



Alumni



THE HONORABLE DOUGLAS L. "TIM" JAMERSON

(DECEASED)

BA, CRIMINOLOGY '79

Committing his life to public service, Doug Jamerson was the consummate trailblazer. In 1982 he was the first black to be elected to the Florida Legislature from Pinellas County. Doug represented District 55 in the House of Representatives for eleven years. In 1993, Gov.

Lawton Chiles appointed him as State Commissioner of Education. Doug was the first black to hold this position. From 1995-98, he served as the State Secretary of the Department of Labor.

Doug grew up in St. Petersburg's predominantly poor Gas Plant area. As a youngster, he worked at his grandmother's restaurant, tending to those he would one day represent in Tallahassee. His grandmother encouraged him to enroll at Bishop Barry (now St. Petersburg Catholic) High School. Jamerson was one of the private school's first three black students, attending Barry in the '60s when Pinellas public schools were still segregated. From 1967-1971, Jamerson was a security policeman in the U.S. Air Force. Returning home, he became the first black campus police officer for the Pinellas County School System. He subsequently graduated from St. Petersburg Junior College, St. Petersburg Police Academy, and USF St. Petersburg.

Deeply respected, Doug was the quintessential statesman. Ever affable and resilient, he was a proactive, forthright advocate for all Floridians. Quietly battling cancer, Doug told few about his illness. While his passing at age 53 in 2001 was an immense shock, Doug's legacy remains a dazzling inheritance for all Floridians.

In August 2003, Douglas L. Jamerson Jr. Elementary School opened in St. Petersburg, honoring one of the City's most stellar citizens. The Magnet school emphasizes engineering and mathematics within a specialized curriculum.

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