

WABASH VALLEY

P R O F I L E S

A series of tributes to hometown heroes who have made a difference.

Warren Anderson



An outstanding student-athlete at Wiley High School and Indiana State, Warren Maxwell Anderson was the first African-American to serve on the Indiana Board of Education.

The youngest child of Marion and Addie Anderson, Warren was born April 29, 1905, in Otter Creek Township. However, the Anderson family—which included Warren’s sisters Sylvia and Helen May and brothers Lewis and James—soon moved to 522 S. 14th St. Marion Anderson was a teamster for many years before becoming a caretaker at Terre Haute’s Highland Lawn Cemetery. The Anderson children attended Booker T. Washington School and Wiley. Helen May graduated in 1918, Lewis in 1919, James in 1921 and Warren in 1923. An

excellent student, Warren excelled in track in high school, advancing to the Indiana High School Athletic Association finals in the high jump as a sophomore. At Indiana State Normal, now Indiana State University, Warren tied the school record in the 120-yard low hurdles and established a school mark in the long jump at 21 feet, 2 inches.

During the 1925-26 school year, Anderson was recipient of the prestigious Linneus N. Hines Award, a medal given annually to the varsity letterman who achieved the highest scholarship average during the preceding three terms. Receiving a bachelor’s degree from Indiana State Normal in 1927, Warren earned a master’s degree at the University of Michigan in 1932.

Anderson began teaching at Roosevelt High School in Gary in 1930. Named assistant principal in 1937, he became principal in 1961, serving until his retirement in 1970. Meanwhile, he became the first African-American to serve on the Indiana Board of Education. He died in on July 4, 1973, at age 68, survived by his wife Mary and daughter Rosemary Davis of Indianapolis. Warren’s brother Lewis practiced dentistry in Terre Haute for many years. Sylvia (Mahan), Helen May (Hall) and James became teachers. James relocated to Wilson, N.C.

The Warren M. Anderson Scholarship is awarded annually by Indiana State University to a deserving minority student. A second Warren M. Anderson Scholarship, endowed by gifts from his widow and school associates in Gary, is given annually to a top senior at Roosevelt High School.



First Financial Bank

Always Close to Home

MEMBER FDIC



FREE ISU Baseball Tickets

ISU vs. Missouri State • Friday, May 19 • 7 p.m.
FIRST will be there with FREE hot dogs.

Tickets available on a first-come, first-served basis at Meadows, West Terre Haute, Plaza North, Springhill and Main banking centers.

