



## Dr. Randle E. Pollard

March 28, 1925 - October 13, 2021

Randle E. Pollard, a pioneering Black urologist, who as a physician, entrepreneur, and philanthropist was dedicated to the betterment of his community, died peacefully on Oct. 13 at Eastcastle Place where he lived. He was 96.

Dr. Pollard went into private practice in Milwaukee in 1958, becoming the first Black urologist in Wisconsin. The medical establishment that he encountered was a far different one for Black doctors than the one he left behind when he retired 38 years later, a credit to the efforts of Dr. Pollard and others like him. He opened an office in an area where most of his patients were Black men, many of whom had probably never seen a urologist before. Dr. Pollard recognized a need that he could fulfill: that Black men historically had the highest incidence of prostate cancer of any group in the country and therefore would benefit from his services most.

Early on, he understood the importance of taking on leadership roles in medical organizations in bringing about change. He was twice elected president of the medical staff of 700 at Good Samaritan Medical Center and served as president of the Milwaukee Urological Society, the Cream City Medical Society, and later the Wisconsin Urological Society. In addition, he was a founder of what became the R. Frank Jones Urological Society of the National Medical Association. He has written and delivered medical papers both here and abroad.

Teaching also afforded him the opportunity to “give forward” to future

generations. Among the many notable academic posts that he held were Chief of Urology at Deaconess Hospital and for three decades a clinical professor of urology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

“Dr. Pollard was the first Black urologist in the state of Wisconsin and the first Black member of our organization,” Dr. Sarah McAchran, president of the Wisconsin Urological Society, said in a statement. “His contributions to the profession and to his patients, especially his work to raise awareness about urologic diseases among black men, cannot be underestimated.”

Dr. Tracy Downs, president of the R. Frank Jones Urological Society, recalled having visited Dr. Pollard’s Milwaukee office and was impressed that getting “the best outcomes for his patients” was key to his approach. “His contribution to urology and to the care of his patients has been immense, especially as a pioneer who blazed the trail as a Black urologist, so that I and others could follow,” Dr. Downs said in a statement. “We are saddened by Randy’s passing, and he will truly be missed.”

Randle E. Pollard was born on March 28, 1925, the youngest of three children, to Mamie Anna (Perrin) and William B. Pollard Sr. Growing up in Evanston, Ill., he showed an early interest in math and science, graduating from Evanston Township High School. He played sports, but as he often said later, he was never the athlete his brother was.

After high school, like his siblings before him, he enrolled at Prairie View A&M University, where he was a pre-med student. His college career was interrupted when he was drafted into the Army. He was assigned to the medical detachment of the 370th Infantry, 92d Division, and served as a combat medic in Italy during World War II. He was awarded 2 Bronze Stars and three Battle Stars.

After Germany surrendered, while still in uniform, he was sent to the University of Florence to study for three months for college credit. While in Italy, he learned to speak Italian. Over the years, seeing people do a double take when hearing a Black man speak Italian became something of an inside joke within his family.

Upon his discharge from the Army, he returned to college and before graduating, was admitted to Meharry Medical College in Nashville. He earned his medical degree in 1951 and spent the next few years gaining additional training in surgery and urology. Within a few years, he became Board certified in urology and elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons.

Dr. Pollard's accomplishments extended beyond medicine. He invested in many black owned businesses, including a pharmacy and a nursing home. He co-founded the North Milwaukee State Bank, the city's first full-service, minority-owned bank.

His philanthropic interests were many, and varied, ranging from the Milwaukee Urban League and the NAACP to sitting on the boards of The Bradley Center and Second Harvest. He was especially proud of the scholarships he created: the Pollard Prizes in Urology and Physiology at Meharry and the Pollard Prize in Urology at the Medical College of Wisconsin.

He and his wife of 67 years, Mildred "Micki" (Brawner) Pollard, led active social lives. They traveled the world, several times over, returning regularly to Bologna to brush up on his Italian. His passion for languages also took him to Costa Rica to study Spanish. Pillars of their community, they attended galas and fundraisers. Dr. Pollard was never one to skip a good party. Together they enjoyed good food and dancing.

Dr. Pollard was a member of St. Mark's A.M.E. Church. He was also a lifetime member of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and was a charter member of the Beta Alpha Boule of Sigma Pi Phi, the nation's oldest Black fraternity. He regularly attended meetings of the Rotary Club of Milwaukee, where he gave talks on prostate cancer.

Dr. Pollard often said that the three things he was most proud of was his family, his medical career and his military service. In 2019 he was one of Wisconsin veterans who took part in a Stars and Stripes Honor Flight to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C. In his later years, he was rarely seen not wearing his veterans cap. Whenever a stranger came up to him to thank

him for his service it never failed to make him smile.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters, Karol J. Roberts (Fletcher), of Baltimore; Emily F. Pollard (Robert Wilensky), of Ardmore, Pa; JoAnne M. Williamson (Ronald), of Mequon, and a son, Randle B. Pollard (Juval Scott), of Charlottesville, Va.; 7 grandchildren, a great grandson, a nephew, and 3 nieces.

A funeral with military honors will be held on Oct. 29 at the Wisconsin Memorial Park Chapel of Chimes in Brookfield. Mayor Tom Barrett, citing his “extraordinary accomplishments in medicine” and his community service, has proclaimed the day Randle E. Pollard Day in Milwaukee. Interment will take place on Nov. 22 at the Southern Wisconsin Veterans Cemetery, Union Grove. The Pollard Family would like to express its gratitude to the staff at Eastcastle Place Health Center and the VITAS Hospice team for the care Dr. Pollard received. Those wishing to make donations are asked to contribute to the Pollard scholarships.

# Cemetery Details

## Southern WI Veterans Cemetery

21731 Spring St.  
Union Grove, WI

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT **29**. 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Wisconsin Memorial Park "Chapel of Chimes"  
13235 W. Capitol Dr.  
Brookfield, WI 53005

## Funeral Service

OCT **29**. 2:00 PM (CT)

Wisconsin Memorial Park "Chapel of Chimes"  
13235 W. Capitol Dr.  
Brookfield, WI

# Tribute Wall



“ *Dr. Janine James and Cromwell Family. We extend our condolences as we recall many happy times throughout the country at the National Medical Association. You will be missed by all of us who were touched by your gentle, gentile presence as we learned what is expected of a black physician. We thank you and Micky for taking us under your wing. Yours are big shoes for us to fill.*

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**Janine James** - October 29, 2021 at 03:55 PM



*My condolences to the Pollard family with prayers. Dr. Pollard was my personal physician for urology for many years and I pay tribute to his skill, patient compassion and as a community leader. Now that he becomes an ancestor he lives with us all who call out his name, carry a great memory of his life and times and honor his history in our city/community. May God Bless you all with much in love, peace and soul...*

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**Tyrone P Dumas** - October 29, 2021 at 04:51 PM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 29, 2021 at 09:10 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 28, 2021 at 07:22 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 28, 2021 at 03:35 PM



“ *Fiery Lily and Rose was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 28, 2021 at 02:28 PM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 28, 2021 at 12:11 PM

DF

“ *Dr M. Eugene & Charlotte F. Pruitt & Fam purchased the Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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**Dr M. Eugene & Charlotte F. Pruitt & Fam** - October 28, 2021  
at 11:50 AM

Y(

“ *Your Richmond Ogletree Family (ROD) purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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**Your Richmond Ogletree Family (ROD)** - October 27, 2021 at  
10:25 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 26, 2021 at 04:43 PM

YF

“ *Your Washington Ogletree Family purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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**Your Washington Ogletree Family** - October 26, 2021 at 10:17  
AM

KC

“ *Katessa Charles purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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**Katessa Charles** - October 25, 2021 at 08:25 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 25, 2021 at 05:36 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 24, 2021 at 06:16 PM

BH

“ I was an RN fresh out of Deaconess Nursing School in 1972 assigned to the 3rd floor GI/GU surgical unit. I had worked with Dr. Pollard's patients as a student, but as a graduate, it took on a whole new meaning. Back in the day, he would use an "open flow" bladder irrigation on his post op patients. Heaven help anyone who would let that bag run dry and have clots develop. I worked the 2nd and 3rd shift and got to know and develop a tremendous respect for Dr. Pollard over the 2 years that I worked there. He knew who he could depend on to keep his patients stable. I was one of those lucky people who he relied on and he expressed his displeasure when I resigned. I always will remember his laugh and his total manner of dignity. He was a wonderful man who will be missed.  
My condolences to your family-*Barbara (Lutz) Hemmerich, RN (retired)*

Barbara Hemmerich - October 24, 2021 at 09:08 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.



October 23, 2021 at 03:59 PM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.



October 23, 2021 at 02:24 PM

WT

“ *Several years ago, I had the pleasure of being introduced to Dr. Pollard by his daughter Dr. Emily Pollard. What immediately stood out to me was his distinguished presence. He was an honorable man and I'm proud to call him my Alpha Phi Alpha Brother.*

*My sincere condolences to the entire family, Warren Trent*

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**Warren Trent** - October 23, 2021 at 02:12 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 22, 2021 at 09:03 AM

VJ

“ *We have such fond memories of Archon Randle E. Pollard and his entire family. Our families have been friends for close to 60 years. We are thinking of you and praying for you, Pollard family. Rest In Peace, Dr. Pollard. We already miss you. Love, Archon George M. Hughes, Sr. and family*

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**Vickie L. Hughes, J.D.** - October 21, 2021 at 09:14 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.*



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October 21, 2021 at 05:39 PM

TB

“ We have many good memories that we will keep close to our hearts of the times when we lived in Milwaukee and shared many wonderful times with Dr. Pollard and his wife Mickey.

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**Taft and Bea Benson** - October 20, 2021 at 08:16 PM

MP

*I remember Dr. Pollard from Deaconess hospital. He was a very distinguished gentleman. He was one of the Great ones.*

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**Marilynn Safford Pesrson** - October 21, 2021 at 01:53 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Dr. Randle E. Pollard.



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October 19, 2021 at 06:30 PM

CM

“ Archon Pollard was a mentor and a friend. He called me and suggested that I run for the office of Grand Sire Archon in 2003. The thought had never crossed my mind, he convinced me to run and then advised me on all matters that were important. He and his Archousa have been more than gracious over the years. He will be missed, but never forgotten!

*Cornell Leverette Moore  
Past Grand Sire Archon  
Omicron Boule  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota*

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**Cornell Moore** - October 16, 2021 at 01:09 PM

PS

*I knew Dr. Pollard long before moving to Milwaukee in 1964. I followed him via my Father's medical school year books and Alpha Phi Alpha mementos. My Father finished Meharry the year before Dr. Pollard, and I recall briefly meeting him.*

*Many years later, in 1964, we met him and his lovely wife at a social function. He called me "Charles' daughter" and often said how much I reminded him of my Father. Whenever we saw each other, his first conversation was asking about Daddy!*

*I will cherish the friendship that spanned two generations, I grew to love Randy & Micki and their children. We tried to model ourselves as the couple/ parents that they are. I will cherish his memory, his warm smile, his gentle spirit, his classy demeanor. Most of all, I feel so privileged to know this Wonderful Gentleman! May you sleep sweetly in God's Loving Arms!! 🙏💕*

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**Patricia Shirley** - October 21, 2021 at 03:03 PM

BM

*Long time friend to the Calvin/Elizabeth Beckett family, Dr. Pollard was an icon to the community during my growing up years in Milwaukee. He and Mrs. Pollard we're role model of grace, charm and good humor for me and my brothers. He will be missed, but leaves a legacy of honor. Blessings and comfort to his family.*

*Mae Beckett Castenell*

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**Beckett Castenell Mae** - October 22, 2021 at 11:50 PM