

Benjamin Hamzah, Lorain's first black public school teacher

LORAIN — Benjamin (Fain) Hamzah, 73, of Lorain, died Friday, Oct. 30, 1998, following a three-year battle with Alzheimer's.

He was born Dec. 6, 1924, in Huntington W.Va.

Hamzah received his Bachelors from West Virginia University and his Master of Arts from Bluefield State University. He was a member of Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and served in the U.S. Navy for five years.

He was hired in 1954 by the Lorain City Schools and was the first black public school teacher. He taught at Hawthorne Junior High School, Admiral King High School,



HAMZAH

Southview High School and Charleston's Career Center until retiring in 1982.

Upon converting to Islam he adopted the name Hamzah to reflect his religious beliefs.

Survivors include his wife of 47 years, Mrs. Hannah Hamzah (nee Davis); children, Betty Willis of Ann Arbor, Mich., Pamela R. Fain of Chicago, Phillip Fain of Columbus, Timachien Hamzah, Fatima Hamzah and Kyanna Hamzah; 11 grandchildren; sisters Estella Cooper of Wyoming, Ohio; Rachel King of Huntington, W.Va. and Ruth Love of Baltimore, Md.; and several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by five brothers and four sisters.

Friends may call Tuesday from 7 p.m. until time of tribute services at 8 p.m. in the Carter Funeral Home, 3001 Elyria Ave., Lorain.