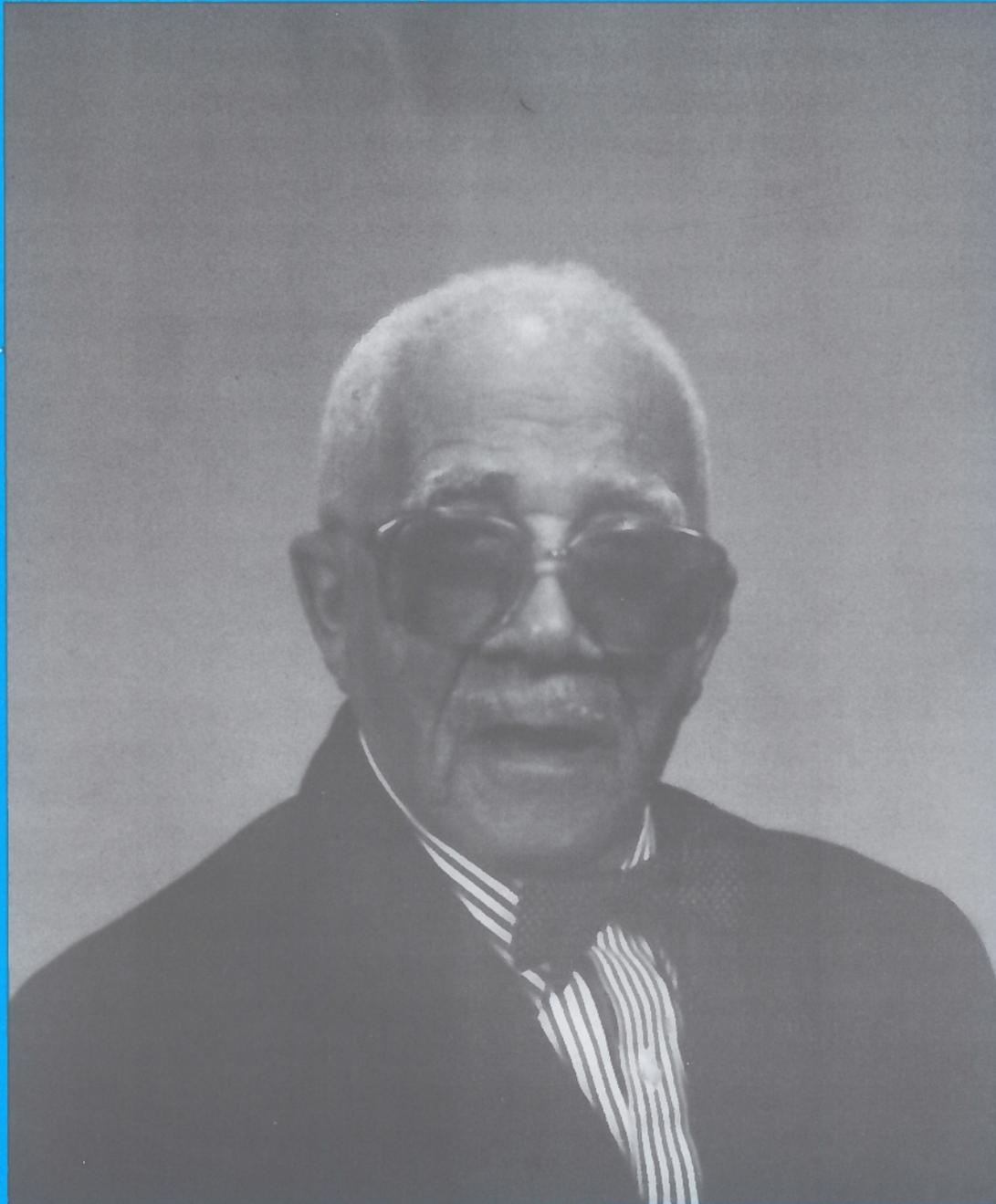


## Oscar Cross (1906-1999)



Oscar Cross was a civic leader from Paducah, Kentucky. In 1949, he became the founder of the Boys Club of Paducah, and served as director for fifty years. The Paducah Boys Club was dedicated to Cross in 1980 and renamed the Oscar Cross Boys Club of Paducah in his honor. His leadership formed the first interracial board of directors of the Boys Club of Paducah, later ending in the integration of blacks into all Boys Clubs in the U.S. Prior to his Boys Club involvement, he was the first black to serve as a juvenile officer in McCracken County, Kentucky. He received the Kentucky Education Association's Lucy Harth Smith - Atwood S. Wilson Award for Civil and Human Rights in Education in 1987. He was the 1993 recipient of the Boys and Girls Club Herman S. Prescott Award for individuals who made significant contributions in the area of equality for minorities and women. His numerous other awards include a 1975 Certificate of Merit from the local Chamber of Commerce; the 1978 National Bronze Keystone Award from the Boys Clubs of America; the 1982 Paducah Community Service Award; and a 1983 Certificate of Merit from the Kentucky Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).

A Gallery of  
**Great Black Kentuckians**  
Printed with State Funds  
Kentucky Commission on Human Rights  
#25