

FITZGERALD

Photo by Victor Ingram

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then hand deliver the youth to their parents for a second spanking.

The African American educator became the first black principle in the history of the state of Nevada in 1956, presiding at Kit Carson Elementary School. Members of the audience included prominent community figures and business people; some of whom were students of during their upbringing.

Newly-elected NAACP president Reverend James Rodgers recalls that his first Las Vegas home was provided by Fitzgerald. "It was Mr. Fitzgerald who first provided me with accommodations upon my arrival in Las Vegas," says Rodgers. Community Peace



Chairman, Elgin Simpson says Fitzgerald was everything to everybody. "He was a man who

gave to all people unselfishly."

An educator's lifelong dream was realized when in 1993 Fitzgerald Elementary School opened its doors.

The school became the first new school to be built in West

Las Vegas in over a quarter century.

He arrived to the opening ceremony elegantly dressed in a full tuxedo. With his charismatic grin, Fitzgerald accepted the countless accolades from an

assortment of politicians and dignitaries. Over 40 years of his life had been devoted to education and the pursuit of excellence in African American youths.

When asked about the

current problems of today's youths and a proposed solution, Fitz simply replied: "just support the children and support the school."

"His legacy undoubtedly lives forever."

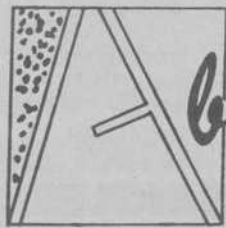


Fitzgerald and wife Vergie during elementary school dedication in October of 1993. Photo by Paula Irons



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Timothy Williams is a member of the Nevada & Illinois State Bar, practicing primarily in personal injury cases.

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