

## **Marvin Gray**

Awarded posthumously, Gray was represented by sisters Esther Umphries and Shirley Gray Sanders, nephew Michael Gray and great-nephew Cory Gray. Marvin Gray played basketball, football, boxing and wrestling at Columbia. He was awarded his high school diploma in absentia in 1943 after he left school early to join the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II.

After returning home in 1945, Marvin Gray earned a football scholarship at Southwestern University in Georgetown. An injury cut his playing days short. He then crossed the border and went to Mexico City College, playing fullback for the Aztecs. Gray coached in Mexico City after school and returned to West Columbia as an assistant football coach in 1956. His life was cut short because of heart disease just before his 37th birthday in August of 1962.

Columbia High School gives the most valuable player award for the football team every year in memory of Marvin Gray.