBLE Founding Member Fred Rice



Fred Rice

Fred Rice was born at the Cook County Hospital in Chicago on December 24, 1926. He graduated from DuSable High School and attended Wilson Junior College. He entered the US Army serving in Korea and was assigned to the all-Black Twenty-Fourth Infantry. It should be noted that President Truman integrated the armed services in 1948, but General MacArthur refused to integrate any unit under his command. He was relieved of command and replaced by General Matthew Ridgeway who complied with the directive retiring the 24th and integrating his troops. Rice was assigned to an artillery unit and rose to the rank of Master Sergeant. He continued his military service as a reservist after his active duty service ended in 1955. That same year, Fred Rice joined the Chicago Park District Police, which later merged with the Chicago Police Department. He was the city's first Black Accident Investigator and he became a Detective in 1960. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1963 and Lieutenant in 1968. Rice was promoted to District Commander in 1970.

Mr. Rice returned to college that year and went on to receive undergraduate and master's degrees from Roosevelt College. In 1978 Rice was promoted to Deputy Chief of Patrol and in 1980 he was promoted to Chief of Patrol, the first Black to hold that position. In August, 1983 Mayor Harold Washington appointed Rice to Superintendent, but because of resistance from several of the Aldermen he was not confirmed until November, 1983.*

In a January 25, 1993, Rice was interviewed by [The History Makers](#) and related that his groundbreaking appointment as not only a sign of the robust progression of the civil rights movement, but also as a validation of past struggles that had been fought by activists such as Rosa Parks and

the members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

"The diversity that our department enjoys today is largely the result of Superintendent Rice's heroic stance in integrating squad car assignments and providing promotional and special assignment opportunities for Black and Hispanic officers," said Chicago Metropolitan Chapter President Eugene Williams.

Mr. Rice is survived by his wife, Thelma; a son, Lyle; his daughter, Judith; a sister, Beverly Jones; and two granddaughters.

[Click here to view](#) Superintendent Rice in a 1985/1986 Community Service Announcement.

[Click here](#) to read the Chicago Tribune Feature on Fred Rice.

Historical information from Bridges of Memory Volume 2: Chicago's Second Generation of Black Migration; Northwestern University Press 2008, ISBN 0810151944 [an Interview with Fred Rice By Timuel D. Black, Jr. January 4, 1994.]

Arrangements

The Visitation will be on Friday, January 14, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. at the Holy Name Cathedral, 735 North State Street, Chicago, IL 60611.

The Service will immediately follow from 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

The Internment will be at the Oakwood Cemetery, 6700 South Greenwood Street, Chicago, IL

Chicago Metropolitan Chapter

Lieutenant Colonel Frederick D. Snellings, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety



Frederick D. Snellings

President Robert Ford and the members of the Georgia Chapter are sad to report the passing of Lieutenant Colonel Frederick D. Snellings, Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety.

Lieutenant Colonel Snellings has served more than 37 years in public service. He served four years in the United States Marine Corps (USMC). After 18 months in the USMC, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant meritoriously in Vietnam. After serving his country in the military, he joined the

Georgia State patrol where he served from 1972 to 1983 attaining the rank of Sergeant.

In May 1983, Lieutenant Colonel Snellings entered duty with the FBI as a Special Agent and was assigned to field offices in Atlanta, GA; Alexandria, VA; and Cleveland, OH. In August 1991, he was promoted to Supervisory Special Agent (SSA) with assignments at the Special Detail Unit, Administrative Services Division, at FBI Headquarters (FBIHQ), Washington D.C.; the Violent Crime/Fugitive Unit, Criminal Investigative Division at FBIHQ; and the Youngstown, OH Office. In 1999 he was promoted to Assistant Special Agent in Charge (ASAC) of the Atlanta, GA Field Office where he functioned as the second-in-command of all the FBI's Criminal Operations in Georgia. In April 2002, he was promoted to Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office. Lieutenant Colonel Snellings retired from the FBI in 2005. He then served as the Senior Manager for an international security company in charge of the Atlanta, GA branch.

Lieutenant Colonel Snellings was appointed and confirmed as Deputy Commissioner of the Georgia Department of Public Safety by the Georgia Board of Public Safety on February 14, 2008.

Lt. Colonel Snellings received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Morehouse College and his Master's degree in Public Administration from Brenau University. He was a graduate of the FBI National Academy, Session 128, Quantico VA, the Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL., and the Executive Leadership Program, Georgia Leadership Institute, University of Georgia, Athens, GA.

Lt. Colonel Snellings is survived by his wife Evelyn and two adult children.

Georgia DPS

Services

The Wake: The family will receive friends Thursday evening from 4 until 6 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. at Willie A. Watkins Funeral Home, 1003 Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard in Atlanta.

Funeral Service The service will be held Friday at noon at Mount Ephraim Baptist Church, 1202 West Marietta Street, N.W. in Atlanta. All law enforcement officers attending the service are asked to serve as honorary pallbearers and to meet at the church at 11:00 a.m. Parking is limited and car pooling is recommended.

Internment will be at Southview Cemetery, Hamilton Road in La Grange, Georgia.

Information from the Georgia Chapter



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