

## *Our History*

### *Dr. Dymus N. Lawrence*



**Dymus N. Lawrence, M.D.** was born in Franklin, Tennessee on January 23, 1937. As the second son of seven children born to Elige W. and Katherine S. Lawrence, he spent his youth on the family farm located there in Franklin.

Dr. Lawrence professed faith in Christ early in life and was baptized at Greater Pleasant View Baptist Church. He attended Franklin Training High School (Tennessee) and graduated as valedictorian of his class. Thereafter, he continued his education in the Reserve Officers Training Corp at Tennessee State University where he received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry. After graduation, he worked for a time at the Union Carbide plant located in Paducah, Kentucky until he received his commission as a second lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force.

Trained as a navigator-radar Intercept Officer, Dr. Lawrence spent a tour-of-duty in Vietnam before being honorably discharged as a Captain in 1963. It was then that he entered medical school at the University of Tennessee, Memphis. During his time there, Dr. Lawrence met the woman who was to become his partner in life,

Dorothy N. Lawrence. They were wed in Memphis, Tennessee on December 5, 1965. In 1967, Dr. Lawrence received his M.D. degree and the couple moved to Boston, Massachusetts, where Dr. Lawrence served as an intern at the U. S. Public Health Service Hospital and became father to the first of his three sons. One year later, he began his urology residency at the University of California, Irvine.

Dymus N. Lawrence, MD, a board certified urologist, enjoyed a long career (over 19 years) providing medical care to the greater Long Beach/Lynwood community. He was a member of and held positions in numerous medical and community service organizations including the American Medical Association (AMA), National Medical Association (NMA), Los Angeles County Medical Association (LACMA) where he served as President of District #10 from 1986-87, Golden State Medical Association (GSMA), Los Angeles County Urological Association, California Urological Association, Long Beach Black Business and Professional Association, Long Beach Polytechnic High School PTA, NAACP (Golden Heritage Life Membership), and the Board of Health and Human Services, City of Long Beach. Dr. Dymus Lawrence passed on January 1, 1994.

### *Dr. Ross Miller*



**Ross Matthew Miller Jr., M.D.** was born in Boston, Massachusetts, February 19, 1928. His family moved to East St. Louis, Illinois, where Ross was baptized in the St. Paul Baptist Church. He was a student at Howard University in Washington, D.C., earning both his B.S. (1947) and M.D. (1951) degrees. He then pursued his other medical credentials: an internship at the Jersey City Medical Center in Jersey City, N.J.; a residency in surgery at the Bronx, N.Y., Veterans Administration Hospital; commissioned a Lieutenant, U.S. Public Health Service and served at the National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, Maryland. He also became Chief Resident and Fellow at the Spaulding Pavilion, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, Georgia.

In 1960, Dr. Miller moved to California to open a surgical practice in Compton. In 1964 his work advanced as he became clinical Instructor of Surgery and later a Clinical Assistant Professor of Surgery at U.C.L.A.

Dr. Miller expressed his healing propensities with community activism. He fought for equal rights and justice. He served for eight years as a member and then President of the Compton School Board and was also elected to

the Compton City Council. Dr. Miller balanced his medical practice, teaching and community involvement with being a husband and father.

In 1966, he became president of the Howard University Alumni Association of Southern California and Chief of Staff of Dominguez Valley Hospital, Compton. His colleagues described him as a "physician's physician". In 1970 he was elected to the Board of Trustees of the Charles Drew Postgraduate Medical School. This board was instrumental in the construction of Martin Luther King, Jr. Hospital, its training program, and in the formation of the Medical School that is now the Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science.

Dr. Miller was a faithful member of the National Medical Association, serving for nine years on the board of Trustees. In 1978, he was elected to the Trustees of the Dominguez Valley Hospital, becoming its Chairman in 1980. That same year he was the founding President of the Jason West Medical Society, the Compton Chapter of the NMA and precursor to the Miller-Lawrence Medical and Dental Society. In 1984 his peers elected him President of the Golden State Medical Association (NMA).

In 1988, he became President of the Southern California Chapter of the American College of Surgeons (the nation's largest). The same year he was elected Chief of Staff of St. Francis Medical Center. He served two years, and was then elected to the Center's Board of Trustees. In 1993, Dr. Miller was elected the first African-American President of the Los Angeles Surgical Society. He also served in the Urban League and the 100 Black Men of L.A., Inc. In 1990 his contributions to the larger community were recognized when he was one of the first two people elected to the Compton Promenade of Prominence and his star placed in the Martin Luther King, Jr. Plaza. Dr. Ross Matthew Miller passed on February 17, 1996.