

Robert Russa Moton High School HALL OF FAME NOMINATION

Biography of Arthur L. Kelly, Sr.

Arthur L. Kelly, Sr. was born in Irondale, Alabama to Houston Kelly and Ovella Johnson Kelly. He attended Irondale Elementary School in Irondale, Alabama. He then attended and graduated from Robert R. Moton High School in 1955. There he was selected as a member of the Student Council and also played varsity football.

Arthur retired from Chicago Bridge and Iron Company after 29 years of service. He then began a second career with the Jefferson County Board of Education serving as the custodian at Shades Valley High School. Arthur volunteered his time and resources at basketball and football games, serving as a "greeter" to all who entered the game. He then retired with ten years of service. The students called him "Pappa Smurf." He would buy lunches for needy kids on a regular basis.

Arthur was a member of the Leeds Civic League and became the first African American City Councilman of Leeds, Alabama. He also served as Mayor Pro tem after the death of the Mayor until another Mayor was elected. He has been a faithful member of St. James United Methodist Church in Irondale, Alabama, where he has served as a Trustee.

Arthur served for many years as the Chairman of the former Moton High School Reunion Committee, the precursor to the Robert R. Moton High School National Alumni Association. He has worked tirelessly in helping to "Keep the Moton Legacy Alive." The current Robert R. Moton High School National Alumni Association stands on the broad shoulders of the former Moton High School Reunion Committee with Arthur Kelly serving as its long-time chairman," according to Mary Hughes, the former President.

Arthur Kelly married his high school sweetheart, Ms. JoAnn McDaniel in 1956. They have been married for 59 years and have two children: Daughter Cynthia M. Bonner and son Arthur Lee Kelly, Jr. They have two grand children and two great grand children. They reside in Leeds, Alabama.

Arthur L. Kelly, Sr. was nominated by Mary Marbury Hughes.