



MARGARET JEAN BARNES CRAWFORD
Class of 1941

Margaret Jean Barnes Crawford, Phoenix, Arizona, brought honor and recognition to Tuskegee University because of her outstanding performances in track and field, basketball and tennis. For four years, she was a member of National Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) championship teams. In April, 1941, at Atlantic City, New Jersey, Margaret, along with three (3) other Tuskegee women, created a new world's women indoor 440 yard relay record while competing in the National AAU championships. After her team won the women's indoor meet, she was presented a key to the city by the Mayor of Atlantic City.

Not only was Margaret a great runner, she won the Negro National Javelin title in 1938, 1939, and 1940. In 1938, she was runner-up in the javelin in the National AAU Championship held at Naugatuck, Connecticut. She won gold and silver medals for javelin, relays and shot put. Her athletic ability permeated other sports, for she lettered and received a jacket for her performance in basketball. She is listed often in Who's Who in Negro Sports and The Negro In Sports. One of her projects as a member of the Tuskegee Alumnae Club in Phoenix was to secure some form of recognition for the pre-war black athletes during the 1984 Olympics.

Moving from the Sports Arena, Margaret went on to serve her country as a member of the Women's Army Auxillary Corps, advancing from Private to First Lieutenant, making a training film and commanding some 300 enlisted women at Air Force bases in Walla Walla, Washington and Sioux City, Iowa. One of the mementos shared with the Hall of Fame Committee is a picture of Margaret driving a jeep with caption, "Former Javelin Champ Learns to Drive Jeep." She was selected as feature person for Warner Brothers Training Film "WAC - USA," Ft. Huachuca, Arizona in 1942.

Ms. Crawford received her B.S. degree in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from Tuskegee University, and her Master's degree from the University of Michigan. She has studied at several major universities.

After graduation in 1941, she took a teaching position in Whiteville, Tennessee. From 1947-1952, she was a Professor of Health and Physical Education at Delaware State Teachers College, Dover, Delaware, and from 1953 to 1979, teacher of Physical Education and Health, Phoenix, Arizona, grades 4 to 12. She was the only Black female teacher in the Phoenix Elementary School District #1. She passed her winning spirit along to her students and fielded championship teams in track and field, basketball and softball. She also financially sponsored students in Arizona Junior Olympics.

Her memberships include Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Urban League and Urban League Guild, Arizona Association of Retired Teachers, and the National United States Olympic Society.