



**Charles G. Tildon, Jr.**  
**(1926-2007)**  
**Civic Activist; Lay Leader**

Born and raised in Baltimore City, he was the eldest son of Esrom Elizabeth Tildon, a teacher, and Charles G. Tildon, Sr., who worked for the railroad. He was educated in public schools and attended Morgan State College, graduating with honors. He began his career as a science teacher in the Baltimore City public schools system, then became Associate Director of Provident Hospital, and later served as executive director of the Maryland Service Corps and assistant secretary of the Maryland Department of Human Resources. He became president of Baltimore City Community College in 1982, a position he held until his retirement in 1985. He was active with numerous civic organizations, including the NAACP, Baltimore Urban League, Citizens Planning and Housing Association, and Associated Black Charities. He also chaired the political action group Marylanders Organized for Responsibility and Equity (MORE), was a founder of BLEWS, the Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore, and served on the Mayor's Taskforce for Equal Rights, chairing the Hospitals Subcommittee, all of which reflected his commitment to community and civil rights affairs.

He married Louise G. Smith in 1958, with whom he had one son, Charles G. Tildon III. The family attended St. Gregory the Great Church, where they were deeply involved in the life of the parish. Within the larger Catholic community, he dedicated himself to promoting equal opportunity in the Church and was instrumental in pressing for representation of African Americans on Archdiocesan committees and boards and played an active role with the Office of African American Catholic Ministries. He was the first African American appointed to the Archdiocesan Urban Commission, serving as chair, 1967-1972, the Archdiocesan Pastoral Council, of which he was elected president in 1982, and the Archdiocesan Finance Committee. He became a national lay leader with appointments to the U.S. Bishops' National Advisory Council in 1969, serving as chair in 1970, and as a lay auditor to the meetings of the Bishops' Conference in 1970. He also acted as a consultant to the National Black Catholic Congress.

His was a life defined by his faith and commitment to racial equality and educational opportunity. At the time of his death, Rep. Elijah E. Cummings, a Baltimore Democrat who regarded Mr. Tildon as a longtime mentor, observed: "He saw his life as a vessel to help other people ... He not only had a vision that the world could be better, [but] he took that vision and turned it into a mission."