

Life and Times of

EMLEN TUNNELL

FAST RESPONSE CUTTER COMMISSIONING CARD SET



U.S. COAST GUARD CUTTER EMLEN TUNNELL



The Coast Guard Foundation is committed to ensuring all Coast Guard members and families have the resources they need to build resilience throughout their lives. Founded in 1969, we're a vital partner to the Coast Guard — tackling the toughest challenges confronting our heroes and strengthening the entire community.

The Coast Guard Foundation congratulates the crew of the CGC EMLEN TUNNELL on the ship's commissioning. May you carry on Emlen Tunnell's legacy of heroism, bravery and service to others.

coastguardfoundation.org

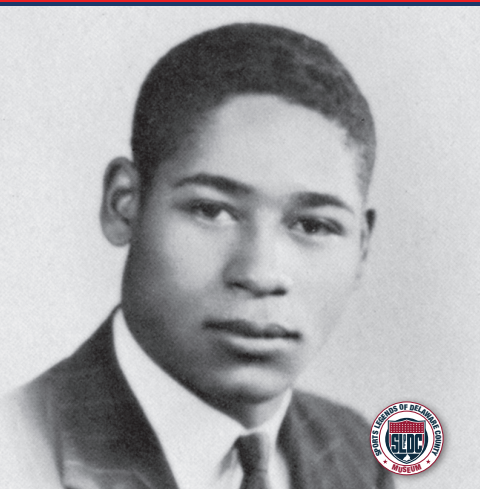


Emlen Tunnell - March 29, 1924 to July 23, 1975

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1942 RADNOR H.S. YEARBOOK PHOTO

1942 RADNOR H.S. YEARBOOK PHOTO

CARD #01

Emlen Tunnell grew up in the Garrett Hill section of Radnor Township. In Emlen's own words, "Garrett Hill was a real 'Huckleberry Finn' kind of town in the 1930s. Sure, we were poor on the hill. Maybe some of us were poverty-stricken, but we never knew it. We thought we were better off than any kids in the country and because we thought so, we were."

Because of his athletic prowess and carefree nature, Emlen made friends easily. "When we were kids back in Garrett Hill, we learned that you can't sit home and wait for a good time to come calling to you." Perhaps Emlen's most famous quote: "You have to assemble down on the corner and go out in a group to meet life head on if you hope to have fun."

Emlen lived with families of similar socio-economic backgrounds and sports were the common denominator. "We never heard of the word integrated in those days. We just all lived together--Italians, Irish, Germans, English, Negroes and just about everyone else".

Emlen's mother, Catherine Tunnell, made it possible for her son to play summer sports by working several weeks each summer as a maid in Atlantic City. "I'd rather have you out playing. You have the rest of your life to work." Emlen Tunnell played hard and never forgot his Garrett Hill roots. -Text by Phil Damiani



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RADNOR HIGH SCHOOL ALL TIME GREAT

RADNOR HIGH SCHOOL ALL TIME GREAT

CARD #02

The ambition of every little kid in the Garrett Hill section of Radnor Township was to play someday for the Radnor Red Raiders. Emlen Tunnell was no different. In football, he was elevated to the varsity as a thirteen old freshman by head coach Jules Prevost. There would have been quite a difference in his life if Coach Prevost was the kind of coach who didn't play African Americans, but for the next four years (1938-1941), Tunnell would not only star on defense but would be Radnor's best runner and passer. Herb Good of the Philadelphia Record wrote, "Cool and poised before the furious charges of the Berwyn linemen, Tunnell put on a passing exhibition that was as beautiful to watch as it was flawless and devastating in execution." In a game against Ridley Park High School, Tunnell gained 250 all-purpose yards, rushing for two touchdowns, throwing a touchdown pass, and scoring after an interception. During his junior and senior year, he was named to the All-Delco, All-Suburban, All-Scholastic, and All-State teams. Besides excelling on the football field, Tunnell was also an excellent basketball player, playing on Radnor's varsity team for three years. Like football, he again was selected to various all-star basketball teams and as a senior was named to the All-State second team in 1942. *Text by Rich Pagano Delco Sports Historian*



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TOLEDO UNIVERSITY RUNNING BACK 1942

TOLEDO UNIVERSITY RUNNING BACK 1942

CARD #03

In the fall of 1942, Emlen Tunnell received a scholarship to play football at Toledo University. That fall, he found himself playing on the varsity as a freshman because freshmen were eligible to play during the war. In the first game against Kent State, Tunnell, who played fullback, ran for two scores and threw two touchdown passes in the victory. The following week, he outgained the entire Wesleyan backfield in rushing and threw two passes for scores in another win. Unfortunately, Tunnell broke his neck in the fifth game of the season against Marshall College, and needless to say, the football season was over for the Radnor native. As he woke up in his hospital bed, he found a Catholic priest in his room administering the Last Rites. Fortunately, less than four months after the injury, he found himself playing on Toledo's basketball team. Tunnell helped lead Toledo to a 22-2 record, which included victories over DePaul with George Mikan, and LaSalle College at Convention Hall. With that kind of record, Toledo received a bid to play in the National Invitation Tournament (NIT), where they beat Manhattan in the first round and eventually got to the finals, losing to St. John's. During the tournament, a sports writer reported, "The real importance to this Ohio team is the way Tunnell handles the ball and sets up his players." - *Text by Rich Pagano Delco Sports Historian*



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CROSSING THE EQUATOR

CROSSING THE EQUATOR

CARD #04

Emlen Tunnell is seen here participating in a line-crossing ceremony aboard the U.S. Etamin as the ship passes the equator on September 15, 1943.

Sailors that have never crossed the equator are referred to in the Coast Guard as Pollywogs. It has long been a Coast Guard tradition to initiate such Pollywogs into the Kingdom of Neptune (the Roman god of the sea) upon their first crossing of the equator. The tradition may have originated as a test imposed by seasoned sailors to ensure that their new shipmates would be capable of handling long rough times at sea. Sailors that have already crossed the equator are nicknamed Shellbacks, and are often referred to as Sons of Neptune.

Physical hardships and embarrassing ordeals in keeping with the spirit of the initiation are tolerated by the Coast Guard, and each Pollywog is expected to endure this standard initiation rite in order to become a Shellback. Here you see Emlen experiencing that initiation rite. - *Text by Jim Vankoski*



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FAMILY ALBUM PHOTO 1943

FAMILY ALBUM PHOTO 1943

CARD #05

To the best of our knowledge this is the only known photo [circa 1943] of Emlen Tunnell in his Coast Guard uniform. With Emlen is his niece Catherine Robinson daughter of Emlen's sister Vivian. Photo comes compliments of Mialee Anderson Catherine's goddaughter.

One of the primary missions of the Sports Legends of Delaware County is to celebrate accomplishments that connect generations of local fans, as we share our history with the global community in the world of sports.

Emlen Tunnell rose from humble beginnings to become the first African-American enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio. Recognized as one of the NFL's top 100 players of all time, he was awarded the U. S. Coast Guard's Silver Lifesaving Medal for heroism in WWII, and one of the greatest athletes ever from Delaware County.

On October 15, 2021, the U. S. Coast Guard will commission its 45th Sentinel-Class Fast Response Cutter (FRC), to be named in honor of Delaware County Steward's Mate 1st Class Emlen Lewis Tunnell, a Radnor High School 1942 graduate. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first time a military ship will carry the name of a professional athlete.



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SILVER LIFESAVING MEDAL

SILVER LIFESAVING MEDAL

CARD #06

The Silver Lifesaving Medal is a U.S. decoration issued by the U.S. Coast Guard. The award was first established by an Act of Congress in 1874.

The medal was bestowed upon any persons who endangered their own lives in saving or endeavoring to save lives from the perils of the sea. Emlen was twice cited for acts of heroism during his service. In 1944, while aboard the USS Etamin, a Japanese torpedo blew a hole in the side of the ship. Tunnell came to the aid of shipmate Fred Shaver who was on fire. Tunnell carried him to safety, sustaining personal burns in the process. He saved the life of another man in 1946, when shipmate Al Givens fell overboard into 32-degree water. Givens would have drowned if Tunnell had not jumped into the water to his rescue.

The medal that can be seen at the SLDC Museum is on loan from David Lyons via Emlen's late sister Vivian Robinson and her daughter Catherine. - *Text by Jim Vankoski*



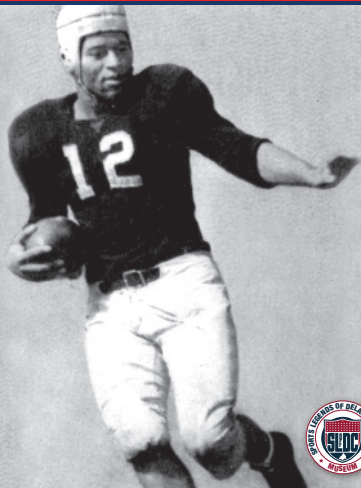
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IOWA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL 1946-1947

IOWA UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL 1946-1947

CARD #07

After serving in the Coast Guard during the war and playing football where he made the Pacific Coast All-Service team, Emlen Tunnell attended the University of Iowa where African American athletes not only got the opportunity to play but were part of the tradition at Iowa. With 325 players trying out for the team, including 58 African Americans in the fall of 1946, Tunnell had his work cut out. However, by Iowa's opening game against North Dakota State, he had become the starting left halfback. In the Hawkeyes' first Big Nine game came against Purdue, Tunnell scored two touchdowns in the 16-0 victory. In the Notre Dame game, he had a great day even in the loss. The Cedar Rapids Gazette reported, "A guy named Tunnell stole the show from Johnny Lujack. Lujack was put in the shade by a dusky Hawkeye, Emlen Tunnell. The shifty halfback provided the day's top thrill with a 65-yard sprint through the entire Notre Dame team to set up what should have been an Iowa score on the 10-yard line." Tunnell led Iowa to a 5-4 record and finished the 1946 season as the Hawkeye's leading passer. In 1947, he again played running back and defensive back, but this time as the season came to a close, he had become the Hawkeye's leading receiver. Since he was eligible to play in the NFL, Tunnell left Iowa after the 1947 season to try-out for the New York Giants. - *Text by Rich Pagano Delco Sports Historian*



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CEDAR RAPIDS BASEBALL 1949

Tunnell Becomes C.R. Outfielder

(The Register's Iowa News Service)

Cedar Rapids, IA,—Emlen Tunnell, Iowa University football halfback in 1946 and '47, joined the Cedar Rapids Rockets of the Central Association Wednesday night.

Tunnell, playing left field, knocked out two hits in five trips and drove in a pair of scores as the Rockets got their first victory in 12 games, beating Kewanee, 16-2.

After leaving Iowa University in the spring of 1948, Tunnell signed a professional football contract with the New York Giants, playing with that organization last fall.

He is believed to be the first African American ever to play minor league baseball in Iowa.



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By: Jim Corcoran



NEW YORK GIANTS PLAYING CAREER 1948-1958

NEW YORK GIANTS PLAYING CAREER 1948-1958

CARD #09

Emlen Tunnell's remarkable career in professional football was astonishing for the accomplishments he achieved on the field while being one of the few African American's competing at the sports' highest level.

Tunnell joined the Giants in 1948 as an un-scouted free agent. While being welcomed to the Giants as a teammate, Tunnell endured off-field challenges, including sometimes having to stay at a separate hotel as the rest of the team because of the color of his skin.

Tunnell emerged not only as a reliable player for the Giants, but retired with an NFL record 143 consecutive games started. He was a key performer in Coach Steve Owen's Umbrella Defense in 1950, setting an NFL record with 34 punt returns in 1951. In his remarkable 1952 season, Tunnell's 924 combined yardage on kick, punt and interception returns outpaced the NFL's rushing leader for the season.

Tunnell was an All Pro performer for the 1956 World Champion Giants. He played in eight consecutive Pro Bowls and retired after the 1961 season as the NFL's all-time leader in interceptions (79), punt returns (258) and punt return yards (2,209). He still holds the Giants franchise mark for career return touchdowns with 10.

In 1967 Tunnell was honored by becoming the first African American player enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame, and was named the safety on the NFL's 50th anniversary team in 1969. - *Text by Larry Schmitt "Football Historian"*



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GREEN BAY PACKERS 1959-1961

GREEN BAY PACKERS 1959-1961

CARD #10

The legendary Vince Lombardi left his assistant coaching position with the New York Giants in 1959, to take the head coaching job with the Green Bay Packers. After arriving in Green Bay, Lombardi immediately traded for Emlen Tunnell, who had played for the Giants for eleven seasons and revolutionized the safety position. The nine-time Pro Bowler was known as "offense on defense". Lombardi brought Tunnell to Green Bay to help instill the tenacious Giants' defensive philosophy into the Packers, to school them in the confrontational ways of their new coach, and to make it possible for Lombardi to entice more African American players to nearly all-white Green Bay. With the help of Tunnell that first season, African American players such as Willie Davis and Willie Wood became members of the Packers. Tunnell became the extension of Coach Lombardi, and his presence eased racial tensions within the team and the league. Besides being a mentor for the young players, Tunnell also played safety for the Packers and led them to the NFL Championship game in 1960. The following season, Willie Wood was playing his position and after the Packers captured the NFL title in 1961, Tunnell retired and actually became a scout for both the Packers and the Giants.

- Text by Rich Pagano Delco Sports Historian



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Footsteps of a Giant

Emlen Tunnell

with William Gleason

The autobiography of the great Giant halfback



FOOTSTEPS OF A GIANT

FOOTSTEPS OF A GIANT

CARD #11

Emlen Tunnell wrote his Autobiography in 1966, one year before becoming the first African American inducted into the National Football League's Hall of Fame. This classic book provides great insight into the times he lived in and grew up in the multi-cultural community of the Garrett Hill section of Radnor, Pennsylvania. Emlen recounts the life experiences that shaped his future and prepared him to overcome both the physical and racial challenges he faced in life. In Emlen's own words, "I wasn't afraid of prejudice, but I didn't intend to go looking for it." He tells of hitchhiking everywhere, including his remarkable trip that led to the New York Football Giants signing him as their first African American player. "With a buck in my pocket, I got out on Lancaster Pike to thumb it to Manhattan." Emlen never thought of himself as different, yet became a WW II hero and one of America's all-time great football players. His storytelling in "Footsteps Of A Giant" is exceptional and remains on point in today's world. - *Text by Phil Damiani*



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PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME 1967

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME 1967

CARD #12

In the summer of 1967, Emlen Tunnell, who owner John Mara referred to as one of the most beloved New York Giants of all time, became the first African American inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame. His Hall of Fame enshrinement speech only lasted five sentences before he got all choked up. Tunnell thanked his teammates, his family, and the Mara family. However, his last bit of thanks went to the West Indian immigrant driving a banana truck that picked him up and gave him a ride to the Giants' office in New York City. Tunnell, who also became the first defensive player inducted, played in the NFL for 14 years, finishing his career with 79 interceptions. Named All-Pro four times and playing in nine Pro Bowls, Tunnell was a yard-gaining threat despite his defensive role. After retirement, he had set four NFL records: most career interceptions, most punt returns, and most yardage on interceptions and punt returns. He only missed one game in his career and played in 167 consecutive games. Big and strong, Tunnell was an essential part of the Giants' umbrella defense. He changed the theory of defensive safeties," said Giants' coach Jim Lee Howell. "He would have been too big for the job earlier, and they'd have made him a lineman. But he had such strength, such speed, and such quickness; I'm convinced he was the best safety ever to play." - *Text by Rich Pagano Delco Sports Historian*



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NY GIANTS FULL-TIME ASSISTANT COACH

NY GIANTS FULL-TIME ASSISTANT COACH

CARD #13

Emlen Tunnell continued as a trail blazer in Pro Football following his retirement as a player after the 1961 season. He spent 1962 as a free-lance scout for both the New York Giants and Green Bay Packers. The Giants hired Tunnell full-time in 1963, making him the first African American to achieve such status.

Among the notable talent he brought to the Giants was safety Carl "Spider" Lockhart.

In 1966 Tunnell was hired to be the Giants defensive backs coach, the first African American to serve in that capacity. Tunnell was able to coach some of the players he brought to New York. His group of pupils were nicknamed "Emlen's Gremlins" and they displayed a style of play reminiscent of their coach. Two of Tunnell's players, Lockhart and Willie Williams still rank in the Giants top five career interceptors.

Tunnell coached through 1973 before returning to scouting full time until his passing at Giants training camp in July 1975.

Owner John Mara said, "It's fair to say that Emlen was the most beloved member of our organization, perhaps in its history."

- Text by Larry Schmitt "Football Historian"



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A CHANCE MEETING

A CHANCE MEETING

CARD #14

While stationed at Sector Delaware Bay late 2007 in Philadelphia, then-Lieutenant (now Commander) William McKinstry was contacted by a visitor. The visitor was Dan Fiorella, and in his hand was a photo album. The album was from his father, Louis Fiorella, and contained photographs of his father's days of Coast Guard service.

The album contained many photographs of sports teams. Commander Mckinstry noticed that names of team members were included on one of the pictures. Being a football fan, he was familiar with one of the names--that of Emlen Tunnell. This recognition set off four years of extensive research into Emlen's Coast Guard career.

This research revealed that Tunnell's service was a forgotten piece of his, and the Coast Guard's, past. The cards in this set related to Emlen's military career in the Guard are the result of diligent research by all involved. As a result, we are able to honor a most deserving Coast Guard WW II hero and African-American trailblazer.

To read Commander William McKinstry's story in its entirety, go to the www.emlentunnell.org website. - *Text by Jim Vankoski*



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U.S. COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, CA

U.S. COAST GUARD ISLAND, ALAMEDA, CA

CARD #15

In March of 2011, the United States Coast Guard honored Steward's Mate 1st Class Emlen Lewis Tunnell at a Coast Guard gym-naming ceremony at Coast Guard Island in Alameda, California—3.000 miles from his home town.

Naming a Coast Guard facility is a special event. To be the recipient of such an honor, a Coast Guardsman must personify and exemplify the Coast Guard's core values of Honor, Respect and Devotion to Duty. It was with these values in mind that Naming Committee chairman then Lieutenant, now Commander Bill McKinstry led the careful research that resulted in the Coast Guard Island Gymnasium [black star] being named for Tunnell.

Emlen is gone now, but for his display of those very same qualities, the Sports Legends of Delaware County museum's statue committee feels that the time is long overdue to honor the memory of Delaware County's Emlen Tunnell in another way--not by affixing his name to a faraway gym, but by erecting a statue in his honor in his home town of Radnor in his home state of Pennsylvania. This will be accomplished on June 2, 2018, with the unveiling of a seven-foot bronze statue. - *Text by Jim Vankoski*



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FAST RESPONSE CUTTER COMMISSIONING CARD SET



EMLEN TUNNELL STATUE AT NIGHT

EMLEN TUNNELL STATUE AT NIGHT

CARD #16

Date: June 2, 2018 - Statue Dedication Day

Sculptor: Jennifer Frudakis Petry

Photographer: Patricia Lee of the Radnor High School Alumni Association

Location: 301 Iven Avenue
Wayne, Pa 19087

Additional Information:

Casting was done for Jennifer Frudakis Petry's over life size 7 ft. Bronze Statue at the Laran Bronze Foundry, one of the world's premier foundries for fine arts casting, located at 310 East 6th Street Chester, Pa.



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ALL TIME 100 NFL PLAYERS

ALL TIME 100 NFL PLAYERS

CARD #17

Prior to the 2020 Super Bowl, in recognition of the NFL's 100th anniversary, blazers were presented to the All-Time 100 NFL players still living and to the family members of the deceased players. One Delco player present that day to accept his blazer was Billy "White Shoes" Johnson. Accepting for the late Emlen Tunnell of Radnor, Pennsylvania, was Mialee Anderson, goddaughter of Emlen's recently departed niece, Catherine Robinson. Mialee, on behalf of her godmother, has generously donated the Emlen's blazer to the Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum, making it part of the museum's permanent collection. It's quite impressive that two of the top 100 players in the history of the NFL come from our very own little piece of the world: Delaware County, Pennsylvania.



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brandywine
REALTY TRUST

Brandywine Realty Trust is honored to support the Sports Legends of Delaware County Museum and to honor the life and legacy of Emlen Tunnell a truly remarkable athlete and trailblazer. We are inspired by the way Emlen lived out the values of honor, respect and devotion to duty in his every day life. Brandywine Realty Trust [NYSE:BDN] is one of the largest, publicly traded, full service integrated real estate companies in the United States with a core focus in the Philadelphia, Pa, Washington, D.C., and Austin, TX markets.



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BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS

BOLLINGER SHIPYARDS

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