

Joseph Deighton Gibson, Jr. (“Jack the Rapper”)

Pioneering Disc Jockey

Inducted July 22, 2002

Joseph Deighton Gibson, Jr. also known as “Jack the Rapper” and “Jockey Jack” was born May 13, 1920, to Dr. Joseph Gibson and the former Lillian Schweich, in Chicago, Illinois. Gibson attended Lincoln University, where he was a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.

Gibson earned legendary status as a singular man whose vision changed the lives of millions for the better because he was a self-actualized master communicator. Jack “The Rapper” Gibson began his illustrious career in 1945, when he stepped behind a radio microphone in Chicago. Gibson maintained a reputation for honesty, integrity, and professionalism. He carved himself a unique niche in the entertainment industry based on stellar achievements, a desire for perfection and his relentless drive and determination to help this people. He spearheaded a successful national campaign to raise the necessary funds to remove singer, Jackie Wilson and his mother from the obscurity of unmarked graves to a mausoleum. He also used his influence to garner international support to have Stevie Wonder’s records “unbanned” in South Africa. Mr. Gibson originated the recognition of Black/Urban Radio Month celebrated in October.

Mr. Gibson received many accolades for his pioneering work in black radio. Lincoln University awarded him an honorary doctorate in Humanities in 1990. He received the Smithsonian Institute’s “Black Radio: Telling It Like It Was” Award; the 101st Congressional Tribute for achievements in black radio in 1991 from the U.S House of Representatives; the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters-Pioneer in Broadcasting Award in 1993; named one of the “top 10 Power Brokers of 1994” by Upscale Magazine; featured as one of the top disc jockeys in the Rock-N-Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio; inducted into the Nevada Broadcasting Hall of Fame in 1998 and numerous other awards and honors during his outstanding career.

The Jack Gibson Collection is housed in the archives of African American Music and Culture at Indiana University. His alma Mater, Lincoln University, is committed to preserve his memory. A display of his lifetime career memorabilia is in the Inman E. Page Library Media Center.