

**VERDELL F. HILLIARD**

Class of 1947

Inducted 2002

Verdell Hilliard, Class of 1947, has devoted herself to helping others in a nursing and community service career that spans more than 50 years.

A lifelong resident, Mrs. Hilliard attended the Ferris Avenue and Battle Hill Schools before graduating from White Plains High School. She attended Metropolitan Hospital's School of Nursing with a \$200 scholarship from the Westchester County Urban League. After earning her RN degree, she returned the \$200 to the League so other students could receive similar aide. She was later awarded a BS in Nursing Education from Teachers College at Columbia University.

In the White Plains community, Mrs. Hilliard was known as "a nurse on a mission" making herself available to anyone in her neighborhood needing nursing care and spent endless hours caring for very ill patients who could not afford a private duty nurse. Working as a nursing Hhome administrator, she helped integrate the staffs of geriatric facilities.

Mrs. Hilliard worked as a school nurse for the White Plains Public Schools for 20 years at two of its sites: White Plains Middle School and Stepinac High School. She also served on the city's Youth Board for 15 years. Upon her retirement in 1992, she was presented with Stepinac's Sequere Deum Award in gratitude for her understanding, compassion and kindness.

She has won the Sojourner Truth Award from the Westchester County Club of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Clubs. Mrs. Hilliard has also been named Woman of the Year by the Calvary Baptist Church, where she has been a devoted member for 50 years, and the Zeta of the Year from the Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Gamma X.

She continues to serve on the boards of the White Plains Hospital Ladies Auxiliary, the White Plains Beautification Foundation, the Greater White Plains Council of Community Services and the Salvation Army.