



Tressie Bolling Branch

Ms. Tressie Branch was born on August 26, 1933, to Henry and Ethel Yates Bolling. She is one of seven children and a proud native of Dinwiddie County. Ms. Branch matriculated through the Dinwiddie Normal Schools and graduated as Salutatorian in 1951, demonstrating early the determination and excellence that would characterize her life's work.

Ms. Branch began her career as a nurse's aide, dedicating herself to caring for others. In her early 50s, she returned to college, an inspiring testament to lifelong learning, attending John Tyler Community College (now BrightPoint) and Virginia State University, where she earned her credentials as a Registered Nurse. After retiring from nursing, she embarked on a second successful career as an independent beauty consultant with Mary Kay Cosmetics, traveling across the country and building a thriving business. A highlight of her career was meeting the company's founder Mary Kay Ash. Ms. Branch attended a tea at Ms. Ash's home, where she received personal instruction and business practices from the founder herself. For more than 20 years, Ms. Branch served as director of "Tressie's Twinkling Stars", inspiring and empowering countless women to pursue entrepreneurship. She was a member of the American Business Women's Association and served as co-owner and bookkeeper of her family's trucking and hauling business.

A lifelong member of Mount Level Baptist Church, Ms. Branch has faithfully served in numerous leadership roles, including 20 years as Church Clerk, and President of the Missionary Ministry. She is a member of the Dinwiddie Chapter of the NAACP and founded the United Nurse Ministry of Dinwiddie and Vicinity. Her unyielding faith is reflected in her mission work, including establishing a local program that adopted children from Africa through donations that supported their education from childhood through graduation.

Above all, Ms. Branch treasures her family. She is the mother of three children, Sherry, Gail, and Ronald (deceased), a grandmother of six, great grandmother of 13, and great-great grandmother to 7. Her favorite pastime is gathering with loved ones to cook and share meals. She enjoys gospel music, westerns, reading the Sunday paper, and caring for her beloved pets, a chicken named Henny Penny, and her dogs Promise and Share. As Ms. Branch humbly reflects, she has truly lived a full life. Her life is one that continues to inspire others.

Ms. Tressie Branch has lived a life defined by faith, service, perseverance, and love of family, making her a fitting choice as one of Dinwiddie County's 2026 Hometown Heroes.