



Barbara Cooke-Otis

Class of 1979 and 1980

Barbara Cooke-Otis – exceptional athlete, educator, and community servant – began her basketball career at Americus High School, Americus Georgia. She was a member of the *Tuskegee Tigerettes* basketball team under the leadership of Tuskegee Hall of Famer, Coach Tiny Laster. The *Tigerettes* were very successful in the 1970's winning the Alabama State Championship three consecutive years from 1977-1979. Barbara was captain of the 1979 team that went to the National Tournament and placed 4th in the nation for small colleges. In 1978, she was named to the All-Tournament Team.

As a star member of the *Famed Tuskegee Tigerettes* and an honor student, Barbara distinguished herself both athletically and academically while receiving many awards and recognitions in honor of her accomplishments at Tuskegee (Institute) University. A noted educator, Mrs. Cook-Otis mirrors the philosophy of Dr. Booker T. Washington, devoting her professional life to the enhancement of the mind, body, and spirit of Chicago's youth. The culmination of her 27 year career in education was marked by her nomination for the esteemed Golden Apple Award.

Upon graduation, Barbara taught Health & Physical Education at Tri-County High School in Buena Vista, Georgia. She left Tri-County to return to her Alma Mater Americus High School to teach science. In 1983, Barbara married J. Glenn Otis of Chicago Illinois, a 1980 and 1982 graduate of Tuskegee. She has two sons, Johnny Glenn III and Julian Terrell. Johnny is a senior at Tuskegee majoring in electrical engineering. Julian is a senior at Walter Payton Magnet High School in Chicago. She is presently employed with the Chicago Public School System and currently assigned to Southside Occupational Academy as a Cooperative Work Teacher where she finds jobs for cognitively delayed young adults. She has taught Physical Education at Southside for 17 years and coached Special Olympics basketball, track & field, softball, and swimming. In 2004 she received the Keith Mungerson Special Olympics Award at Soldier's Field in Chicago. She is also a Diamond Life member of the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Chicago Alumnae Chapter, member of The Chicago Tuskegee Alumni Club; she gives generously to the University by participating in the Tiger Draft monthly, and purchased her Legacy Brick at Tuskegee University.

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