For Immediate Release

Dr. James R. Dumpson, PhD., Philadelphian born pioneer in social work, social health, and social justice turns 100 years old April 5, 2009. Beginning as a caseworker for the Philadelphia Department of Public Welfare, Dr. James R. Dumpson’s career in the health and human services as public servant, educator, administrator, social activist, advocate, humanitarian and scholar has spanned more than half a century. His influence on public policy development for the health and human services has been felt across many policy domains at the international, national and local level.

Dr. Dumpson was born on April 5, 1909 at 908 Latimore Street the first of five children to James and Edyth Dumpson. The family moved from Latimore Street to 3922 Delaney Street where Dr. Dumpson attended O. B. Kato (42nd & Ludlow Sts.) and Newton Elementary School (36th & Chestnut Sts.) before graduating from West Philadelphia High School for Boys (47th & Walnut Sts.) in 1927. In 1932 James R. Dumpson graduated from Cheyney Normal School (College) before going on to Temple University and earning graduate degrees from other universities around the world. Dr. Dumpson is considered one of the oldest living graduates of Cheyney University where he once held the position President of the Alumni. Today, Dr. Dumpson lives in New York City where he first moved in the late 1930’s and has severed the city for more than 60 years. Dr. Dumpson still travels yearly to his home in Hawaii and can be seen in New York City enjoying various restaurant cuisines, Broadway shows and other activities. He resides on the upper east side of Manhattan, looking out over Central Park, where he has lived since 1970.

The Dr. Dumpson 100th Birthday Committee, in conjunction with other organizations, has organized several activities in New York City in honor of Dr. Dumpson’s 100th birthday that ends on April 1, 2009 with the opening of the Dr. James R. Dumpson Exhibit and Centennial Lecture at the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture. For more information please visit the James R. Dumpson 100 Years of Golden Light website at www.jrd-2009.lifequarters.com.
For interviews or other information contact Jeffrey Hart (nephew) at 215. 906.4972 or jkhart1021@yahoo.com. Listed below are a few positions held and awards received by Dr. Dumpson:

1953 – United Nations Advisor/Chief of Training in Social Welfare to the Government of Pakistan,
   1959 – New York City Commissioner of Welfare
   1964 – Human Resources Administration (HRD)
   1974 – New York City Administrator of the Human Resources Administration and the Commission of the Department of Social Services
   1975 – New York City Community Trust Vice President for Planning & Evaluations
   1976 – Fordham University Dean of the Graduate School of Social Work
   1980 – The James R. Dumpson Chair in Child Welfare Studies in Graduate School of Social Service at Fordham University
   1987 – New York Community Trust Senior Consultant
   1990 – New York City Health Service Administrator and Chairman of the Health and Hospitals Corporation
   1992 – State Of New York Legislative Resolution “Spirit of Life” Award
   2000 – Fordham University Graduate School Of Social Service In Honor Of Dedication And Commitment To The Children Of New York City
   2005 – New York City Chapter National Association of Social Workers Lifetime Achievement Award
   2009 – New York City Black Agency Executives Lifetime Achievement Award

History Making Achievements


In 1959, Dumpson was named Commissioner of Welfare for the City of New York, becoming the only African American welfare commissioner in the country. His appointment also marked the first time that a social worker had held the position. He then returned to New York seven years later to become administrator of the Human Resources Department.

In 1963 President John F. Kennedy appoints Dumpson to the Commission on Narcotics and Drug Abuse the only African American appointed. Dumpson sever as an advisor to Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, serving on various advisory commissions.

In 1976 Dumpson was named Dean of Fordham University's School of Social Work. With this appointment he became the first black Dean of a non-black school of social work. Fordham later named an endowed academic chair for him.
100th Birthday Celebration
Dr. James R. Dumpson, PhD.

Join the Celebration

Every Month Until Dr. Dumpson’s Birthday, April 5, 2009

Contributions to the James R. Dumpson Fund

at The New York Community Trust to improve social services in New York City are welcomed during this celebration.

January 22, 2009
11:00 am-2:00 pm

Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award

Black Agency Executives 32nd Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Luncheon, The Hilton Hotel New York

February 25, 2009
2:00 pm-5:00 pm

J. R. Dumpson Studies Lecture

James R. Dumpson Chair in Child Welfare Studies, Fordham University Graduate School of Social Service

Lecturer, William Bell, President & CEO, Casey Family Programs

March 5, 2009
12:30 pm-2:00 pm

Lifetime of Service to New York City Luncheon Reception, NYC Human Resources Administration

March 28, 2009
5:30 pm (Mass Service)
Day of Praise: 100th Birthday Spiritual Tribute

St. Ignatius Loyola Church, 980 Park Ave
followed by dutch treat dinner (optional)

April 1, 2009

Program 3:00 pm, Exhibition & Reception 4:30 pm

Opening of the J.R. Dumpson Exhibit and Centennial Lecture

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture

Some Books, Articles, and other information related to or written by Dr. James R. Dumpson

http://www.library.fordham.edu/archives/dumpsonpapers.html - Papers Written by Dr. Dumpson
http://www.naswfoundation.org/pioneers/d/dumpson.htm - National Association of Social Workers
http://www.naswnyc.org/m27.html - Article on Ghana, West Africa Enstoolment of Dr. Dumpson
http://www.thehistorymakers.com – Go to Education Makers – Interview 2007
http://www.naswnyc.org/d20.html - Some Thoughts on Diversity written by Dr. Dumpson 2001
http://query.nytimes.com – 1981 Dr. Dumpson Elected President of Community Service Society and 1991 Mayor Dinkins announces Dr. Dumpson’s resignation
http://www.blackequityalliance.org – Dr. Dumpson’s involvement
http://www.nycfuture.org – Dr. Dumpson and the panel discussion
http://ann.sagepub.com/cgi/pdf_extract/275/1/201 - Dr. Dumpson’s interview

Working with Traumatized Youth in Child Welfare by Nancy Boyd Webb (Editor), James R. Dumpson, James R. Dumpson (Foreword by)
Evaluation of Social Intervention by Edward J. Mullen, James R. Dumpson