

# CAROLYN BAKER PRITCHETTE

## *Trojan Award*

### W. A. Pattillo High School Class of 1973



I was born in Tarboro, North Carolina on March 18, 1954 to my wonderful parents Calvin Baker Sr., and Irene Everett, and I was their first born of seven children. I was raised in Eastside Homes then we moved to St. John Street. After we moved there I was already attending my home town church Eastern Star Missionary Baptist Church so I decided to join church, I was about 8 years old and I remember every Sunday Mr. Robert Ricks use to walk me and his children to church every Sunday morning. Others that were a big influence while a member of Eastern Star were Mrs. Lillian Ricks and Mrs. Lillie Mae Boyd. I worked as a secretary for summer school revival and I also was a member of the junior choir. I am glad to have joined this church because it gave me so much hope during the era, we were in.

My parents brought a house in Southern Terrace in Princeville, NC and it was such a blessing to me because I knew that with 7 children it was a challenging time for most people of color but by the grace and blessing of God my parents made sure that me and my other siblings had an education. I give my first-grade teacher Mrs. Hussey so much credit along with Mrs. Annie Barnes, my biology teacher for pushing me so hard to become who I am today.

After graduating from Tarboro Senior High in 1973, I left home in the fall to attend college, I tried first to go to the Army to serve my country but because I had flat feet I was not eligible to enlist, therefore I attended Cortez Peters Business College in Washington, DC. I didn't like it at first because I had never really left home before so I eventually did come to love DC because the school helped me get a part time job at the Department of Justice in a work study program. I liked that job because the school was a paralegal school and I did want to become a civil rights attorney and while I was working there, I met and worked with many of the FBI team members.

After the FBI job I decided to return home and became employed as a Teacher Assistant at Carver Elementary School working with Ms. Earlene Womack. Later I got a job at Black and Decker and I also returned to school at Edgecombe Community College while working during the day and taking classes at night. While at ECC, Mr. Rudolph Knight and Ms. Venus Bradley were both so helpful in teaching and coaching me along the way.

I left home in 1982 heading for Philadelphia, PA. My late Uncle Harvey Everett wanted me to keep on pushing for my dreams and I did. While in Philadelphia, PA which is my home now, I attended PTC and that is where I met my late husband Mr. William Pritchette and were married March of 1987. I graduated from PTC in 1984 and I went to work at Continental Bakery. Other employment included working for the Philadelphia Stock Exchange as a computer programmer; the Federal Reserve Bank as a computer tech; Merck Pharmaceutical Company as a Protocol Researcher; and Smith and Kline Pharmaceutical Company working in their system analyst division. They merged with what is now Glaxo Kline so I left and went to Phifer Pharmaceutical working in their animal medicine protocol division.

It is such an honor for me to work with one of the country's best national alumni, the W. A. Pattillo High School National Alumni Association. I am on the Board of Directors and I credit my mentor Dr. Fred Woods for giving me this opportunity. I also credit my two spiritual friends Mrs. JoAnne Jefferson and Mrs. Delia Perkins. If I need to know anything, I know who to call upon. I want to thank everybody on this great alumni board for their kindness, to God Be the Glory.