

Nettie Jo Rice Taylor

Alpha Nu Chapter 1941

Tillotson College

(Huston-Tillotson University)

Diamond Member 2016

Ivy Beyond the Wall November 24, 2016



Nettie Josephine Rice Taylor was born in Sweet Home, Texas on September 12, 1922 to Mary E. Webster and Cicero Rice. Her family moved to San Antonio when she was very young. She attended Grant Elementary, Douglas Junior High and Phillis Wheatley High School, graduating in the Class of 1936. Nettie Jo further her education at St. Phillip's College in San Antonio and Tillotson College (currently Huston-Tillotson University) in Austin, Texas, majoring in Home Economics. After graduation, she worked as head dietician at the Deaf and Blind School for African American students in Austin.

After a year working in Austin, Nettie Jo returned to San Antonio where she met and married in 1945 Belvin Taylor, Jr. This union was blessed with one daughter, Mary J. Taylor and three sons; Belvin S. Taylor III, Lincoln E. Taylor and Lon W. Taylor. The family resided in the northwest area of San Antonio in a community known as Paradise Cove. During the early sixties, Nettie Jo worked as a substitute teacher, grades 3-8, in a predominately African American school know as West San Antonio Heights in the Northside Independent School District. She was the first elected president to the school's PTA.

Because of her degree in Home Economics which placed an emphasis on early childhood development, in 1966, Nettie Jo, was hired by Northside Independent School District as a teacher in the Early Childhood Head Start Program at West San Antonio Heights. She was the first African American to help pioneer this program. Later, she transferred to Forest Hills Elementary (currently Eduardo Villarreal Elementary) then to Thunderbird Hills Elementary (currently Powell Elementary) as a Bilingual Kindergarten Teacher where she taught until retirement in 1986.

Nettie Jo joined St. James African Methodist Episcopal church early in life and remained a faithful and loyal member until her death. In 1980, she became an active member of St. James AME Trustee Board and in 2015, the Board bestowed upon her the distinguished honor of Trustee Emeritus. She was also an active member of the local Lay Organization where she was recognized and honored as a "Trail Blazer" in the 10th Episcopal District San Antonio Lay Organization. In 2013, St. James AME selected Her as the "Women of the Year". She was a dedicated class leader, a faithful member of the Church School and noon Bible Study. Although she was not a member of every church auxiliary, she supported each one spiritually as well as financially.

During her college years, Nettie Jo became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Alpha Nu Chapter in 1941. In 2004, she reactivated and became a member of Alpha Tau Omega Chapter. She served as a volunteer of the Alpha Tau Omega Senior Opportunity Services Texas, Incorporated (ATO-SOS) and supported many chapter service program initiatives. In 2016, she received her Diamond Membership status (75 years) in Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated.