



THE OKLAHOMA EDUCATIONAL MEMORIAL TRUST FOUNDATION HONORS

## Dr. Charles C. Mason



This scholarship was established in memory of the Tulsa Public Schools' Superintendent for 25 years, Dr. Charles C. Mason. Edison, Memorial and Booker T. Washington were built during his tenure as well as buying land for the states' first vo-tech. The Education Service Center and a high school were named in his honor. He was 88 when he passed away.

During his tenure, he saw the school system grow from 44 schools and an enrollment of 30,000 students to 107 schools and 80,000 students. In 1974, a high school was named in Mason's honor. The school closed after five years due to declining enrollment and is now the building which houses Metro Christian Academy.

In 1956, he was named "Mr. Superintendent of Oklahoma" by the Oklahoma Elementary School Administrators Association. He was inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City in 1986. Mason was one of four superintendents in the nation to receive the first American Educators Medal Of Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge.

He came to Tulsa in 1928 from Missouri to serve as a science teacher at Central High School. He later was principal of Sidney Lanier elementary school. In 1944, he became assistant superintendent of schools. Not quite a year after, he became superintendent - a post he held 15 years longer than any other Tulsa superintendent.

Mason served on the advisory board of the Chamber of Commerce, on the board of directors of the Tulsa United Way, American Red Cross, YMCA, Tulsa Opera, Gilcrease Institute of American History and Art, Tulsa Public Library and Oklahoma Education Association. He also served on the board of trustees of Hillcrest Medical Center for 18 years.

- Adapted from *Tulsa World*, July 31, 1993