

# Nation's Stars Pay Respect To Editor

## Bow In Tribute To Robt. S. Abbott, Known As Actors' Friend

The nation's sepia stars of the radio, stage and screen this week bowed in tribute to Robert Sengstacke Abbott, founder, editor, owner and publisher of the Chicago Defender, who succumbed at his home Thursday, Feb. 29, after a prolonged illness.

From all parts of the country messages of condolence and floral offerings poured in to the family of the man who had been adjudged the actor's best friend.

### Honored By Southernaires

The "Southernaires," National Broadcasting Company singers, dedicated their Sunday morning program to the memory of Mr. Abbott. Bill Robinson, now currently featured in Michael Todd's "Hot Mikado," and close friend of the deceased newspaper editor, aside from sending a touching wire, offered to close the show and come to the city to act as an active pallbearer.

Outstanding among the leaders in theatrical circles who sent wires were: W. C. Handy, the father of the blues; Clarence Muse, screen actor; Noble Sissle, orchestra leader, now featured at Billy Rose's Diamond Horse Shoe, New York City; Andy Razaf, music publisher, New York City; Earl "Father" Hines, orchestra leader; Lionel Hampton, vibraharpist with Benny Goodman's band, Los Angeles, Calif., and Frank L. Rand of Rhoads and Rand, publicists, Chicago.

### Some of the Wires

Columbus, Ohio  
Mrs. Edna R. Abbott  
4742 South Parkway

I was deeply grieved also shocked on receiving word of my dear friend, Robert S. Abbott's passing. I want to extend to you my sincere sympathy in which my wife joins me. His loss to the nation and the Negro race will be mourned by all of us.

**BILL ROBINSON**

Los Angeles, Calif.

Words cannot express our grief over the passing of Robert S. Abbott. Our sympathies are with you and the family in this hour of sorrow. Just look to the joy he has given the world and you will be able to carry on. We are sorry.

**CLARENCE MUSE FAMILY**

New York, N. Y.

The race has lost one of its fearless leaders, you a faithful husband and I a most sincere treasured friend. Accept my profound sympathy.

**NOBLE SISSLE**

New York, N. Y.

Your loss is our loss. All hearts go out to you.

**ANDY RAZAF**

New York, N. Y.

We were deeply touched when news reached us of the passing of our good friend and race champion. We therefore express our deep sorrow and extend our sincere sympathy. Robert S. Abbott contributed to the cultural advancement of our people to the extent that America gained something fine and invaluable. Though we mourn his departure his work and influence will live on and on . . .

**W. C. HANDY**

Last evening I learned with deep regret of the death of Robert S. Abbott. Your loss and that of your associates at the Defender must be very great, yet how extremely fortunate you are to have been privileged to work shoulder to shoulder with so great a man.

His work, unlike the puling, small efforts of so many humans, was carried on with faith and courage in the face of seemingly insurmount-

able odds. His record should be an imperishable inspiration to his co-workers who will continue with the Defender.

The record of his accomplishments will live long after our inane racial prejudices shall have passed out of existence.

Few people merit such praise, but of him it can truthfully be said that the world is a better place for his having lived in it. The humanitarian battles he fought and won for the Negro must, in the ultimate great cosmos, reflect a beneficent light on all mankind.—Very truly yours,

**FRANK L. RAND., Rhoads and Rand publicists.**