

## **Michael Petrizzo, A Pillar of the Community, Succumbs to a Long Illness.**

Written by Forward Times Staff  
Wednesday, 11 January 2012 12:50

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**MICHAEL PETRIZZO**

As an advocate for African-American Urban Radio, Mike Petrizzo is the Executive Vice-President and General Manager of Houston's KCOH AM Radio Station, the oldest (57 years old) black formatted station in the state of Texas. In addition, Mr. Petrizzo is a member of KCOH, Inc.'s Board of Directors, and a major stockholder.

As a Brooklyn native, Petrizzo's first visit to Houston was during his station at Ellington Field while serving as a U.S. Air Forces 2nd LIEUTENANT during World War II in 1944. During his military service, he was trained to pilot, the B-17 Flying Fortress, the B-24 LIBERATOR, and became a Navigator on a B-29 Super Fortress. The day before carrying out orders to bomb Japan, Japan surrendered. Petrizzo continued to serve in the Air Force Reserve after active duty and retired as a Major.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Brooklyn College, in New York, he accepted an opportunity as an accountant with KCOH in Houston, TX, and was elected General Manager after the station's Board of Directors president, Mr. Robert Meeker, expired in 1976. On Feb. 26th of 1976, Petrizzo and 4 partners purchased KCOH. The daytime station was on air during sun-up to sun-set with 1,000 watts of power.

Through Petrizzo leadership and guidance, KCOH 1430 AM transitioned from a daytime station to a twenty-four/seven broadcast operation with 5, 000 watts a day, and 1,000 at night.

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Today, Mike Petrizzo and owners, Travis O. Gardner, and Margarett Robinson, widow of Judson Robinson and talented air-personalities and qualified staff, maintain KCOH 1430- AM the first African-American Radio Station and one of the most popular Talk Radio Stations located at 5011 Almeda Rd. Houston, TX. This legacy has continued to fulfill the primary objective of Robert C. Meeker, "(we plan to) run a good radio station and provide program exclusively for Houston's African-American community on a solid public service basis."

Mike Petrizzo is married to the lovely Armida for 53 years. They are the parents of Michael Jr., Jo Ann, Jerry, and Thomas and 1 grandchild.

### **Memorial Services for Michael Petrizzo**

**Friday, January 13, 2012**

**Time: 11:00 am**

**Earthman Bellaire Funeral Home**

**6700 Ferris**

**Bellaire, Texas 77401**

**713-667-6505**

{comments on}