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Local History Collection

Biography

NAME BILLY G. MILLSOccupation COUNCILMAN, EIGHTH DISTRICTAddress 3621 3rd Avenue, Los AngelesBirth (Date and Place) Nov. 19, 1929, Waco, TexasFATHER Roosevelt MillsBirth (Date and Place) Jan. 3, 1906, Marshall, Texas

If Deceased, When _____

MOTHER Jenye Vive MillsBirth (Date and Place) March 3, 1906, Tijuakanee(near Waco)
Texas

If Deceased, When _____

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Ruby Maurine JacksonBirth of Same (Date and Place) Aug. 9, 1930, Texarkana, Tex.

If Deceased, When _____

When Married June 20, 1953

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters) _____

Twin daughters, Karen and Karol, 7 yearsSon, William Karl, 4 years(3 sons)

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1947

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

MAY 27 1966

1003 CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90012

BIOGRAPHY
Billy G. Mills
February 9, 1966

Los Angeles City Councilman **BILLY G. MILLS**, who holds three degrees in higher education, worked his way through college and law school and he managed, nonetheless, to achieve high scholastic honors at the same time he was earning distinction on the football field.

The 36-year old Municipal Government official, one of three Negroes sitting in the City Council, also happens to be one of three attorneys serving on that 15 member body.

Upon taking office July 1, 1963, Councilman Mills was appointed Chairman of the important Personnel Committee of the Council and he holds membership on two other vital standing Committees--Revenue and Taxation and Public Health and Welfare.

A 1949 graduate of Compton College, Councilman Mills played for Compton College with their Little Rose Bowl team in 1948. As in high school where he successfully combined athletics with his studies and came up with a scholastic average of 95.6 for four years, Mills was graduated with high honors from Compton College. He was Captain of his high school football team and played quarterback. He was also a member of the Debate and Declamation team. Furthermore, Mills was acclaimed as A. J. Moore High School's "Most Outstanding Student" in 1947, winding up on its Honor Roll each of the four years he attended.

At Compton College, it was pretty much the same story. Councilman Mills gained recognition as a member of the School District Speech Panel and the National Junior College Honor Fraternity and at the same time kept coming up with top grades that brought him an Associate of Arts Degree, with high honors.

He continued his studies at UCLA, and was awarded a Bachelor of Arts Degree in 1951, with a major in Political Science. Three years later, he was graduated from the UCLA Law School, receiving his Bachelor of Laws Degree. Once again, he gained wide recognition on the campus. He was elected President of his class in 1952 and was further honored by being selected as a member of the Law Students Association, the American Law Students Association and other organizations, including Nu Beta Epsilon, a national legal fraternity, and Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.

After a one-year interim during which he worked at Douglas Aircraft, Mills entered the military service (Army), remaining in uniform until his discharge in 1957. He was assigned to the Office of the Adjutant General, Far East Command, and later was Special Defense Council in Japan's Tokyo-Yokohama sector.

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February 9, 1966

Back home once more, the Councilman had his first experience as a public servant upon his appointment as a Deputy County Probation Officer. He remained in this work until 1960, when he began the practice of law. Meantime, he had passed the State Bar examination with a high grade and had laid the foundation for a career in the legal profession. He became associated with Attorney Herman A. English, 8500 South Broadway, and was practicing law with him when he decided to toss his hat into the ring as a candidate for the City Council. He led a field of five candidates in the Primary Election to win the nomination by a wide margin. Councilman Mills won by an overwhelming vote in the run-off Municipal Election held May 28, 1963. Since then he has developed considerable stature as a "peacemaker" in City Hall.

Although he does not consider himself a "joiner," Mr. Mills belongs to many organizations, including the California State Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the Urban League, the YMCA, Angel City Lodge No. 18, F. A. M., Los Angeles Consistory No. 26, Egyptian Temple No. 5 and, flashing back to undergraduate days when he had to work to finish college, he retains his memberships in the International Association of Machinists Union; he recently joined the All City Employees Association.

In October, 1965, Councilman Mills was admitted to practice before the U. S. Supreme Court as a member of the Bar of the Supreme Court of the United States. He was sponsored by Solicitor-General, Thurgood Marshall, who is the first Negro ever to hold that office.

Councilman Mills was recently appointed Chairman of the Special Committee on Economic Opportunities of the Los Angeles City Council; the City Representative on the Economic and Youth Opportunities Agency of Greater Los Angeles; Coordinator of City Summer Jobs for Youth Campaign and a member of the League of California Cities.

Councilman Mills was advanced to 33^o Mason, the highest honorary degree of the Masonic Order by the Council of Deliberation. At that same time, he was also elected president of his class which consists of 58 men from all parts of the United States.

Councilman Mills is a charter member of the Trinity Baptist Church Laymen's League of Los Angeles.

A native of Waco, Texas, Councilman Mills was born November 19, 1929. He grew up in Waco and Marshall, Texas. His wife is the former Rubye Maurine Jackson and they have four children, Karen and Karol, ten year old twin daughters, William Karl, 7 years old, and John Stuart, 11 months.

Mrs. Mills, whom the Councilman has referred to as the "greatest campaigner in the whole State," keeps pretty much to the background as her husband sets forth on a political career. Mills, himself, is a fine public speaker, and he is finding opportunity now to apply some of the techniques of government that were taught him at UCLA. The family home is at 3621 Third Avenue in the 8th District which he represents.

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Eighth District

Billy G. Mills

Los Angeles City Council 1963-1974
Judge, Superior Court of Los Angeles 1974-1990

Billy Mills was born November 19, 1929 in Waco, Texas and attended elementary and high school there. He graduated from Compton College and then attended UCLA where he received his Bachelor of Arts Degree and a Law Degree in 1954.

After a short period at the Douglas Aircraft Company, Mr. Mills joined the Army and served with the Adjutant Generals's Office in the Far East until 1957. Upon returning home, Mr. Mills became a Deputy County Probation Officer until 1960 when he began practicing law.

In May of 1963, Billy Mills won the City Council seat from the Eighth District by a large majority and became one of the first three Black councilmen elected in Los Angeles. Mills was an activist who at times had strong disagreements with then Mayor Sam Yorty. Mills rose to the position of President pro tem of the Council and was mentioned as a possible mayoral candidate to replace Yorty.

In April of 1974, Governor Ronald Reagan appointed Mills to the Superior Court of Los Angeles County to fill a vacant post. Mills was reelected to the bench three times ; in 1990 he retired due to illness.

