



### **GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2002**

**ADDIE MAE COLLINS** was born and raised in Birmingham. A young girl with a Christian spirit and a playful heart, she was attending church when her life ended tragically from injuries inflicted by a bomb blast on September 15, 1963.

It happened on a seemingly normal Sunday morning. Several girls were in the ladies lounge at 16th Street Baptist Church primping in preparation for a full day at church. The schedule included Sunday School classes, a Youth Day program and worship service.

Investigators reported that 19 sticks of dynamite were planted at the church. The explosion blew a hole in the church's basement where the ladies' restroom was located.

Addie Mae Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Morris Wesley were killed that day. Their deaths outraged many Americans and compelled a change of hearts and laws. The resulting effects gave equal rights to all U.S. citizens.

Apparently, the world was deprived of a person who was naturally inclined to nurture others. Her sisters say if she had lived, she would have been a social worker, childcare worker or teacher.

Born on April 18, 1949, Addie Mae Collins was 14 years old when she died.