



JUANITA WATSON WILLIAMS
Class of 1956

A committed civic leader, an active educator, and a champion in Track and Field for six consecutive years from 1946 to 1951, Juanita Watson Williams won again and again. Beginning in 1946, she won the Junior NAA Championship and Senior NAA Championship in Philadelphia, PA (1947), Buffalo, New York (1950) and Grand Rapids, Michigan (1951). Her prowess as an outstanding athlete continued as she sprinted her way in 1948 from Odessa, Texas where she won that meet to the Olympics in London, England and back in the States to Chicago's Stag Field where she broke the record.

Rarely does one individual excel in more than one sport, but from 1947 - 1951, this inductee was a star player on an undefeated Tuskegee women's basketball team and her swimming record was second to none. Her swimming skill led her to the position of lifeguard instructor in 1949.

Because of this inductee's extraordinary athletic ability and small stature, she earned the nickname of "Mighty Mouse," a name which today she is still affectionately called and referred to by her classmates and friends.

Pursuing an education at Tuskegee became a challenge to "Mighty Mouse" and she made the decision to leave school before she earned her degree. Her *tenacity* as an athlete extended to her personal life and after six years, she returned to Tuskegee and was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in 1957. She credits her return to Mildred Brown, whom along with Coach Cleve Abbott, provided inspiration and encouragement which has carried her throughout life.

Juanita Watson Brown spent her professional life as a Physical Education Coach in Broward County, Florida where she shared with young men and women the inspiration and encouragement she received. As an active professional, she was in the Local, State, and National Association for Physical Education Professionals (AAHPERD) and the Florida State Textbook Committee for Physical Education. Currently, she is a member of the Floridas Retired Teachers Association, the Bi-Racial Committee, the Bright Beginning Commission, Tuskegee University Alumni Club and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

As one of the survivors of the 1985 Delta Flight 191 in Dallas, Texas, she returned home with a new commitment and determination. As she counted her blessings, she moved out and began to volunteer at a local elementary school and serve as advisor to the PTA, a local middle school. She is married with three children and six grandchildren.