



Dr. Peter C. Murrell Sr.

May 14, 1920 - November 21, 2017

Peter Charles Murrell was born in Glasgow, Kentucky, on May 14, 1920, the only child to Nellie Murrell, a homemaker, and Sam Murrell, the district manager for an insurance company. Peter attended Kentucky State College, where he majored in General Studies and played basketball. In his senior year, 1942, He joined the military, within the U.S Signal Corps Reserve. He later became part of the United States Army Air Corps and the Army Specialized Training Program. After this service, he enrolled in Marquette University Dental School, from 1944 to 1947m where he graduated with a DDS and began a long and distinguished career as a dentist. Peter Murrell met Eva Ruth Greenlee, the love of his life, in 1947, in Washington DC. Peter was working as a dentist and instructor at the Howard University Dental Clinic. Eva Ruth, a recent graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, was working as a typist in DC, and their mutual history began when she became a dental patient at Howard. Eva Ruth was elegant, sophisticated and intelligent, and the two fell in love. After a few months of courtship, they married on September 28, 1947, in Washington DC. In August of 1948, Peter and Eva relocated from Washington DC to Milwaukee, where Peter began his own dental practice. Soon afterwards, Eva Ruth gave birth to their first child, Peggy Joyce Murrell. In 1951, he re-enlisted in the military, this time as Captain in the United States Air Force Dental Corps, in Cheyenne, Wyoming. In Cheyenne, their second child, Peter Charles Murrell Jr. was born. Upon returning to Milwaukee, in 1953, they continued to grow their family, adding Linda and James Murrell. In

addition, they raised their grandson, Michael Peter Murrell. Themselves highly educated, Peter and Eva Ruth encouraged education in their children and grandchild, who went on to become leaders in the arts, sciences, journalism and community service. Peter continued his dental practice until his retirement in 1991. Peter Murrell lived a life of devotion and steadfastness in faith. He professed Christ as his Savior and was baptized in February 1931, at First Baptist Church, in Glasgow, Kentucky. His grandfather, Reverend Peter Murrell was born enslaved, but upon emancipation, became a biblical scholar and founder of multiple churches, in southeastern Kentucky, including First Baptist Church, where he pastored. Sharing property with Peter's childhood home, First Baptist Church became both the center of his spiritual and social life for him and his family. His father, Sam Murrell was deacon at the church, and his mother Nellie, was a Sunday school teacher. Thus, his early role models and experiences shaped his faith and formed the foundation for how he lived and the framework for how he raised his family. After Peter first moved to Milwaukee, in 1944, he joined Calvary Baptist Church, under the leadership of Reverend Melvin J. Battle, where he later encouraged the spiritual education for his children and grandchild. Dr. Peter Murrell remained an active member in the church, until his health failed. Peter has been active in a variety of civic, social and professional organizations throughout his life. At Kentucky State, he was a member of the Beta Mu Chapter of the Alphi Phi Alpha fraternity, initiated May 16, 1942. He was also a founding member and president of Delta Chi Lambda Chapter in Milwaukee in 1949 and from 1954-1957, respectively. He continued to participate and retain close ties with his fraternity throughout his life. Professionally, he was an active member of the National Wisconsin and Greater Milwaukee Dental Associations. In the Wisconsin Dental Association (WDA), he has served on a wide variety of committees, including the By-Laws, Visual Education, Dental Manpower and Government Programs committees. He was also on the Council on Dental Care Programs, Medical Assistance Advisory Committee, as well as the House of Delegates and Board of Trustees. In the Milwaukee Dental

Association (GMDA), he held every available office and was a life member. Peter's civic involvement included being a board manager and chairperson of the Northside YMCA, and serving on the Citizens Urban Renewal Committee, the Children's Service Society of Wisconsin, the Garfield Foundation, and the We Milwaukeeans Committee. He was also the founder and first president of the Frontiers International Society. For both his civic and professional work, Peter has received many awards. He has been awarded for distinguished service at the Milwaukee Organization of Industrial Center (OICP), the Award of Excellence from the Milwaukee Expo, Who's Who in the Midwest and Who's Who Among Black Americans. He has also received the Anvil award from St. Mark AME Church. Notably, he was awarded the GMDA Service to Dentistry in 1987 and the WDA Lifetime Achievement Award in 1993. Peter Murrell was an enthusiastic collector of jazz and occasionally, treated his family to his own special brand of home-cooked barbecue. He and Eva Ruth enjoyed travel within the United States and abroad. Peter was an avid photographer throughout his life and has chronicled their journeys, as well as, family moments across three generations. Most of all, he delighted in his wife and children, of whom he was very proud. Dr. Peter Charles Murrell led a life distinguished by love and leadership. With humility, dignity and grace, he raised a wonderful family, achieved a distinguished career and provided a quintessential model for how to be a man of faith. Dr. Peter Charles Murrell passed away at the age of 97. His wife of 66 years, Eva Ruth, as well as his two sons, Peter and James Murrell, preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving and grateful son/grandson, Michael Peter Murrell; daughters, Peggy and Linda Murrell; two daughters-in-law, Yvette Murrell and Terry Meier; as well as five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and one goddaughter.

Cemetery Details

Wisconsin Memorial Park

13235 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield, WI

Previous Events

Service

NOV 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Wisconsin Memorial Park
13235 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield, WI

Visitation

NOV 29. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Wisconsin Memorial Park West Chapel
13235 W. Capitol Dr.
Brookfield, WI

Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Murrel was a dear neighbor and family friend of the Becketts. He and my father shared many a visit together and he was our family dentist. He has earned a sweet heavenly rest in peace. Prayers of comfort to his family.*

Mae Beckett Castenell

Mae Beckett Castenell - January 05, 2023 at 10:35 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Peter C. Murrell Sr..*



November 28, 2017 at 05:53 PM