



ABOUT MR. BROOKS FITCH

Brooks Fitch was raised in Springfield, MA and attended Springfield schools. After graduating from the University of Connecticut and the American University MBA program, he began a career at IBM, which included time in Washington D.C., Dallas, Texas and Melbourne, Australia. In Dallas, among many community service contributions, Brooks led the Freedman's Memorial initiative that brought together corporations, the State of Texas, the City of Dallas and the African American community to create a world class memorial to 7,000 African American freedmen and slaves. Brooks was recognized through many awards, including the Aetna Insurance "From Whence We Came" Award and the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Dallas "Man of the Year" Award.

Since returning to Springfield, Brooks has served with the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission (PVPC), St. John's Congregational Church, W.E.B. Du Bois Center at UMass Amherst, the Healing Racism Institute and Beta Sigma Boule. With Beta Sigma Boule, Brooks has served as President and helped provide inspiration, aspirational modeling, scholarships and mentoring to students through the "Education & Leadership Luncheon". The luncheon is a strategic partnership with the Basketball Hall of Fame. Brooks led the W.E.B. Du Bois Center and St. John's community tributes to Western Massachusetts native, W.E.B. Du Bois.

For extraordinary contributions to the PVPC and our regional economic development, Brooks was recognized through the PVPC's Regional Recognition Award in 2015. A cancer survivor, Brooks is blessed with an inspirational wife, Shelley, and an extended "spiritual" family. Brooks strongly believes that community service is an imperative. "WE must keep pushing - forward!"