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African-American/Caribbean Education Association, Inc.

(AACEAINC)

"Working to better the education of our children"

*The Mildred Collins
Nursing/ Health Science/ Medicine Scholarship*

BIOGRAPHY

Mildred Collins was born in St. Kitts. She received an excellent education and her mother instilled in her that she must always share and help others. She joined the Girl Guides in 1931 where she practiced what her mother had taught. Because of her great desire to help the sick, she joined the Red Cross. There she learned how to care for the infirmed and derived from this experience her niche in life. Her love for academics began at the Basseterre Girls' school where she excelled and demonstrated, early on, her scholarship and brilliance. Ms. Collins' love for service started her on the way to an outstanding Nursing Career in 1942, when she began her official training at the Cunningham Hospital, now renamed the Joseph N. Frances General Hospital. She would continue her studies obtaining the General Midwife Certificate from the Central Midwives Board of England. With grounded nursing credentials she began her career at the Basseterre Sugar Factory Medical Center where she was the Nurse in charge from 1948-1957. In 1957 she was granted the Obstetrical Nursing and Public Health "Scholarship" at the International Cooperation Administration of Puerto Rico. To answer the call of a nurse's shortage, she moved to St. Thomas, United States Virgin Islands to lend support. Her work and dedication to patients afforded her the House Supervisor position at the Knud-Hansen Memorial Hospital where she went on to become the Acting Head Nurse on the Medical Surgical Unit. Having received letters of meritorious service, she came to New York in 1959 with impeccable nursing credentials. She passed the New York State Board, received her license as a Registered Nurse by the New York State Education Department. She joined the staff of the prestigious New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College serving as a nurse specialist in obstetrical, gynecological, medical, and urological surgery. Ms. Collins never forgot her homeland. Working tirelessly, she earned extra hours to purchase modern medical equipment that was used at New York Hospital. She sent this equipment to her native Cunningham Hospital in St. Kitts. She also purchased suction machinery for stomach operations and standby blood pressure equipment. Her patients at New York Hospital went on to donate equipment to this cause in her name. For the 50th Anniversary of Girl Guides in 1981, she personally donated toys to the organization and sponsored many food drives. Ms. Collins used to help St. Croix and her native St. Kitts by returning home, when able, to nurse senior citizens in their last days and young children in need of pediatric care. In Southeast Queens one can view a wall monument outside the Laurelton, Long Island Rail Road station, where her name appears with other icons that provided leadership in helping to build the community. Her community activism continued throughout her lifetime, and up until her 93rd birthday, in spite of becoming bedridden and totally blind. Giving marching orders from her bed was a testament to her miraculous spirit and fortitude to making a difference. A devoted AACEAINC board member, she proudly served the community and established the AACEAINC Adopt a School Program. In the last decade of her life, she advocated for improved hospital and health care, veterans' rights, transportation and zoning, and the beautification of the community. Her many causes found her chronicled in the New York Times, the Daily News, the Times/Ledger, and the Laurelton Times. During her lifetime, Mildred Collins, AKA, Mildred Scott Collins was honored with many awards for meritorious service and community activism. She received the prestigious Medal of Honor from St. Kitts Governor-General, Sir Cuthbert Sebastian, merit awards from the New York Hospital, the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc and the Top Ladies of Distinction (Queens Chapter), "the "Senior of the Year" award from Councilman James Sanders, the "Community Activist Award" from the Elmer H. Blackburne Democratic Club, and numerous others. Our beloved "Mother Mildred" was a proud Moravian woman, sound in her Christian principles and always willing to help somebody. Debilitated in her last days, she endured without complaining, with a smile on her face, and with a strong faith in God. Two months short of her 94th birthday, she succumbed still giving back setting for us a good example and providing us with heartfelt nurturing, wisdom, and guidance. She leaves a legacy of humanitarianism to be venerated by her selflessness and willingness to graciously lend support, wherever needed.

