



Dr. Rebecca Batts Butler

Portraits of Black Role Models in the History of Southern New Jersey

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PORTRAITS
OF
BLACK ROLE MODELS
IN THE HISTORY
OF SOUTHERN NEW JERSEY

By Dr. Rebecca Batts Butler

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Warmly Inscribed by the author. Biographies of prominent black people from South Jersey with portraits, by a black professor at Glassboro State Teachers College. Very scarce, the first copy we've seen. OCLC locates seven copies.

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Best Wishes To
a Beautiful Lady
Becky Butler

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



DR. REBECCA BATTS BUTLER

Dr. Butler was the first woman in the area to supervise a vocational complex for adults.

Dr. Rebecca Batts Butler, a native of Norfolk, Virginia, is an adjunct professor at Glassboro State Teachers College. She adopted Camden, New Jersey, as her home at an early age and has made an impact on the educational, social, and political life of that city that has caused her to be widely known.

She began to teach school upon graduating from Booker T. Washington High School in Norfolk after completing only six weeks of teacher training. Since then, she has taught on all levels—grades one through twelve in the Camden, New Jersey, Public Schools. During her professional career, she has been the first Black in many areas of the Camden School System—teacher of high school journalism, teacher of Secondary English, woman guidance counselor, Supervisor of Guidance, and Director of Adult Continuing Community Education for the total school system.

While working, Dr. Butler continued to study. She earned the degree of Master of Education from Temple University in 1950. In 1965, she earned the degree of Doctor of Education from the same university.

Dr. Butler was appointed by the Governor of New Jersey to serve as one of the first trustees for Thomas Edison College in 1972. That same year, she was appointed to serve as a member of the National Advisory Committee to the Secretary of Defense on matters that pertain to women in the armed services. In 1978, she was appointed by the national president of The American Association of Retired Persons to be Chairper-

son of the Advisory Committee on Community Services. In 1980, she became the first Black person to be elected to the National Board of Directors for a six-year period by the same organization of 13 million members.

Dr. Butler was National Editor-in-Chief of the *Krion* (official magazine for the National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc.) from 1973 to 1977. From 1974 to 1977, she was National Director of Adult Continuing Education Programs for the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Inc., and was a member of the National Foreign Affairs Committee for that organization. In 1978, she became a member of the National Board of Directors for the National Hook-Up of Black Women.

She serves on a variety of agency boards in the Camden Community including: American Red Cross, Planned Parenthood, Visiting Nurses and Health Association, and the Allocation Committee of the United Way.

Dr. Butler has received over 30 awards and citations in recognition of her achievement and community services. These include: National Achievement Award by the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Womens Clubs, Inc.; "Woman of the Year" by Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Gamma Nu Zeta Chapter, 1977; "Community Service" by the New Jersey Elks, 1977; "Sojourner Truth" by the Camden branch of the NANBPW, Inc., 1976.

Under the sponsorship of the Camden Board of Education, she established and administered the first South Jersey school for unwed mothers. She also established and administered the first adult Family Living Center in Camden City.

Among other innovations of Dr. Butler was the Spanish High School Equivalency Program, whereby Spanish speaking adults could earn a high school certificate by studying and taking the State examination

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Alice D. Corsey

Mrs. Alice D. Corsey, a resident of Westville, New Jersey, who since coming to live in New Jersey, has contributed greatly to the history of the state by her involvement in various facets of community life.

She was one of the first Commissioners appointed to serve on the Casino Control Commission for the State of New Jersey. She has served as a member of the New Jersey School Boards Association and worked on the Task Force for Community Relations. Also, she was elected to the Deptford Township Board of Education and served as its Vice President. She also served on the following: Board of Trustees, Gloucester County College; Shady Lane PTA, as President, Vice-President, By-Law and Publicity; County Council and State Association, Chairperson and Delegates; North Baptist Church, Woodbury, New Jersey, member and former Sunday School Superintendent.

Mrs. Corsey is a member and serves through many other civic organizations, including the NAACP; Delaware Valley Chapter of Bennett College Alumnae; former area Vice President; Doctors Wives Auxiliary for John F. Kennedy Hospital; Camden County Auxiliary Osteopathic Physicians and Surgeons.

Her degree in Biology and Chemistry prepared her for former positions at Hahnemann Hospital and Medical College, where, she worked in the Cancer Detection and Research Departments. At the University of Pennsylvania, she worked in the School of Veterinary Medicine Biochemistry Research.

In recognition of her community services, she was named "Woman of the Year" by Gloucester Chapter NAACP in 1978. She received the "Martin Luther King Award" by the Monongahels Junior High School in 1978. That same year, she was named "Political Awareness" recipient by The Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Club of Camden and Vicinity.



Arnold Cream (Jersey Joe Wolcott)

Native son, Arnold Cream, brought glory to Southern New Jersey, when he became a heavyweight champion of the world in the boxing arena. Later, he served the Camden community in roles of leadership and guidance as Director of Community Relations and as the first Black person to head a department of safety in the City. Following this community service, he was appointed to a position of great importance on the New Jersey State level and became the first Black Boxing Commissioner for the State.

On July 24, 1985, a one-hundred dollar-a-plate dinner was staged in his honor at Caesar's Hotel Casino at Atlantic City, New Jersey. Included among the approximately 500 guests were Governor Kean of new Jersey, Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Archie Moore, and other former champions. At this event Arnold Cream described the one most cherished highlight of his life. He said that it was not when he knocked out Ezzard Charles in 1951 and won the Title, neither was it when he floored Joe Louis and also Rocky Marciano. His greatest highlight was when he met and talked with Pope Pious XII in 1950.

(Courtesy of Courier-Post)



Judge T. Z. Davis

Judge of Superior Court
of The State of New
Jersey.

*(Picture courtesy of
Courier-Post)*