

Monroe Wilson Mack, R.Ph., MBA.

A pioneer by any stretch of the word, Monroe W. Mack is truly a trailblazer. He is one of the very first graduates of the Florida A&M University School of Pharmacy, class of 1956, and later received the MBA from Nova University. Mack moved to Tampa in 1958 where he established the pharmacy services at Clara Frye Memorial Hospital. From there he transferred to the Tampa General Hospital in 1962, becoming the first Black professional to be employed there. Mack eventually became the Director of Pharmacy at TGH, a remarkable feat for the times. Mack retired from TGH in April, 1990.



Monroe W. Mack joined the U.S. Army Reserves and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army in 1956. He entered active duty in 1987 and returned to the Reserves. Mack served in various training assignments, including Director of instruction, Assistant Commandant, and Acting Commandant of the 3388th U.S. Reserve School. He retired as a Lt. Colonel in 1985. In 1987 Monroe Mack became a founding member of Tampa Hillsborough Action Plan and served actively for over two decades.

Monroe W. Mack developed an impressive political advocacy career, attracting many young participants and supporting numerous successful candidates. In 1974, he became the first African-American to be appointed and re-appointed to the Florida Board of Pharmacy by Gov. Rubin Askew, and re-appointed twice by Gov. Robert (Bob) Graham. He was the first African-American Board President (1977, 1980, and 1985). While on the Board he chaired the Examination and Negative Formulary Advisory Committees, and served on the Continuing Education Committee.

Monroe W. Mack worked diligently to provide training opportunities for student pharmacists, and was appointed Preceptor and Clinical Assistant Professor by both University of Florida and Florida A&M University Colleges of Pharmacy.

When asked by President Gwen Washington to help her with alumni fund raising campaigns, Mr. Monroe W. Mack led the Diamondback's initiatives to raise scholarship funds of \$ 50,000, and to establish a \$100,000 Alumni Endowment for the FAMU College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences. In heading these efforts, Mack led by example, to wit, his name is the sole Donor listed at the Double Platinum level on the Alumni Commemorative Plaque in the College.

Monroe W. Mack was inducted into the FAMU College of Pharmacy & Pharmaceutical Sciences' Gallery of Distinction. His likeness is prominently displayed alongside other prominent alumni in the main corridor of the College's entrance. Monroe W. Mack is married to Laverne Mack, and the couple has three adult children, including one son, Gregory Griffin, and two daughters, Nicole LaShaw Mack and Traci Michelle Mack.