

# Dr. West, first black Nevada doctor, newspaper pioneer, dead

Dr. Charles I. West, 76, the first black physician to be licensed in the State of Nevada and a longtime community leader, died Sunday night at Valley Hospital.

Born in Washington, D.C., Sept. 27, 1908, Dr. Charles I. West was the youngest of the four children of Dr. and Mrs. Charles West, Sr. Like his father, Dr. West, Jr. was a graduate of the Harvard University Medical School. His mother, Rebekah, was the first Black principal in the Washington, D.C. school system.

Dr. West completed high school at the Williston Academy for Boys in East Hampton, Massachusetts and began his college years at Dartmouth College where he was a classmate of the late former Vice-President, Nelson Rockefeller. He graduated from medical school in 1933 and completed his internship at a Kansas City hospital after which he became the resident surgeon at a Tulsa, Oklahoma hospital.

A graduate of the Harvard University Medical School, Dr. West began his college years at Dartmouth College where he was a classmate of the late former vice-president Nelson Rockefeller. His mother, Rebekah, was the first black principal in the Washington, D.C. school system.

Dr. West served in World War II as a field surgeon and was wounded in France.

After his discharge from the military, he studied at the London Tropical School of Medicine.

Before returning to the United States, Dr. West traveled to Liberia, West

1954, he immediately became heavily involved in the community and political activities. To engender closer communication in the Black community, he founded and published the Las

ments of Blacks from ancient times to the present.

Among his accomplishments, Dr. West had been president of the Voters League and served on the executive board of the NAACP. A black medical society was named in his honor in 1979.

Dr. West was also a delegate to the Democratic Party national convention when John F. Kennedy was nominated for President of the United States.

Dr. West, who was afflicted with emphysema, lived in retirement for the past several years, enjoying the weekly sessions of his bridge club (called "The Group") and taking an occasional cruise with Dottie and close friends. He had only recently returned from a cruise to Alaska when felled by the illness which brought on his death.

Survivors include his wife, Dottie, two sons, Dr. West, a medical officer in Reno, and Rocci, a sister, Charlotte Strickland and her husband, Dr. William Strickland of Philadelphia, a grandson, Shaun West, two

granddaughters, Dorothy and Jessica West, and two cousins, Maria Ogle and Reggie Martin of Washington, D.C.

Ken Westfield, 2200 Rancho Dr., Las Vegas, 89102.

Memorial services will be held at 3 p.m. Sunday in Palm Mortuary. His body has been donated to the University of Nevada Medical School in Reno.



Africa where he and his brother, the late Dr. John West, established a much needed hospital in Liberia, and later, opened the first training school for nurses in Liberia.

It was in Detroit, Michigan where he set up a private practice upon his return to the State from Liberia that he met and married his beloved "Dottie."

When the West family moved to Las Vegas in

Vegas Voice newspaper in which appeared his weekly column "Hidden History," an ongoing chronicle of the contributions and accomplish-

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