

# BETTY BROWN, CO-FOUNDER OF THE LAS VEGAS SENTINEL-VOICE, LAID TO REST AT AGE 69

Three months shy of celebrating her 70th birthday, Betty Brown, president and chief executive officer of the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, succumbed to a four-year battle with brain and lung cancer.

Born April 18, 1925 in Columbus, Ohio, Brown studied education and music in Greensboro, North Carolina at Bennett College. She was a 1946 magna cum laude graduate, then briefly attended Ohio State University.

She became the first music therapist at Tuskegee Veterans Hospital in Tuskegee, Alabama. After moving to Washington, D.C., she was a mental therapist for 10 years at St. Elizabeth's Hospital and five years at Lyon's Veterans Hospital in New Jersey.

In 1980, six years after coming to Las Vegas, Brown and her husband, Col. Ed Brown,

started the Las Vegas Sentinel to compete with the already existing Las Vegas Voice. The latter had been started by Nevada's first black physician, Charles West, in 1962.

Not long after opening the Sentinel, the Browns bought the Voice and ran both before combining the two in 1982 to create the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice, currently the state's only African-American community newspaper.

When the Colonel passed away in 1988, Brown was left to run the paper alone until her son, current publisher/editor Lee Brown, returned to the family business to help carry some of the burden.

In 1990, Brown made her last formal appearance as active publisher/editor when the Las Vegas Sentinel-Voice hosted the West Coast Black Publishers Association annual convention.

Months later she was diagnosed with cancer, and took a leave of absence from the paper. In 1992 she was honored by the Professional Black Women's Alliance with the organization's Humanitarian Award. She was a member of the West Coast Black Publishers Association, the Newspaper Publishers Association and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.

She is survived by a daughter, Comilla Gilliam of Washington, D.C.; and three

sons, Seitu Kenyatta of St. Thomas, Virgin Islands; LeRoy Artis Strawther (Lee Brown) and Willis Bernard Strawther, both of Las Vegas.

Services are scheduled for Friday January 20 at Universal Funeral Chapel with the burial to follow at Palm Mortuary.


Lee Brown and family wish to extend their heartfelt thanks to the host of friends who have given support and expressed condolences during this time of bereavement.



BETTY BROWN



SENTINEL-VOICE CO-FOUNDERS — ED AND BETTY BROWN



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