

REMEMBERING AND HONORING EARL EVANS EXUM



Earl Evans Exum was a devoted husband, father, leader, mentor, and servant of his community. Throughout his life, he believed in the power of service, relationships, and bringing people together across differences.

A graduate of Cornell University, Purdue University, and ESC de Rouen in France, Earl built a distinguished 27-year career at Pratt & Whitney, ultimately serving as Chairman of International Aero Engines and Vice President of Commercial Engines. He also served as an independent director of A.O. Smith Corporation. In his professional life, he was known not only for his leadership and business expertise, but also for his commitment to creating opportunity and strengthening connections among people and organizations. He founded Pratt & Whitney's African American Forum, which grew into the Black Excellence Network.

Earl's leadership extended far beyond the workplace. A devoted member and former Moderator of Asylum Hill Congregational Church, he approached leadership as an act of service. He served on the boards of the Urban League of Greater Hartford and Hartford Foundation for Public Giving, advised Howard University's Supply Chain Management program, and held leadership roles with WHAASCO and other civic and professional organizations.

He was deeply committed to building a stronger, more connected community. Whether supporting children and education, advancing opportunity in the Black community, preserving the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen and Rev. Lemuel Haynes, coaching youth sports, or bringing people together through civic and cultural organizations, Earl consistently sought common ground and created space for others to thrive.

His warmth, generosity, curiosity, and willingness to serve left a lasting mark on the many people and communities he touched. Earl was a beloved church and community leader who believed *"we work better in community than alone."*

Sadly, Earl left the world he devoted himself to improving far too early—before the work was done and the vision realized. He died in 2023 at the age of 55.

Through the Earl Exum Community Resource Center at AHCC, his vision lives on, and through us the work will continue.