

'Community builder' Carl Flipper dies at 58

Activist | Raising the Humboldt area's profile, he had a "vision" to make things better

By **WADE NKRUMAH**
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Carl Flipper, a longtime activist in North Portland's Humboldt neighborhood, has died at age 58.

Flipper served on the Interstate Corridor Urban Renewal Area advisory board. Later he was involved in a neighborhood and Portland Development Commission project to turn a concrete island where Albina and Mississippi avenues converge into a parklike setting.

He also monitored city streetscape projects along North Killingsworth Street while Portland Community College launched a nearly \$60 million expansion of its Cascade campus.

Margaret Wright, who has lived in Humboldt for 35 years and worked with Flipper on the neighborhood association, described him as "an outstanding community person and a good family man." In particular, she said, he raised Humboldt's profile in Portland's Office of Neighborhood Involvement.

"His vision was always to take what you have and make it better," Wright said.

Flipper died Nov. 24, 2006, from complications of multiple myeloma.

He was born Jan. 23, 1948, in New Orleans and raised in St. Louis. He earned a master's degree in business administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor's degree from Sangamon State University, now the University of Illinois at Springfield.

In 1991, Flipper moved to Portland from Lewiston, Idaho, where he was an assistant professor of business at Lewis-Clark State College and director of the Idaho

Small Business Development Center.

His wide-ranging involvement included president of the Oregon Enterprise Forum, consultant to the Oregon Native American Business and Entrepreneurial Network, and president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Portland chapter.

In 2004, Flipper moved to Vancouver, where he worked as director of auxiliary services at Clark College until his death.

Flipper's career also included a couple of legislative sessions as an aide to state Sen. Avel Gordly, a Portland independent. He was assigned to create opportunities for cultural exchange, trade and tourism with Africa.

"Carl was very much a leader in his own right in every meaning of that word," Gordly said. "He was an activist, community builder, intellectual."

Everette Rice met Flipper in 1994 at a community gathering welcoming people of color to the Portland area. The meeting evolved into a friendship and professional relationship.

"He was a person who spoke from his heart and did what he thought was best for the larger community," Rice said.

Survivors include his wife, Annette Albright-Flipper; son, Joseph of Clarkston, Wash.; daughters, Monica of New Orleans and Natalie of Lewiston; stepsons, Nathaniel Albright of Denver and Christopher Albright of Portland; stepdaughters, Deanna and Jessica Albright of Portland, and Ruby Albright of Vancouver; mother, Maurine Flipper of Mill Valley, Calif.; sister, Cassandra Flipper of Greenbrae, Calif.; and three grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be at 2 p.m. Jan. 20, 2007, in the Student Center at Clark College.

Remembrances may be made to Carl Flipper Children's Education Fund in care of Annette Albright-Flipper at Bank of America, downtown Vancouver branch.



Flipper

"A person who spoke from his heart"