

## **OBITUARY FOR DR. KENNETH R. WALKER, SR**

**Dr. Walker was an educator and a basketball referee. He devoted his career to serving home state of Rhode Island. Born in East Providence on Decemberr 19, 1930, he was the son of the late Frank R. Walker, jr and Lillian (Frye) Walker. He was the beloved husband of Gail. B. (Smith) Walker for 63 years.**

**He dedicated his professional life to improving urban education.**

**Dr. Walker attended Providence College, where he received a B.A. in 1957. Upon graduating, he began teaching English and Social Studies for the East Providence School District while also serving as a Guidance Counselor. He earned a M. Ed. from Rhode Island College in 1962, where he worked part time from 1967 to 1970 as the Assistant Director of Project Upward Bound, a federally supported program for economically and educationally disadvantaged youth. He was promoted to assistant Principal at Central jr. High School before accepting a position as Assiatant Professor of Education at Rhode Island College in 1970. He remained on the education faculty at Rhode Island College until 1993, rising to the rank of full Professor in 1989. Dr. Walker also earned a Ph.D in education from Boston University**

**In 1963, Dr. Walker became a certified bsketball official and officiated Division I games in the East Coast Conference, the Big East Conference and the Atlantic 10 Conference. Dr. Walker was also the third person of color to serve as President of the International Association of Approved Basketball Officials (I.A.A.B.O.)(1993). Dr. Walker was a member and a valued mentor to the I.A.A.B.O. Black Caucus. His leadership and sage advice will be truly missed by the leadership of the Caucus.**

**Besides his beloved wife, he leaves two daughters, Michele Walker-Angell and her husband David, Leanne Walker-Beard and her husband Jeffrey, a son, Kenneth R. Walker, jr., a sister Arline Walker, a brother Frank R. Walker, III and his wife Jane and six grandchildren.**