

Earl Wilson, Jr.
Businessman/Entrepreneur
Inducted July 27, 2002

Earl Wilson Jr. was born October 9, 1932 in St. Louis, Missouri. He received a BS in Education from Lincoln University in 1957. He served on active duty in the U.S Army with Army Corps of Engineers, and rose to the rank of Captain after five years. In 1963, Mr. Wilson was one of the first blacks to be hired by IBM as a sales representative. For twenty-three of the twenty-six and half years with IBM, Mr. Wilson served in top management and executive staff positions. He retired in 1988 as one of the highest ranking African- Americans in the company.

Mr. Wilson has received numerous awards and honors, both for his work at IBM and his involvement in numerous civic, fraternal, and charitable organizations in St. Louis. He has served with distinction both as a member and as President of the Board of Curators of his beloved alma mater, Lincoln University. Mr. Wilson was President of the Lincoln University National Alumni Association from 1973 to 1981. He is a lifetime member of the NAACP and Omega Psi Pi Fraternity. In 1992-1993 he served as Vice President of Marketing for the U.S Olympic Festival held in St. Louis. He's received three honorary doctorate degrees from Lincoln University, Harris-Stowe State College and the University of Arkansas-Pine Bluff.

Since 1994, Mr. Wilson has been President and Executive Director of the St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation, which he helped to establish. St. Louis Gateway Classic Sports Foundation is an organization, which in the last nine years has donated more than 2.9 million dollars to charitable organizations and underwritten youth athletic programs. The Foundation annually stages the Gateway Classic football games and hosts other sporting events, including high school basketball tournaments, track and field competitions and boxing.

Mr. Wilson is married to Billie Wilson. He has three daughters, Denise, Stacey, and Kimberly, by his deceased wife Margie Wilson, whom he was married to for 40 years.