

## TV Pioneer Ben Williams Passes



**Ben Williams** (*Silver Circle 2000*), the first black television news reporter in the Bay Area, passed away of cardiac arrest at St. Rose Hospital in Hayward on Monday, December 17, 2012. He was 85. Mr. Williams had appeared on the daily newscasts of KPIX Channel 5 for more than 25 years, covering events that included the **Robert Kennedy** assassination, the UC Free Speech Movement, the attempted assassination of President **Gerald Ford**, and the **Patty Hearst** kidnapping. He had served nine years as the station's East Bay Bureau Chief.

Mr. Williams grew up in St. Louis, Missouri and studied journalism at Lincoln University in Jefferson City. After graduating, he moved to California and settled in the Bay Area where he worked first at two black daily newspapers, the *Bay Area Daily Record* and the *San Francisco Sun-Reporter*. In 1962 he was hired by the *San Francisco Examiner* to become the Hearst-owned newspaper's first black reporter. By 1965, having become a highly regarded and award-winning print journalist, he was recruited by KPIX to become the first black TV reporter in Bay Area television. He continued at the station for more than a quarter of a century, winning an Emmy@Award and honors from the National Association of Black Journalists, the Society of Professional Journalists, the San Francisco Press Club, and dozens of community organizations. He taught journalism for 11 years at San Francisco State University while working at Channel 5.

After retiring, Ben and his wife, **Vivian**, traveled the world, visiting Africa, China and the Caribbean. He had recently served on the Board of Directors for "The Next Step," an adult literacy program based in West Oakland.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Vivian, of Oakland, his son, **Ben Williams, Jr.** and wife **Michelle**, and two grandchildren, **Olivia** and **Aleah**. He was predeceased by two sons, **Gregory Williams** and **Alan Williams**.

The Family asks that donations be made in the name of Ben Williams to The Next Step Learning Center 2222 Curtis Street, Oakland, CA 94607, or the Oakland Boys Club 920 24th st. Oakland CA 94607

## On the Move . . .

**Brian Dea** to Executive Producer Sports, CBS 5/The CW 44 Cable 12 (KPIX/KBCW TV) from producer Comcast Bay Area.

**Jarrett McPeck** to Manager of Technical Operations CBS 5 (KPIX-TV) from Media Technologies Director, same station.

**Sean Torbett** to Chief Engineer KPIX/KBCW from Project Manager same stations.

## Flashback: Holiday Screening 12/13 BAVC

Photos by: Karen Sutton