



Delores Williams Murphy

While a student at Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina, Delores Williams Murphy became a pioneer of the Civil Rights Movement which captivated the nation during the 1960s. She recalls the day after the NC A&T Sit-ins being told that a meeting of the students would be held that night to plan a sit-in at the Woolworth store in downtown Raleigh. She recalls leaving the campus with her roommate *Janie Everette Baker*.—also her high school classmate who participated in the sit-in. “We were excited, apprehensive -- but not afraid.”

She was born in New York City but grew up in Tarboro, NC where she resided with her beloved grandparents Cleo W. Smith and William H. Smith, and young aunts and uncles: Jack, Roy, Ella, Catherine and Joseph. Her mother, Miriam, passed away when Delores was four years old. The family resided at 712 E. Church St but later moved to 717 E. Church St. across from Eastern Star Baptist Church which is still the family home. Antoinette, Janette, Miriam and Carl are younger members of the family.

She graduated from W.A. Pattillo High School in 1957 as class salutatorian. She was business manager for her senior class. She also was selected to attend the Debutante Ball in Rocky Mount, NC. Other activities during high school were: played clarinet in the band and member of the chorus throughout high school, member of the dramatics club for two years with leading roles in two productions.

She graduated with a BA Degree in 1961 from Shaw University. After which, she moved to NYC and worked for Channel 7 and the public broadcasting service Channel 13 on special television projects. In 1965, she left Channel 13 due to a lack of funding for their special productions and projects.

She accepted a position with New York City Social Services for Families. After a distinguished 30 year career of services to indigent families in which there was domestic violence, child neglect/abuse, mental illness and other dysfunctions, she retired as an Administrator in Special Services for Children. During her career with Special Services for Children, her area of specialization was in Protective Services for Children, Staff Development and Training, Implementing Policies and Procedures and management of service units were other areas of responsibilities over the years.

She attended Columbia University School of Social Work and earned a Master of Science Degree in Social Work (MSW). She became state certified (CSW) as well. She held social work positions at Cardinal McCloskey Agency in Bronx, New York and Harlem Hospital, NYC.

She has been the recipient of numerous awards, commendations, and honored for her work, dedication and service. She has been acknowledged for her service and volunteer work through AARP and other organizations within the Raleigh community. She still pursues her love of writing. A major accomplishment is a memoir which she hopes will be published to offer further insight into unresolved issues of grief and its effect.

Delores is still an activist today, but her activism is expressed through her writings. Her poem, “*On the Subject of Race*” was published in the *Carolinian* newspaper, Raleigh, NC, October 2013. Another, “*No Justice for Trayvon*,” in protest of the verdict relating to the killing of Trayvon Martin, was published in the *Carolinian*, August 2013. Her play, “*Ole massa gonna sell us?*” depicts the resolve of some who were enslaved, to determine their own destiny. This short drama was performed by the 5032 Players cast in Raleigh. She has done readings on occasion of other works throughout the Raleigh community.

She loves the Lord and is a member of Covenant Life Fellowship Church, Wake Forest, NC where she is co-chair of The Sharing and Caring Ministry. She was married to her college sweetheart for 45 years (now deceased), has two children, and two grandchildren.

She hopes that when she flies away, He will say “Good and faithful servant, well done.”