



## **The Honorable Mayor Delia Wood Perkins**

Delia Wood Perkins was born in Tarboro, NC on February 11, 1942 to Fred and Mary Wood. She is the eldest of three children. She is married to Rayfield Perkins and together they have six (6) children along with ten (10) grandchildren. She attended W. A. Pattillo High School and graduated from Edgecombe Community College with her GED and Associate Degree. She is a longstanding member of the Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church, joining in her teens. She has served her church in several capacities and has been a beacon on the Usher Board for years.

A former two term mayor of the Town of Princeville, NC she has also held membership on the Edgecombe County Health Board, Edgecombe County Schools Even Start Program, The National Conference of Black Mayors, the North Carolina Conference of Black Mayors and the Board of Directors of the North Carolina League of Municipalities.

Delia has long been a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants, and the North Carolina Association of Educators. She is a member of Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society and Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated.

She holds a number of honors and two specific ones are being the keynote speaker at the National Boule of the Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Incorporated on the day of her induction and receiving from Edgecombe County the Martin Luther King, Jr. Award.

She is a dedicated Public Servant and this tenacity to serve was developed during her many years at home working, living and keeping a watchful eye over her parents. She assumed the Mayorship of Princeville when the town was at its lowest ebb -- the town's infrastructure was in disarray and the fiscal controls of the town had been taken over by the State of North Carolina. She rallied citizens, the state, and a critical mass of town's people to put the town back on its feet in just ten short months after her inauguration.

She led the Town of Princeville during its most troubling times --- immediately after the September 1999 Hurricane Floyd flood which totally destroyed the town. On September 19, 1999, in the shadows of the flood water, then President Bill Clinton turned to her on the platform and said, "build it back Mayor Perkins and build it back better." This she did.

In a totally different light, Delia (and Jean as she is affectionately called, too) is a wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, cousin and friend. She sits at the head of her family – and is its matriarch. She is loved and respected for the love and wisdom that she brings to the order. Always she leads by example and Christian discipleship. To the family, and to so many friends, she is their bright and morning star and the things hoped for and the things not seen.

The family and friends know that when the clouds hang low and they can hardly see the road, that there is the wife, the mother, the grandmother, the sister, the aunt, the cousin and the friend to which they can turn and she and God will always give them peace and kindness.