

# ANDREW “WIGGIE” BROWN

February 14, 1944 - July 23, 1993

Son of Jake and Ellen Washington Brown. He graduated summa cum laude of his high school class in Ferriday, Louisiana and was the first in his family to attend college. A 1966 graduate of Southern University, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and also obtained his master's degree in education. He was a proud member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity. While employed at Southern University he met and married Laura Fontenette from Jeanerette, LA.

He became the first Director of the Upward Bound program at Mills College - the prestigious liberal arts college located in Oakland, CA. He was later employed by Stanford University's Athletic Business Department. While at Stanford he was encouraged to pursue the opportunity to become the first full-time Commissioner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC). The SWAC office was established in New Orleans in 1973. He was instrumental in the first game of the Bayou Classic, Southern University vs. Grambling University, in the newly constructed New Orleans Super Dome.

Brown tirelessly advocated for SWAC colleges and universities to receive television revenue and was successful in this mission as commissioner and was posthumously inducted into the NCAA Hall of Fame.

After his tenure with the SWAC. Brown became Director of the Recreation Department for the City of New Orleans. He organized the first Biddy Basketball play-off game in Helsinki, Finland in 1979.

As an entrepreneur, Brown was CEO of A&L Enterprises, an export and foreign trade company. He was acknowledged as Louisiana's international business ambassador to West Africa as he pursued business opportunities, promoted trade missions, and hosted dignitaries from West Africa and as far away as the Pacific Island country of Papua New Guinea.

Mr. Brown believed in communities organizing to meet the needs of the people which lead him to becoming a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1988. His involvement in politics was to address the socio-economic needs of the community he lived in with his wife and children. He was the first African American mayoral candidate in the City of Jeanerette, LA.

He valued every human being. A philanthropist at heart, Mr. Brown believed integrity, mutual respect, empathy, and gratitude were key leadership qualities to be espoused. He believed youth with determination and perseverance could achieve their goals in life and would be the force for positive change. because, "Children live what they learn and are indeed our future leaders."

*Beloved father of: Ayanna, LaShanna, Andrew, Aaren, Lauren and Lady*

*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33*



## SWAC Names Brown As Commissioner

**JACKSON, Miss.(AP)** - The Southwestern Athletic Conference has its first commissioner. Andrew Brown of Stanford University, was named to the post here Saturday.

Brown, 29, will assume his duties July 1. He is currently Administrative Assistant to the Director of Athletics at Stanford University.

A conference spokesman said a conference office would be opened, possibly in New Orleans or Houston.

Source: via Google News  
The Tuscaloosa News  
May 20, 1973

July 12, 1973

**SPORTS**

## Southern Grad Named To Head Athletic Conference

Southern University graduate **Andrew Brown** was recently named the first commissioner of the Southwestern Athletic Conference.

**Brown**, 29, was acting business manager for Southern's athletic department for two years before becoming the administrative assistant to the director of athletics at Stanford University.

## EBONYJET

**SPORTS**

October 31, 1974

## Black Bowl Game Finds Permanent Home in La.

After a shaky two-year start, the Pelican Bowl, which features the best Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC) football team against the tops in the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference (MEAC), has found permanent lodging at the new Superdome in New Orleans.

SWAC Commissioner Andrew Brown told JET that the first Pelican Bowl was originally scheduled for Baton Rouge, LA., during the 1971-72 season, but student unrest sent the game to Durham, N.C., instead. Last season, the game was not played because the conferences failed to produce needed financial reports from the previous year in time to get the National Collegiate Athletic Assn.'s sanction for the game.

This year, Brown says, the reports are in, the NCAA has approved the game and it will be held Dec. 7 at Tulane University's Stadium since the massive Superdome won't be ready until next spring.

Jet magazine article: Oct 31, 1974