

Obituary: Mark Chew

May 9, 2018

Mark Rogers Chew, pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Denton five decades, died April 6. He was 76. He was born in Boyle, Miss., Feb. 26, 1942. He attended Fred Moore High School in Denton and graduated from Booker T. Washington High School in Dallas. He earned his associate degree from North Central Texas College and his bachelor's degree from Southern Bible Institute. Later, he received a Doctor of Divinity degree from the International Bible School in Houston. In 1967, Chew was called as pastor of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church, one of the oldest historically black churches in Denton. Under his leadership, the church developed its outreach ministry and Rays of Hope, a program that enables people with personal hardships to work through life challenges as a family instead of on their own. He marked his 50th anniversary at Pleasant Grove Baptist Church last December. He was the first African-American elected to the Denton City Council, serving three full terms in the 1980s and two additional consecutive terms in the 1990s. He also was president of the Denton County NAACP eight years. He served on the Camp Copass board of directors and was a member of the Denton Ministerial Alliance. In addition to his service as pastor, he also worked as an insurance and real estate agent and broker. He was preceded in death by a son, Mark Jerome Chew; two daughters, Sheila Ann Chew and Phillis Renea Chew Murrell; a sister, Jean McCrary; and two brothers, Earl Chew and Bill Chew. He is survived by his mother, Dorothy M. Chew; his wife of 38 years, Rose Marie Chew; five children, Barry Jones, Rosalyn Chew, Lura Chew McClendon (MJ), Shelly Bayless Butler and Marcus Chew; adopted daughter, Jackie Webb; 12 grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; sisters Mary Ann Chew, Shirley Chew, Jackie Whitlock and Jasmine Chew; and



brothers Fredrick Chew, Merlin Chew and Artis Chew.