

Former leader remembered for contribution to the community

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the last in the month-long series of articles in observance of Black History Month. The local chapter of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women is sponsoring these articles that have run each Wednesday during the month of February.)

Beauregard King III, known to many in the community as "Captain" or "Cap," was one of Chester County's most politically active black leaders of the past two decades.

Although he never sought election to public office, Captain King was instrumental in shaping the county's current form of government due to the fact that he was a co-sponsor of litigation which led to the establishment of single-member district representation to the County Council and School Board.

A 1978 court case filed in part by Captain King challenged the

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

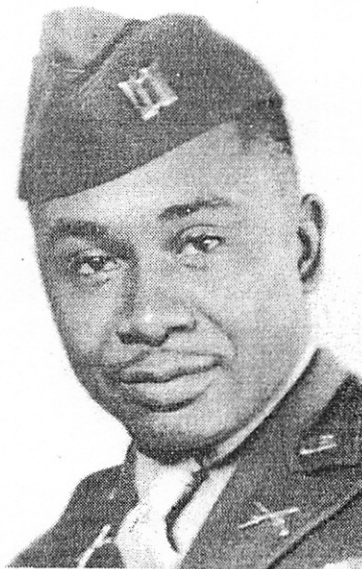
county's old at-large method of electing county council and school board members. The suit was upheld by the U.S. Justice Department and a three-judge federal panel. The case was filed on the premise that the at-large method diluted black voting strength.

King was a tank commander during World War II and retired in 1950 from the U.S. Army with the rank of Captain.

He was active in many facets of the community including acting as chairman of the Community Relations Committee, which was established in the aftermath of racial unrest in 1979; and as a deacon, church clerk and secretary of the Joint Board of Deacons and Trustees of Calvary Baptist Church.

He also founded the Young Adult Organization and Boy Scout Troop 93 at the church. He was also a Mason.

King died in October 1985, leaving a legacy throughout the county; as well as in the black community.



Beauregard King III

Local families' grandfather was legislator during Reconstruction

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This story was provided by a local family to bring attention to the history of Chester County people in the focus of Black History Month.)

There are many members of the Moore family that are descended from Albert Philip Moore, a legislator during the Reconstruction Era in South Carolina.

In Chester, there are four grandchildren descended from this man, although there are many more grandchildren in other areas of the country.

Rev. Samuel M. Moore and his brother, Robert A. Moore, and their cousins, Georgianna Moore Reed and her brother, Rufus A. Moore Sr., all live in Chester and are the grandchildren of this early black political leader.

ried a young Indian girl and became a farmer. They had 10 children, seven boys, namely Elem, Belt Jinsey, Samuel, Michael, Forest Lee, Plez Pluto Zeno, and Dawson;



and three girls, Adline, Anna and Fannie.

Rev. Moore says his grandfather bought two lots of land in Ridgeway, S.C., and built a house on one of them to raise his 10 children.

In 1872, Moore was elected to the state legislature during the Reconstruction period in the South following the bloody Civil War.

There was still much racial unrest in the South but black legislators were elected to their seats because all freed slaves were given the right to vote and the white planters and farmers of the South could not vote until they took the allegiance oath, which many would not take.

Like Moore, most of the legislators served four years in office until about the time that Wade Hampton formed his Red Shirts, a group of men that kept the white...

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