



Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD

January 25, 1928 - July 15, 2024

No obituary found for this tribute.

Cemetery Details

Washington Memory Gardens

701 Ridge Rd
Homewood, IL 60430

Previous Events

Viewing

JUL **25**. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Travis Funeral Home, LLC
14338 S Indiana Ave
Riverdale, IL 60827
(708) 849-2900
info@travisfh.com
<http://travfh.com>

Visitation

JUL **26**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Shekinah Chapel
13800 S Wabash Ave
Riverdale, IL 60827

Service

JUL 26. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Shekinah Chapel
13800 S Wabash Ave
Riverdale, IL 60827

Live Stream

JUL 26. 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM (CT)

www.travisfh.com

Tribute Wall



“ *Travis Funeral Home, LLC created a Webcast in memory of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD*



Travis Funeral Home, LLC - July 18, 2024 at 02:05 PM

ES

Rest well. Lord knows best. My condolences to the family. May the good Lord strengthen and uplift your spirit. I weep with you from afar my heart goes to my dear Barry.

Esther - July 26, 2024 at 03:30 PM

“ Last week I lost a wonderful friend who was also a loving and caring father, a loving, faithful husband, a person you could count on, and a great man who cared deeply about his church and community. This great American was a humble man who would not brag about his greatness, he just showed it by the example of his life, his family, and his accomplishments.

Eugene T. Speller was born in a sharecropper shack on the edge of a cotton field near Pinhook, Missouri. He was a child during the Great Depression. His father had a sixth-grade education. His mother taught grade school with just a tenth-grade education.

Eugene was just a child working in the cotton fields when he would tell others “I’m going to college.” Remember, he was a poor black child working in a cotton field during the depression, yet he is planning on going to college. The men in the field challenged him about that statement. His answer was “Daddy, said I am.”

Eugene didn’t just rise up out of that cotton field and go to college, he eventually became the president of Olive-Harvey College in Chicago. But getting there was not easy.

He attended Lincoln High School in Charleston where he was the only male in his class. And getting there wasn’t easy either. He had to walk to East Prairie, take the Shoe Factory bus to Charleston, and walk to the high school. No yellow bus picked him up on the corner.

After high school he went to Michigan State University while working three jobs and studying hard. Later John Deere hired their first black engineer without ever meeting him. They did so on the strength of his letter, resume, and phone call. He was very successful at John Deere. Later he was told they were very glad they did not know he was black when they hired him, or they would not have done so.

All because “Daddy said I am.” The power of a father on a child’s

future!

Eugene's wife Thelma was a member of a founding family of Smith Chapel Methodist Church in Sunset. I met Eugene and Thelma when I was the pastor of that church in the late 1990s. We became fast, close, and enduring friends.

I walk in his shadow, and I will miss him. I wish I could have said these words at his funeral.

God Bless...

Harry Sharp - July 27, 2024 at 10:08 AM

CT

“ *To my good friend Barry may the Lord bless and comfort you all during this time. Sincerely Charmaine*

Charmaine Thomas - July 26, 2024 at 10:34 AM

LK

“ *Linda Ray Marvin Sue Neicy Jackie Knox purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*



Linda Ray Marvin Sue Neicy Jackie Knox - July 25, 2024 at 08:58 AM

LK

“ *Linda Ray Marvin Sue Neicy Jackie Knox planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*

Linda Ray Marvin Sue Neicy Jackie Knox - July 25, 2024 at 08:58 AM



“ *Serene Reflections Bouquet* was purchased for the family of *Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD*.



July 24, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ *Lorenzo and Maureen* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD*.

Lorenzo and Maureen - July 24, 2024 at 10:45 PM



“ *Anderson Family* purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of *Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD*.



Anderson Family - July 23, 2024 at 07:34 PM



“ *Anderson Family* planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of *Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD*.

Anderson Family - July 23, 2024 at 07:34 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*



July 23, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ *JaDora, Jacquelyn, and Tammie planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*

JaDora, Jacquelyn, and Tammie - July 23, 2024 at 03:40 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*



July 22, 2024 at 04:10 PM



“ *The Park Bank and Mack Family purchased the Heavenly Heights Bouquet for the family of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*



The Park Bank and Mack Family - July 21, 2024 at 05:15 PM

TF

“ *The Park Bank and Mack Family planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*

The Park Bank and Mack Family - July 21, 2024 at 05:15 PM

TT

“ *The Tomaseski's -Janalee, Tina & Tracy purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Eugene T Speller PhD.*



The Tomaseski's -Janalee, Tina & Tracy - July 19, 2024 at 12:45 PM