

## Deacon Ned Rice



September 12, 1930 – April 5, 2000

"To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heavens.  
Eccles. 3: 1-8

On Wednesday, April 5, 2000, one of God's most beautiful flowers was plucked from earth for His Heavenly bouquet.

Ned graduated from Sims High School in Union, South Carolina. He served in the United States Army where he fought in the Korean War. He furthered his education at Philadelphia Community College, Ohio State University and St. Joseph Institute of Industrial Relations graduating in 1978. Deacon Rices' inexhaustible quest for wisdom, knowledge and personal development lead him to devote many hours to reading, teaching and encouraging others.



Deacon Rice was united in Holy Matrimony to Sarah Melton in July 31, 1956. They were blessed with three beautiful children: Ned Joseph, Agnes Colette and Toniere Liane.

After serving in the armed forces, he relocated to Baltimore, Maryland where he worked at John Hopkins University Medical Center. After his tenure at John Hopkins University Medical Center, he relocated to Philadelphia where he began a long and distinguished career with the United States Department of Agriculture. Ned began his career as a Livestock Slaughter Inspector and advanced to various positions in the field including Officer -in Charge in New York City, Assistant to the Regional Director in the Northeastern Regional Office, and finally to Staff Officer for Special Projects and Field Liaison in Washington, D.C.

Ned was one of the beginning members of ATSP in 1975 and he served FSIS for 36 years. In his various government positions, particularly as Washington Staff Officer for Special Projects, he

participated in the development of programs to modernize and enhance USDA's meat and poultry program including implementation of the agency's Total Quality Control system, Partial Quality Control Programs, Inspection System Work Plan, and the Performance Based Inspection System. During this service he received numerous awards and citations including the Secretary's Department Superior Service Honor Award. Throughout his career, Ned was recognized as someone who would "go the extra mile" without being asked; often sacrificing his own time to accomplish and exceed the goals set before him. He always sought opportunities to provide guidance and counseling to young inspection program staff officers and other new employees. His credibility and enthusiasm with his job won him the admiration and respect from those in public service as well as in the private sector.

Upon retiring, after 36 years of Federal Service, Ned started his own private consulting organization (Toneco Enterprises) providing various services to the food industry, principally the meat and poultry sector.

Deacon Rice's devotion to his church family, his service to his country while serving in the military and his federal service still gave him an opportunity touch many lives throughout the community through his service with mentoring youth through the Greater South East latch key program entitled, "Grandmas hands and Grandpa's too". Deacon Rice loved children so much that there was no distinguishing his children from those through the community. He was once quoted as stating "I concerned about the breakdown of family ties . . .". Reflecting on all this, Deacon Rice had the ability to love his family giving them quality time and attention yet he had enough love to share himself with countless others.

