



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2013

MRS. YVONNE W. TURNER, a Birmingham native and Civil Rights Movement foot soldier, is the daughter of Johnny Williams, an Alabama Jazz Hall of Fame inductee, and Leitha Williams. She is a civil and human rights activist, a dedicated educator and volunteers on behalf of a wide range of political, religious, social and arts-related causes.

Educated in the Birmingham City Schools, Mrs. Turner graduated from Parker High School, Booker T. Washington Business College and Dale Carnegie. For 18 years she was employed in the home office of A. G. Gaston Enterprises. Mrs. Turner was the first black female hired to work in the Birmingham Area Office of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. She retired from that agency after many years of service.

A longtime member of the Alabama Christian Movement for Human Rights and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Mrs. Turner has spearheaded countless voter education drives, marches, and meetings, and also gone to jail on behalf of the Civil Rights Movement.

Mrs. Turner has been appointed to several boards by the Birmingham City Council including the Birmingham Arts Commission, Birmingham Civil Rights Institute Board of Directors, Birmingham Image Committee, the Birmingham Design Review Committee and the Jefferson, St. Clair, Blount County Mental Health and Mental Retardation Commission. She has been appointed to the Alabama Election Law Commission and is a state appointed deputy registrar.

She is a charter member of The Magic City Chapter Links, Incorporated, a captain in the Jones Valley Bon Ami Sport Unit of the Elks, and she has been affiliated with the National Forum of Black Public Administrators. Mrs. Turner is a recipient of the SCLC Foundation's Power Belle Legacy Award and was a 2013 calendar honoree for the NAACP.

In retirement, Mrs. Turner has worked as a counselor at the Birmingham Housing Authority in programs to aid the homeless. Recognized numerous times, locally and nationally, for her professional and volunteer contributions to the betterment of life for all people, Mrs. Turner is a faithful member of Our Lady Queen of the Universe Catholic church. The mother of five children, four stepchildren and many beautiful grandchildren, Mrs. Turner is married to Mr. James L. Turner, Sr., who was a widower at the time of their marriage and has supported her in all her endeavors.