

A close-up portrait of an elderly man with a mustache and glasses, wearing a dark suit and a white shirt. The background is a soft, out-of-focus blue and green.

R. EUGENE *Pincham*

Born

JUNE 28, 1925

Reborn

APRIL 3, 2008

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2008

VISITATION: 10:00 A.M. • HOMEGOING CELEBRATION: 11:00 A.M.

REV. DR. JEREMIAH A. WRIGHT, JR., SENIOR PASTOR, OFFICIANT

REV. OTIS MOSS III, PASTOR

TRINITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

400 WEST 95TH STREET • CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60628



When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

When Tomorrow Starts Without Me, and I'm not there to see,
If the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me,
I wish so much you wouldn't cry, the way you did today
Each time you think of me, while I'm gone away.

And When Tomorrow Starts Without Me, please try to understand,
That an angel came and called my name, and took me by the hand,
And said my place was ready, in Heaven far above,
And that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.

But as I turned and walked away, a tear fell from my eye,
For all my life, I always thought, I didn't want to die.
I had so much to live for, so much yet I had to do
It seemed almost impossible, that I was leaving you.

I thought of all the yesterdays, the good ones and the bad,
I thought of all the love we shared, and all the fun we had.
If I could relive yesterday, for just a little while,
I'd say goodbye and kiss you, and maybe see you smile.

But then I fully realized, that this could never be,
For emptiness and memories, now take the place of me.
So When Tomorrow Starts Without Me, don't think we're far apart,
For every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.

HOMEGOING CELEBRATION FOR
R. Eugene Pincham
Order of Worship

Processional

Scripture Sentences Pastoral Staff

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Chapter Invisible Ceremony

Call To Worship

Invocation Rev. Reginald Williams, Jr.

Hymn of Consolation The Congregation

"How Great Thou Art"

Scripture Lesson Deacon Ministry

Old Testament Ecclesiastes 1:1-9; 3:1-8 (KJV)

New Testament John 14:1-7 (KJV)

Ministry of Music Sanctuary Choir

"I Come To The Garden Alone"

Tributes

Honorable James F. Holderman, Chief Judge for the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Honorable Blanche Manning, Judge United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois
Honorable Charles Freeman, Justice Illinois Supreme Court; Chief Justice 1997-2000

Ministry of Music Sanctuary Choir

"The Lord God Has Brought Me"

Tributes

Honorable Michael B. Hyman, Judge Circuit Court of Cook County
Cheryl Marshall Washington, Retired Principal, Chicago Public Schools
Dwain Kyles, Entrepreneur

Obituary

Acknowledgements Rev. Otis Moss III

Ministry of Music Sanctuary Choir

"God Is"

Words of Comfort Rev. Dr. Jeremiah A. Wright, Jr., Senior Pastor

Ministry of Music Sanctuary Choir

"All Night, All Day"

Benediction

Recessional

Interment

OAK WOODS CEMETERY • 1035 East 67th Street, Chicago, Illinois 60637

Repast Immediately Following

SOUTH SHORE CULTURAL CENTER • 7059 South Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60649

R. Eugene Pincham

JUNE 28, 1925 – APRIL 3, 2008



Robert Eugene Pincham was born June 28, 1925, in Chicago, Illinois, the second son and youngest child of the union of William Hugh Pincham and Hazel (Foote) Pincham. His parents divorced when he was six months old and he and his 11-months-older brother, William Hugh, returned to his mother's ancestral home in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama. There he was reared in an extended Christian family that confronted, defied and eventually flourished in the face of poverty, racism and segregation.



R. Eugene Pincham attended Athens, Alabama's Trinity High School. Trinity was founded in 1866 by a New England abolitionist organization, the American Missionary Association of the Congregational Church (UCC) of New England. Trinity School was located on a fort built by Yankee soldiers during the Civil War. There were no public schools for Blacks above the sixth grade in Athens, Limestone County, Alabama until 1975 when Alabama schools were finally desegregated pursuant to, and more than twenty years after, the United States Supreme Court

decision in *Brown vs. Board of Education*. His teachers were ardently committed to providing the Black community with a first-rate grammar and high school education and academic experience. The all white faculty was extremely competent, dedicated, highly motivated and sincere. He counted many of them and their families as lifelong friends.

R. Eugene Pincham graduated from Trinity in 1941. He left Alabama for Chicago's Southside YMCA with several childhood friends, including his cousin Charles Eric Lincoln, who later became Dean of the School of Theology at Duke University. Together, they became the first African Americans to be employed at Children's Memorial Hospital, where they were confined to custodial duties in the basement.

R. Eugene Pincham then enrolled at Lemoyne College (an HBCU of the United Church of Christ) in Memphis, from which he was soon expelled for a litany of infractions including "unacceptable conduct" and "poor academics," an event he often described as a turning point in his life. In 1944, he enrolled at Tennessee State University where he was initiated into the bond of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity and served as the Tennessee State Alpha Theta Chapter Polemarch (President) from 1945 through 1947. While attending Tennessee State he met the love of his life, Alzata Cudalia Henry.

After graduating from Tennessee State University in 1947, R. Eugene Pincham enrolled at the Northwestern University School of Law after having been accepted at Stanford, Harvard, Yale, the University of Chicago, and others. He chose to enroll at Northwestern in part because Chicago was a direct freight train route over the L&N Railroad line from his hometown in Athens. He had learned the art of hopping freight trains while enrolled at Tennessee State University which allowed him to get back and forth from home.

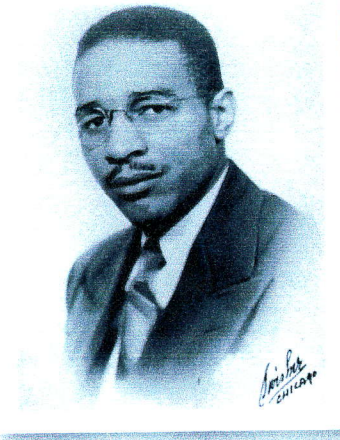
On August 31, 1948, R. Eugene Pincham and Alzata were married for life at Louisville, Tennessee in the living room of her Smokey Mountain family farm house. They returned to Chicago and lived in a small apartment in his father's Englewood neighborhood building. Alzata taught in Chicago Public Schools while R. Eugene finished law school and started his law practice. Three children were born into this blessed union: Robert "Scooter" Eugene Pincham, Jr., Andrea "Sandy" Michelle Pincham, and James "Jim" Frederick Pincham.

In order to finance his law school education, R. Eugene worked numerous manual labor jobs as a shoe-shine "boy," restaurant waiter at the Empire Room in the Palmer House Hotel, and as a Pullman Porter on the Santa Fe Railroad Super Chief Chicago to Los Angeles luxury train.

He graduated Northwestern University School of Law in 1951, the only African American in his class and a law schoolmate of Harold Washington, Chicago's future first Black Mayor.



R. Eugene Pincham then began his illustrious career as a trial and appellate lawyer, community leader, trial judge and appellate court justice starting under the tutelage of his mentor, Attorney Joseph E. Clayton, Jr. He was the founding partner in the Law firm Evins, Pincham, Fowlkes, Strayhorn and Cooper. He tried thousands of cases across the United States, many of which were pro bono (without fee), and appealed hundreds of cases before the Illinois Appellate Court, the Supreme Court of Illinois and the United States Supreme Court.



R. Eugene Pincham returned to the Deep South and became a stalwart advocate of the disenfranchised during the Civil Rights Movement. His trial tactics and strategies became legendary.

In 1976, R. Eugene Pincham was elected Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County. He served until 1984 and was then elected Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, where he set an unprecedented record of writing dissenting opinions against racism and injustices in the legal system. Many of his dissents have now

been adopted as law. He was elected the first African American President of the Northwestern University School of Law Alumni Association.



R. Eugene Pincham was criticized after giving a speech advocating the election of his Northwestern University Law School mate, Harold Washington, to the office of Mayor of Chicago. The Illinois Supreme Court eventually conceded that



elected public officials, including judges, have a constitutionally protected right guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to free political speech in political campaigns.

R. Eugene Pincham continued to expand the political reach of the under-represented in Chicago by registering thousands of new voters when he ran as a candidate for Cook County Board President, Mayor of Chicago and Cook County State's Attorney. He lectured and taught at Harvard, Notre Dame, DePaul, Loyola, Arizona, Northwestern, Hawaii and many other law schools and colleges. He defended wrongfully accused police officers, and those wrongfully accused by the police. His sense of justice and fairness was immutable.

R. Eugene Pincham was a lifetime member of the NAACP, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Amistad Foundation Committee, the National Association of Trial Attorneys, the Notre Dame University Legal Aid and Defender Association, the Cook County Bar Association, the Center for Justice, the National Urban League, the Northwestern University School of Law Alumni Association and many other civic and community organizations.



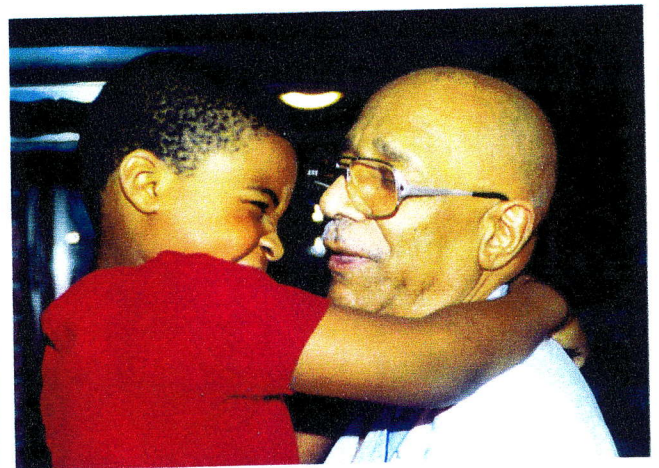
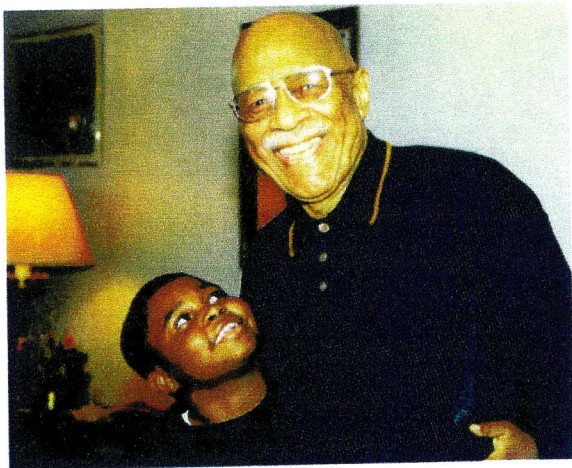


In 1987, R. Eugene Pincham became an unashamedly Black and unapologetically Christian member of Trinity United Church of Christ.

R. Eugene Pincham transitioned to join his beloved wife, Alzata and his ancestors in God's Almighty Kingdom on April 3, 2008, leaving in legacy his children, Robert "Scooter" Eugene, Jr., Andrea "Sandy" Michelle (Robert), and James "Jim" Frederick Pincham; grandchildren, Evan Eugene Pincham and Christina Alexandria Pincham, and numerous relatives, colleagues and friends.

Judge Pincham was a doer. He often proclaimed his duty to vote and encouraged others to register and vote. Indeed, he last voted in the February 5, 2008 primary election from his own hospital bed in a wheelchair.

In honor of R. Eugene Pincham, the Pincham family has provided voter registration facilities outside this sacred place. Registering to vote is a free, simple three minute process. If you are a citizen of the United States and will be at least eighteen years old by November 4, 2008, you are eligible to register to vote. If you can't read, you can register to vote. If you are a convicted felon, you can register to vote. The only necessary identification is a driver's license, state identification card or the last four digits of your social security number to register to vote. If you are not registered to vote, please do so today in honor of R. Eugene Pincham.



Awards & Recognition

Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Life Membership, October 19, 1972

Outstanding Judicial Leadership in Promoting Justice for All People, Human Resource Development Institute, Inc. (HRDI), April 12, 1985

Personal Commitment to Social Justice and Equality and Dedicated Service to the Community and Youth, Beatrice Caffrey Youth Service, Inc., November 17, 1985

Achievement Award for Devotion and Contribution to the Field of Law, The Chicago Alumni Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc., April 19, 1986

The Highest Achievement Award for Humanitarian Service, Tennessee State University, May 3, 1986

Floyd G. Sealy Award, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), June 30, 1988

Friend and Advisor of the Notre Dame Law School Legal Aid and Defender Association, Notre Dame Legal Aid and Defender Association,

Hall of Fame, Cook County Bar Association, 1997

Honorable Jim R. Carrigan Fellow, The National Institute for Trial Advocacy, June 28, 1997

Nancy B. Jefferson Award for Distinguished Community Service: Atty. R. Eugene Pincham and Mrs. Alzata Pincham, Midwest Community Council, October 24, 1998

Kappa Man of Distinction, Chicago Alumni Host of Province 2000, April 14, 2000

Distinguished Community Service, The Institute for Social Justice, Inc., April 16, 2000

Richard E. Westbrook Award, Cook County Bar Association, June 23, 2000

Lifetime Achievement Award, Trinity United Church of Christ Legal Counseling Ministry, 2001 Judges Day

John Quincy Adams Award/Amistad Freedom Award, Amistad America, August 1-1, 2003

Civil Rights Award, DuSable Museum of African American History, Chicago African American History Makers, February 21, 2004

Celebration R. Eugene Pincham's Achievements, Athelstine Lodge No. 71, Annual Masonic Banquet, March 19, 2005

Community Recognition Award, NAACP Freedom Fund, September 30, 2005

Outstanding Professionalism in the Adjudication of the Law, The Black Law Students Association of DePaul University College of Law, March 31, 2006

Earl Burrus Dickerson Award, Chicago Bar Association, April 4, 2006

The Elmer Gertz Award, Illinois State Bar Association, December 11, 2007

In Appreciation of Your Love and Support, Trinity United Church of Christ Can-Cer-Vive Ministry, 2007

Secrets from the 13th juror

By R. Eugene Pincham

How to cross-examine? The basics are the same in every courtroom I have been in over the past 50 years. Well, first of all, you must recognize that law school and your law degree and your law license have made a fool of you. You begin to think that you're the smartest person in the courtroom—that's what your law license and your law degree do to you. The problem is that jurors are not lawyers.

Jurors do not have a law license. Jurors are lay people—yes—but they are also the smartest people in the courtroom, including the judge. I've been a judge, so I know what I'm talking about.

Jurors are in the box because society has decided that these are the people that we would rely upon to dispense justice. We trust them; trust their intelligence; trust their integrity; and trust their wisdom. I've learned that a lawyer cannot outsmart them—you can't do it. So perceive yourself as being the 13th juror.

Don't be so arrogant that you are unwilling to critique yourself. In every case I've ever tried, I've critiqued myself. What did I do wrong? What did I do right? Don't be so arrogant that you think that you've done it all right. There has never been a perfect cross-examination. It doesn't exist.

I have never walked into a courtroom to try a case or to cross-examine a witness without first trying my case at home with my wife. She is not a lawyer and has an abundance of good common sense. She was raised on a farm on the East Tennessee River—a country girl—and I try my case—cross-examination, direct examination—all of it with her. If I can't convince her of the justice of my cause—I'm sleeping with her every night—how am I going to convince a jury which doesn't know me? Talk to your mate, talk to the cabdriver, talk to the doorman, talk to the clerk in the store. Ask them: How does this sound to you?

I have my wife come to court with me when I'm trying a case. I know that these big-time lawyers don't do that, but I ain't that big-time. She will critique me when we recess, when we go out in the hall. She doesn't tell me how much she loves me because I know that already. Instead, she tells me how I am messing up.

Cross-examination is the crux of every case. This is when jurors really come to the front of their

seats. This is when they are being entertained. This is when they are looking to see what's getting ready to happen. You must speak loudly enough and clearly enough for the jurors to hear you. I know this sounds ridiculous, but I, in 51 years at the bar, have never seen or heard of a juror raising his or her hand and saying I can't hear. And you know that in all that time there had to have been some jurors who didn't hear what was going on. They will not tell you they can't hear—they will just sit back and say the hell with what you're saying. And they certainly can't decide to agree with you if they can't hear you.

Don't assume the jurors know your case. That's an egregious mistake that most lawyers make. You have lived with your case for two years, three years, four years—you've got a file box as high as the judge's bench. You've been paid beautifully; you slept with this case; you know your case in and out, up and down, over and under. But the jurors don't. You must assume that they don't know your case and you must make sure—in your role as the 13th juror—that they come to know the case as well as you do. You must dominate. I was a running back in high school football. I was good at it too. The greatest asset of a running back in football is the element of surprise. What that taught me applied in life and in the courtroom: when my opponent stops me or makes an objection, I am getting at him and I'm doing what I want to be doing. So when you hear an objection, don't get scared and run under the table. I know when I hear an objection, I got my opponent now. I'm hurting him. Why? He's objecting. So continue to do just what you're doing. You do it respectfully. Do not allow an objection or the ruling on an objection to deter your examination.

The purpose of cross-examining a witness is not to seek information. You are not seeking information on cross-examina-



Tribune file photo by Chuck Berman

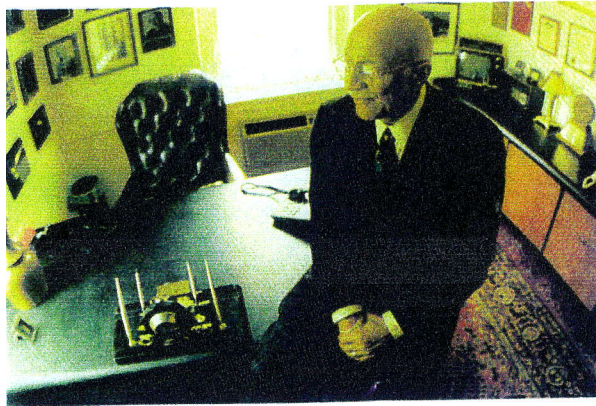
R. EUGENE PINCHAM:
1925-2008

R. Eugene Pincham, who died Thursday, was a pioneering African-American lawyer and champion of unpopular causes. His colorful oratory, which drew on personal history, made him a legend in Chicago courthouses. This is an excerpt from "Your Witness: Lessons on Cross-Examination and Life from Great Chicago Trial Lawyers." The book goes on sale Monday at www.yourwitnessbook.com.

tion. You're giving information. It's the question that's important, not the answer. And you are the person giving the information. Your credibility is at stake. You must be honorable and honest in doing it.

One of the beauties of the profession that I take with me and I tell every lawyer is this: The system works because of lawyers. It works because of advocacy. It works because lawyers have fought and struggled to change injustices, to change the wrong to right. That struggle is a continuing struggle. Lawyers have had the courage to stand up and say this isn't right and we're going to change it. I feel I've been privileged, honored to go to law school. The system is good. It's up to you to make it better, to be an advocate, to stand up for that which is right, change that which is wrong, and make it work.





Pallbearers

Atty. Barton Evin	Att
Atty. William Hook	Off
Hon. Nathaniel Howse	Att
Atty. Bennie Martin	Att

Honorary Pallbearers

Hon. Earl Strayhorn	Officer David Rozelle
Atty. Lewis Myers	Mr. Albert Burns
Mr. Eddie Read	Officer Quadir Dawan
Mr. Clifford Kelly	Atty. Robert Willis
Hon. Marcus Salone	Hon. John Steele
Hon. William Cousins	Hon. Leo Holt
Mrs. Edwina Holmes	Mr. Robert Holmes
Mr. Willie Dunmore	Mr. Charles Turner
Mr. Charles Cole	Officer William Kidd
Dr. Margret Burroughs	Atty. Willis Brown
Ms. Hermene Hartman	Mr. Dempsey Travis
Atty. Charles K. Snowden	Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Mitchell

Acknowledgements

The family of the Honorable R. Eugene Pincham, Retired Justice of the Illinois Appellate Court, acknowledges with sincere gratitude the many expressions of love and sympathy extended to them through your prayers, calls, cards, visits and presence with them during this Homegoing Celebration. They will personally acknowledge your individual and specific acts of kindness at a later date.

Arrangements entrusted to the care of

LEAK AND SONS FUNERAL HOME
7838 S. Cottage Grove, Chicago, Illinois 60619

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to:

ALZATA PINCHAM, CAN-CER-VIVE SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Trinity United Church of Christ • 400 West 95th Street, Chicago, IL 60628

Trinity graduate R. Eugene Pincham dies

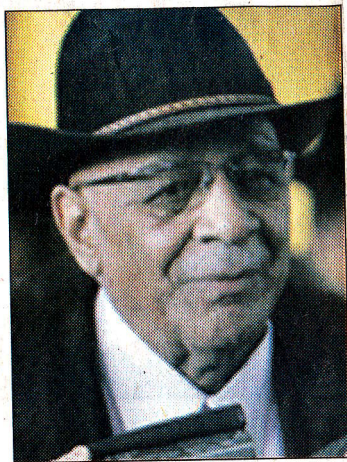
BY KAREN MIDDLETON
karen@athensnews-courier.com

One of Trinity High School's most distinguished graduates and a driving force behind the establishment of a Trinity museum has died.

Former justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois R. Eugene Pincham died Thursday at 82 after a long battle with lung cancer.

David Malone, who chairs the Athens-Limestone Community Association that is raising funds to renovate the old Trinity High School and surrounding site into a museum, said Pincham, along with the late C. Eric Lincoln, a distinguished author, editor, educator and clergyman for whom Lincoln-Bridgeforth Park is named, originated the idea.

"At first, he and C. Eric Lincoln supported the project, and



R. Eugene Pincham

then after Dr. Lincoln died in 2000, he became the sole, the main support," said Malone. "He pushed it all the way and got us where we are now. He supported it financially and all other ways.

"The Athens-Limestone Community Association will push very hard to finish the

project he started. We are dedicated to finishing it."

Born in Chicago June 28, 1925, Pincham came to Athens with his mother and brother, after his parents' divorce when he was just 7 months old, according to a biography that was printed in a Trinity Reunion commemorative program. He graduated from Trinity in 1941, a school opened by missionaries for the children of former slaves after the Civil War.

He returned to Chicago for a time, working as a janitor in a hospital basement, until enrolling in LeMoyne College in Memphis. He admitted to being expelled from LeMoyne for poor grades, but said that set him on another path. He graduated from Tennessee State University in Nashville, where he

See Pincham, page 2A

PINCHAM

Continued from 1A

earned his B.S. degree in political science in 1947. In 1948, Pincham married his college sweetheart, Alzata C. Henry, and that same year enrolled in Northwestern University School of Law in Chicago, the only black in a class of 80.

He began practicing law in 1951 and in 1976 became a Cook County, Ill., Circuit Court judge. In 1984 he became a justice of the Appellate Court of Illinois in the First District of Chicago.

According to Friday's Chicago Sun-Times, Pincham also entered politics after he stepped down from the bench, running in 1990 for Cook County Board of Commissioners president, in 1991 for mayor of Chicago because he thought someone should challenge Richard Daley, and for Cook County state attorney in 1996.

Throughout his life he was a civil and human rights activist and described by in a

newscast over the CBS affiliate in Chicago Friday as having, "A brilliant mind and folksy ways," that he, "fought to fight legal wrongs," and that he "gave voice to the voiceless."

He was a member of the American Civil Liberties Union and a lifetime member of the NAACP. He was popular lecturer in trial and appellate techniques and advocacy. He received numerous awards for his professional and community service and activism.

Alzata Pincham preceded her husband in death three years ago. He is survived by two sons, Robert Eugene Pincham Jr. and James Frederick Pincham; a daughter, Andrea "Sandy" Pincham-Benton, and two grandchildren.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. April 12 at the Trinity United Church of Christ, 400 W. 95th St., Chicago. The funeral service will begin at 11 a.m.



