

## **Dr. Crosby Copeland, Jr. – Biography**

Dr. Copeland was quite accomplished academically as he held a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Grambling State University, a Master's degree from Trenton State College (now The College of NJ), Administrative Certificates from Rutgers and Seton Hall University and a Doctorate of Education from Nova University.

He served in the United States Army from 1956 until 1958 and remained with the Army Reserve until 1964.

His professional athletic career included playing Defensive End with the Paterson Miners Football Club of the Atlantic Coast Football League and the Newark Bears Football Club of the Continental Football League.

Dr. Copeland began his teaching career as an Elementary teacher and then as a Junior High Physical Educational teacher. Later he served as Vice Principal of Jr. High School 2, Principal of Parker Elementary and Junior High School 1. He also coached various athletic teams including basketball, baseball, soccer and football.

From 1971 until 1982, Dr. Copeland served as the first African-American Principal of Trenton Central High School. In that capacity, he was responsible for providing administrative supervision and leadership for over 3,000 students, 200 teachers and 100 support staff. He was credited during his tenure with re-establishing a peaceful atmosphere conducive for learning.

Dr. Copeland was subsequently appointed as the Superintendent of Trenton Public Schools. He was responsible for managing the fifth largest school district in New Jersey consisting of a 100 million dollar budget, 13,000 students, 2,000 full time employees, 27 schools and administrative offices. He was recognized statewide for presenting public testimony to local, state and national educational groups, commissions and legislative committees regarding issues related to urban education; equity of resources, funding, students at risk and drop-out prevention.

Dr. Crosby Copeland, Jr. was a loyal and faithful parishioner of Shiloh Baptist Church, along with his family. He has served on numerous boards, was a member of a number of professional educational organizations and was a Life Member of the National Education Association and the NJ Education Association. He was also a Life Member and past president of the Urban League of Metropolitan Trenton, Trenton NAACP and the Trenton Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.

Dr. Copeland was the recipient of numerous awards and citations including NAACP Achievement Award in Education and Civic Affairs, Fai-Ho-Cha Achievement Award in Education, National Conference of Christian and Jews Brotherhood Award, Trenton High Hall of Fame and the Kappa Alpha Psi Northeastern Province Achievement Award.

He was married to Roselie Frazier Copeland from Bunkie, Louisiana for 61 years. They have two sons, Crosby III (deceased) and Shawn (wife Christi), and three grandchildren, Jae Copeland, Blake Copeland and Courtney Copeland.