

Certificate of Commendation

Civilian



Headquarters Third Service Command

Baltimore, Maryland

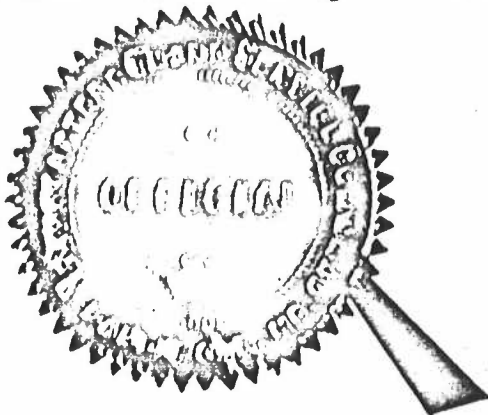
26 February 1945

This Certificate of Commendation is Awarded to:

THE REVEREND BEN F. WYLAND

For Especially Meritorious and Outstanding Service

Citation: THE REVEREND BEN F. WYLAND, as Liaison Chaplain, Department of Christian Ministry to Service Men, Council of Churches of Maryland and Delaware since November 1941. During that period, largely through his efforts in that capacity, that organization reached over one million service men and women of all creeds and color, providing free sleeping facilities for over 100,000 and more than 122,000 free meals. Entertainment, books, magazines, radios, pianos and recreational facilities were made available to thousands of others, and 1068 wives of service men were placed in church homes. Seventy-eight ships were supplied with phonographs, records and other recreational supplies. The Reverend Wyland's services and that of the organizations in the Council were entirely gratuitous and have been of inestimable value from a morale as well as spiritual standpoint.



A large, stylized cursive signature of Philip Hayes.

Philip Hayes
Major General, U.S. Army
Commanding

St. Petersburg Times Editorials

"The policy of our paper is very simple — merely to tell the truth"

—Paul Poynter, publisher 1912-1950

Editorial Page-6

Phone 5-1111

Tuesday, May 22, 1956

A Fitting Tribute To Dr. Wyland

The testimonial dinner given Dr. Ben Wyland by the United Churches of St. Petersburg last week is a fitting tribute to the leadership that he has exerted in the never-ending fight to keep St. Petersburg the state's cleanest city.

And Dr. Wyland's decision to move up to the executive secretaryship of the Florida Council of Racial Cooperation will give that group a solid and dedicated leader in its effort to solve one of the South's greatest problems through the medium of goodwill and Christian principles.

ST. PETERSBURG IS A better place because of the 10 years service Dr. Wyland has given here. He proved himself a good organizer and a fearless combatant in the campaign of the churches to restrict the liquor sale zone, the battle against summer racing and the appeal before the State Pardon Board to spare the life of Walter Lee Irvin in the Groveland rape case.

His activities — and those of the United Churches which he brought from humble beginnings to a cooperative effort by 65 churches — have included a Korean clothing campaign on Hal-

loween, the mammoth mass religious service at Al Lang Field for the dedication of Sunshine Skyway, work for Goodwill Industries, putting the Negro Community Chest campaign over the top, work in setting up a Negro Youth Center, securing a home for Lauffer Branch YWCA for Negro girls, housing 1,500 Negro educators who conventioned here, direction of the Easter Sunrise services, now a major event in St. Petersburg, and numerous other services.

THE STATURE OF the man has been recognized by the National Council of Churches which has drafted him three times as an exchange preacher to England. He has received many other citations and awards.

In retiring from the position as executive secretary of United Churches, he said his deepest sympathies lie in the field of racial cooperation and the challenge of the new job renders greater public service possibilities. He will remain in St. Petersburg and, as he said, serve here in every good cause.

The Times wishes him well in his new endeavor and knows he will take into it the zeal and understanding necessary for its success.

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*The Lord Chamberlain is
commanded by Her Majesty to invite*

*The Reverend Ben F. and Mrs Weyland
to an Afternoon Party in the Garden of Buckingham Palace
on Thursday 19th July 1956, from 4 to 6 o'clock.
(Weather Permitting.)*

Morning Dress or Uniform or Lounge Suit.



A TESTIMONIAL DINNER

to

REV. BEN F. WYLAND

by

The UNITED CHURCHES

Completing

As Executive Secretary

TEN YEARS SERVICE



ST. PETER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

May 18, 1956

TEN Years Service

by REV. BEN F. WYLAND

Graduate University of Iowa and Yale.

In "Who's Who in the South".

Degrees: Bachelor of Philosophy; Bachelor of Divinity; Doctor of Humane Letters.

Pastor Congregational Churches at Worcester, Mass.; Brooklyn, N. Y.; built the million dollar church at Lincoln, Nebraska, with Carillon.

Liaison Chaplain at Baltimore during World War II for Council of Churches and the Churches of America. Work written up by the Saturday Evening Post and received Citation from the Third Army Corps.

An exchange preacher three times under the National Council of Churches with England. In 1954 preached in Worcester Cathedral by approval of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Attended Queen's Garden Party. This summer (1956) will preach in England again, arrangements having been made in Edinburgh, Canongate—the church of the Royal Family, and is returning to Worcester Cathedral, and also in London.

For 2 years placed in charge of Korean clothing campaign by the Hallowe'en Civic Committee using school children, diverting them from mischief to do good deeds. Secured 30,000 pounds of clothing and a transport plane from President Eisenhower to Baltimore for overseas shipment.

When new \$23,000,000 Skyway Bridge was completed over Tampa Bay and dedicated, he was placed in charge of a Mass meeting at Al Lang Field. General Chairman and President of the Florida Power Co., Mr. William Clapp said, "A mighty fine job you did".

A member of Public Relations Committee, South East Conference (Atlanta) of National Council of Churches.

A member of Public Relations Committee of Good Will Industries, St. Petersburg.

Had charge of public relations with churches for former President, the Honorable Herbert Hoover in his last food campaign.

Received citation from Bethune-Cookman College for service to Negro people.

Received Honor Citation from Negro YMCA—Melrose Branch, from National YMCA for service to Negro people.

As Executive Secretary of the United Churches, Negro churches and ministers were made members.

Received Nathaniel Colyer Award from Florida Normal for work for Negro people.

Given B'nai Brith Award by Jewish Community.

As Chairman of Negro Division of the Community Chest received an Oscar when they went over top in 1954 and 1955. Mr. J. E. Bryan, President of Union Trust and Chairman of the Community Chest, said "I should like to express to you my sincere appreciation for the fine job you have done with the Negro Division of the Community Chest. You have done a wonderful job". The Times editorially referred to it as "Proud Leadership".

Received degree Doctor of Humane Letters, Edward Waters College, for Interracial contributions.

For three years Chairman Rockefeller National financial campaign in Pinellas County for 30 accredited Negro colleges.

Given honor citations Armistice Day, 1955, by the American Legion and the Veterans Council for Civic and Racial Betterment.

Received thanks from City Council of St. Petersburg for work in Negro area to set up a youth center.

Secured Home for Lauffer Branch YWCA now handling 700 Negro girls yearly. House bought from the City for One Dollar. Secured co-operation of both newspapers and prominent citizens, together with cooperation of free labor from Labor Unions for overhauling the house. Raised \$5,000 to move, relocate and repair.

Conducted successful campaign to house 1,500 Negro educators barred from local hotels. Secured thru cooperation from President Eisenhower 1,500 cots from nearby air base, used churches, used private white and Negro homes. Supported by Chamber of Commerce and Hotel Men's Association. Carried affair thru without incidents.

Spearheaded for the churches the campaign to save Walter Lee Irwin from death sentence which was successful. Secured new evidence in Lake County with the help of the former Prosecuting Attorney, Jesse Hunter. This was done in unison with the magnificent work of the St. Petersburg Times.

Directed the Annual Easter Sunrise Services in Al Lang Field growing to attendance of 10,000 people. Handled the largest public gathering in the history of the City—The Billy Graham Mass Meeting with 35,000 present. Annually organized the Good Friday and Union Thanksgiving services.

Built the United Churches from its beginning to its present cooperation of 65 churches.

The Sunday School Parade—four hours long—he brought to the City.

On moral issues he mobilized the community to defeat another dog track and to keep liquor interests under control.

The Chapel at Mound Park Hospital he mobilized church forces to bring to pass.

A TV and Radio Workshop was established.

Directed repeatedly Mass Meetings at Williams Park for the American Legion, The United Nations, and Brotherhood Week.

A Tribute to

REV. BEN F. WYLAND



It has been my good pleasure to know rather intimately, for upwards of twenty-five years, the fine work and successful career of Dr. Ben F. Wyland. He has been given many important assignments, and covered them with singular ability and uniform success.

Dr. Wyland is gifted with a fine personality and a sterling character. One always knows where he stands and what to expect on matters of importance, in the wide range of personal fidelity, forthright performance of duty, execution of program, both as to detail and in the large, and in the application of the Gospel on the highest level of a Christo-Centric convictions, with a high score of good public relationship.

Dr. Wyland fills the role of a good preacher, rather above the average, as well as that of an accomplished executive. He exemplifies calm, steady and wise judgment. He is possessed of rare patience, and long suffering, with a marked capacity for achieving long range results. He gets things done and done well; and I would endorse him for any high position of leadership.

Most heartily,

DR. H. PAUL GUHSE

Chairman of Committee

'Hymn Of Brotherhood' Dedicated To Rev. Wyland Sunday Night



(Times Photo by Bob Moreland)

LIKE BREAD CAST UPON THE WATERS

... good deeds are returned manyfold, the Rev. Ben F. Wyland, center, was reassured Sunday. With the honoree are the Rev. Dr. Enoch D. Davis, Second Bethel's pastor, and Lauffer Branch YWCA Executive Director Mrs. Monticello Campbell.

St. Petersburg Times, Tuesday, April 28, 1939

"Hymn of Brotherhood," penned by composer Mrs. Lue Cunningham and set to music by Dr. George Shackley, Sunday night was dedicated to the Rev. Ben F. Wyland, outstanding local humanitarian.

A capacity audience was present for the dedication in Second Bethel Baptist Church which featured the Misses Muriel Biggali and Kha Dennard of Westminster Presbyterian Church and Second Bethel Baptist Church, respectively, as soloists.

Rev. Wyland, who later Sunday evening accepted a citation from Lauffer Branch YWCA for "humanitarian service to the Negro people," is former executive secretary of the United Churches of Greater St. Petersburg and is currently president of the Florida Council for Racial Cooperation. He was instrumental in securing Lauffer's present association house at 2129 15th Ave. S.

Dedication of the hymn and presentation of the citation followed a 30-minute concert of organ classics by Dr. Shackley, director of music at Christ Presbyterian Church, Belleair.

THE LYRICS

The hymn, sung by Miss Bagali, reads thus:

God made the leaves, no two alike,

On each and every tree.

The lovely flowers in gay array

In many shades to see;

And yet he loves them all

In the very same degree.

And so the same is true of man

No matter what his hue,

If yellow, white or black or brown

God loves them through and through

The same as you and I should do.

Yes, tolerance is very good,

As far as it may go;

But we must walk a further mile

Great understanding show

Our Master said it should be so.