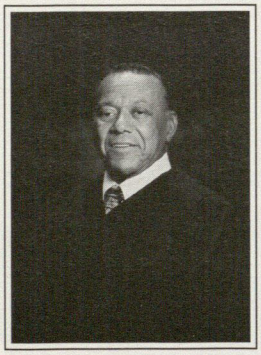
[MS-0494.004.012.009]

Obituary



Earl B. Gilliam was born on August 17, 1931 in Clovis, New Mexico to James Earl and Lula Mae Gooden Gilliam. The family moved first to Oklahoma City, and then when Earl was age 10, moved to San Diego. Earl attended Logan and Stockton elementary schools, Memorial Jr. High, and San Diego High School. In 1949 he entered San Diego State College, where he majored in business. Upon graduation from San Diego State he was accepted into Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, where he graduated in 1957.

In 1947 the Gilliam family opened the Louisiana Seafood Market on Imperial Avenue. Earl could be found behind the fish counter after school and weekends thereafter until he left for law school. In fact, he often joked that it was his desire to find a way out of the fish market that motivated him to begin a career in the law.

Earl practiced law, as a deputy district attorney and as a general practitioner, for five years until 1963 when, at age 32, he was appointed to the Municipal Court by Governor Edmond G. Brown, becoming the first African American to sit on the San Diego bench. He was elected Presiding Judge in 1971. In 1975, Governor Jerry Brown elevated Earl to the San Diego Superior Court bench. In 1980, Earl was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the United States District Court for the Southern District of California, a position he held proudly until his death.

Earl had a deep sense of social responsibility and a commitment to public service. He became an adjunct professor at Western State University School of Law when it opened in 1969 and continued to teach for the next 24 years. In 1995 the school's moot courtroom was formally dedicated in his honor.

Judge Gilliam generously gave time and effort to this community in countless ways. He served on the boards of numerous civic, professional and private organizations, including his favorite senior housing charity, San Diego Kind Corporation, as well as the Board of Overseers of University of California San Diego, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, Burn Institute, Urban League, Boys Club, YMCA, Model Cities, and many others. The community, in turn, has repeatedly acknowledged his contributions with awards too numerous to list in detail. In 1982, San Diego's African American lawyers organization honored him by changing its name to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association.

Earl met his wife, Rebecca Prater, in 1978, and she was his date for the 1978 San Diego County Bar Dinner. They remained the best of personal and professional friends for the rest of their careers, and ultimately married in 1993. Tragically, two weeks after their wedding Earl had heart surgery which left him paralyzed and on dialysis for the remainder of his life. The long ordeal, however, never damped his spirit.

Earl is also survived by his beloved son, Derrick James Gilliam of San Francisco, born of Earl's first marriage to Barbara Crawford. Their oldest son, Earl Kenneth Gilliam, died of cancer in 1999. Additional survivors are Earl Kenneth's son Tooran Gilliam, and Rebecca's daughter and granddaughter Claudia and Nandina Menifee, all of San Diego; nephew Frank L. Swain, Jr. of Chicago; cousins Mary Francis Jones and Art Gilliam of Memphis, Blanche Willis and Sammie Caldwell of Waco, Texas, Gloria Shepard of St. Albans, New York, Doyle Walker of Desoto, Texas; and a host of other cousins, relatives and friends throughout the country.

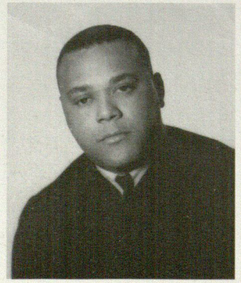
The family requests that donations be made to the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association Scholarship Fund, PO Box 125022, San Diego, CA 92112, or to the William J. Oakes Boys and Girls Club of San Diego at 2930 Marcy Avenue, San Diego, CA 92113.

MY FAMILY MEMORIES

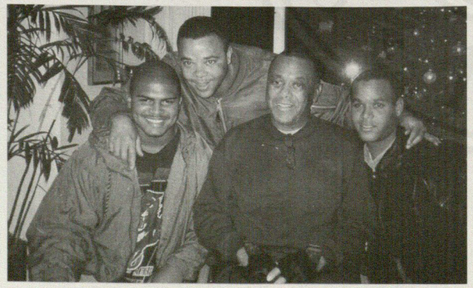
Baby Earl (Junior)
All dressed up!

Junior, Mom, Lula Mae
Dad, James Earl

Never Ending Romance — Earl and Rebecca



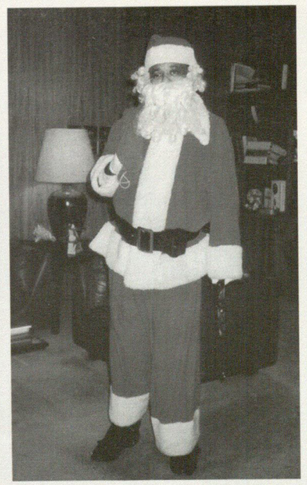
Appointment to Municipal Court
in San Diego - 1963



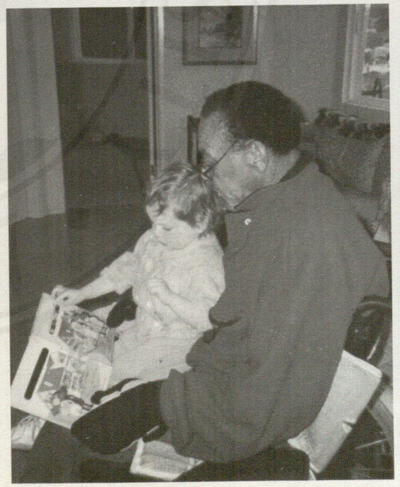
Grandson, Tooran, late son Earl Kenny, Dad (Earl) and
youngest son, Derrick

. . . MORE MEMORIES

Tending to his favorite pastime.
A gardener for all seasons



Here comes Santa



Nandina reads to "Baby Grandpa"

Mom, always there for all occasions

REFLECTIONS OF FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Do you remember?

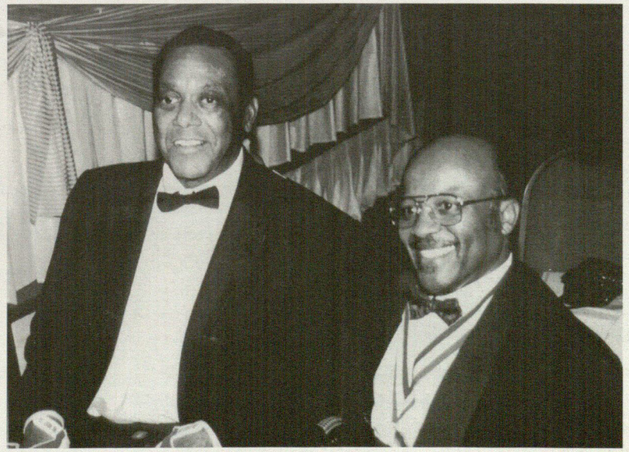
The Judge and then Governor Jerry Brown

Friends, Len Perry, Judge Earl and Hartwell Ragsdale

. . . FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES

Earl and Judge John Rhodes in Alaska

Chief Judge Marilyn Huff and Earl



Here come the Honorable Federal Court Judges, Earl & Nap Jones, Kappa and Boulé Brothers for Life!

MY COLLEAGUES

United States District Court for the Southern District of California, year 2000
Top L to R: John Rhodes, William Enright, Tom Whelan, Jeff Miller, Judy Keep, Barry Moskowitz, James Lorenz
Bottom L to R: Irma Gonzalez, Gordon Thompson, Earl B. Gilliam, Marilyn Huff, Howard Turrentine, Napoleon Jones, Jr., Rudy Brewster

ORDER OF SERVICE

Color Guard ..... San Diego Police Department
Prelude
Processional

Song ..... *"Amazing Grace"* ..... Soloist - Sharron Morgan
Charles Ray, Organist

Greetings ..... Reverend George Walker Smith, Pastor Emeritus
Christ United Presbyterian Church

Prayer ..... Timothy Winters, D.Min., Pastor
Bayview Baptist Church

Passage from the Old Testament ..... Reverend James H. Hargett, Pastor Emeritus
Christian Fellowship Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Shared Pilgrimage ..... Reverend James H. Hargett, Pastor Emeritus
Christian Fellowship Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Song ..... *"The Lords Prayer"* ..... Soloist - Shirley Logan

Song ..... *"Total Praise"* ..... Choir - Bayview Baptist Church

Silent reading of the Obituary
Acknowledgment of Condolences ..... Juande Ragsdale-Blevins

Resolutions - (please limit to two minutes each)

Song ..... *"Shadow of Your Smile"* ..... Soloist - Jesse Davis
Charles Ray, Pianist

Remembrances
..... Marilyn Huff - *Chief Judge, United States District Court*
..... Charles Rucker - *friend of Earl since childhood*
..... Derrick James Gilliam - *son of Earl*

Congregational Hymn ..... *" How Great Though Art"* ..... Page 25

Comments ..... Reverend George Walker Smith, Pastor Emeritus
Christ United Presbyterian Church

Benediction ..... Reverend James H. Hargett, Pastor Emeritus
Christian Fellowship Congregational Church, United Church of Christ

Recessional ..... Soloist - Sharron Morgan
Charles Ray, Pianist

HONORARY PALLBEARERS

Robert Kipper
Hartwell W. Ragsdale
Len Perry, Esq.
Judge Napoleon Jones
Jesse Davis
Charles Rucker
Judge Joe Littlejohn
Councilman George Stevens
Dale Epps
Don Wrighton, Esq.

ACTIVE PALLBEARERS

Derrick James Gilliam
Clark Rucker
Hans Erik Nansen
Anthony Earl Galyean
Brock Prater
Charles Powell

INTERNMENT

Mount Hope Cemetery

REPASS

Christ United Presbyterian Church
30th Street at Fir