



## **Vernon H. Ricks, Jr.**

### **Served in the United States Air Force from 1961 to 1965**

Vernon H. Ricks, Jr., is a third generation Washingtonian. He served in the U.S. Air Force in the 341st Wing, Strategic Air Command from 1961 to 1965 as a missile technician and teletype/crypto specialist.

Ricks began his career with Xerox as an entry level technician. He honed his skills in several critical management areas and rose to become the manager of field services. Throughout his career, he devoted his time to serving as a mentor to many young, aspiring African Americans within the Xerox family. His selfless contributions led to his appointment to the corporation's Affirmative Action Development Task Force. From that position, Ricks went on to become the Founding Member of the Xerox "Corporate Few," the organization of Xerox's African American corporate executives. He retired after 33 years with the Xerox Corporation.

Ricks' concern for equal opportunity and community involvement extended far beyond the confines of the Xerox corporation. He has served as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus Corporate Braintrust, executive director of the Federation of Corporation Professionals, the Montgomery County Sensitivity Task Force, and the Montgomery County Police Community Relations Task Force.

While managing Xerox, Ricks was the first black elected municipal official in Montgomery County, Maryland, serving as councilman and mayor pro-term in the City of Takoma Park, Maryland from 1972 to 1982. Ricks is a member of the Mount Zion United Methodist Church in Georgetown, the oldest African American congregation in Washington, DC, where he serves as Chairman of the Trustee Board. He is a Golden Heritage Life Member of the NAACP and Parliamentarian of the Maryland State NAACP where he serves on the Executive Committee.

Ricks is a graduate of McKinley Technical High School where he was a well known local entertainer and singer. He received the 1st place-vocal group award in the Air Force Worldwide Talent Competition.

Ricks currently resides in Potomac, Maryland with his wife.