



Catharyne Johnson Campfield
Class of 1953

Catharyne Johnson Campfield is a native of Lanett, Alabama and a graduate of Lanier High School. She enrolled at Tuskegee (Institute) University in August of 1949 and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Physical Education in May 1953.

Catharyne was enrolled in Home Economics throughout her freshman year. About the middle of her freshman year she became acquainted with two of the leading female members of the Tuskegee Women's Track and Field Team, Evelyn Lawler Lewis and Nell Jackson. Remembering how she dominated un-coached races at Lanier High School, she became highly inspired and self challenged. Further encouraged, she eagerly introduced herself to Coach Abbott and expressed her ambitions to become a member of the track team. After several observations Coach Abbott recognized her natural ability to be a strong competitive sprinter and proceeded to coach her with patience and quality guidance. This coaching combined with Catharyne's high ambitions led to a strong three years on the track team and the winning of many meets. It was often news media publicized that the Tuskegee Women's Track and Field team was among the finest in the world.

Catharyne's proudest moments were at the 1950 National AAU Meet in Freeport, Texas. There she won the 100 and 200 yard dashes to become the National Junior AAU Champion in both events. During that meet she also ran on the 440 yard relay team which also won first place.

During the thirty years Catharyne spent on various Air Force bases accompanying her husband, she was involved in numerous community and social activities on and off base. Some positions she held were Honorary Vice President of the Officers Wives Club, Advisor to the Noncommissioned Officers Wives Club and Family Services.

Catharyne and her husband William (Tuskegee Class of 1952) live in Sacramento, California. They have four children, Dianne, Billy, Van, and Lynda, and three grandchildren. Billy was a running back on the 1980 National Football Conference Championship Team, the Philadelphia Eagles, which played in Super Bowl XV.