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Retired President Of Prairie View Dies Dr. Edward B. Evanas - 1976

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Washington — The State Department has sent a formal plea to the government of Angola to spare the life of an American mercenary on humanitarian grounds.

"The United States is doing something to help Daniel Gearhart," a senior United States official said without elaborating. Another well-connected source said a formal message had been sent to Angolan President Agostinho Neto in the name of the government.

It was believed that the British observer in Luanda, the Angolan capital, might have transmitted the mercy plea. The United States has no diplomatic relations with Angola.

Three British subjects also have been condemned to be shot for fighting as mercenaries against the victorious Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola.

Neto reportedly has indicated that he might be disposed to commute Gearhart's death sentence, but only if he receives a plea in the name of President Ford.

Retired president of Prairie View dies

Funeral services for Dr. Edward B. Evans, 82, president emeritus of Prairie View A&M University, are scheduled for Tuesday at 2 p.m. at St. Francis Episcopal Church in Prairie View.

The retired Prairie View A&M president died early Saturday morning at St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital in Houston. His body will lie in state at St. Francis church from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. the day of the services. Burial will be in Prairie View Memorial Cemetery.

Evans served at Prairie View 48 years, joining the staff as doctor of veterinary medicine in 1918. He served in various capacities, including 20 years as president before his retirement in 1966.

He is a Kansas City, Mo., native and a graduate of Iowa State University. He became well known in national agricultural circles after establishing programs of veterinary medicine at both Prairie View and Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

He also helped found Southwestern Athletic Conference.

As Prairie View president, he was instrumental in adding 28 permanent buildings and increasing the physical plant value from \$2.5 million in 1946 to \$14.5 million in 1966. Enrollment and faculty doubled during this time.

In recent years he has been a member of the Prairie View City Council and board member of the Houston Area Girl Scout Council and the San Jacinto Lung Association in Houston. He received many awards, including the 1954 Man of the Year Award, presented by the Progressive Farmer Magazine; the 1954 Houston Negro Chamber of Commerce Achievement Award; the 1957 National 4H Club Award, and the 1953 Hoblitzelle Achievement Award for Outstanding Service to Agriculture.

Survivors include his wife, Canzetta Evans of Prairie View; a son, Edward Evans Jr., Houston; a daughter, Ada Louise Canaday, Los Angeles, Calif., and six grandchildren.



Evans

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