Ernest James Harris (1928 – 2018) was born in North Little Rock, Ark. He graduated from Arkansas AM&N in 1951. He studied entomology at the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1959. He was a teacher at his alma mater, Arkansas AM&N, for a few years before pursuing a PhD in entomology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He spent 41 years working for the USDA’s Agriculture Research Service in Hawaii. He is most well-known for his work on controlling fruit fly populations, and his techniques are still used today in pest control. He was also one of the first black Marines, for which he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in 2016. To find out more about Earnest James Harris or to find more examples of black excellence, visit the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center.