

**Elnora Stewart Perry (1920-2017)**

**Hometown Hero - 2015**

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- Born to John A. and Ida C. Stewart on March 19, 1920 and is their third oldest child.
- Attended a one-room elementary school in which there was one teacher for all grades.
- Graduated from the Dinwiddie Normal and Industrial Institute, which was run by the African Methodist Episcopal Church.
- Graduated in 1944 from the former Virginia State College for Negroes (now, Virginia State University) with a degree in Home Economics.
- Mrs. Perry also attended classes at Cornell University, the University of Wisconsin and Virginia Tech.
- She married Roger A. Perry on August 20, 1947 and was married for 64 years.
- One child, Gloria Jean Perry Goings resulted from their union.
- Mrs. Perry has:
  - One son-in-law, William Goings, Jr,
  - Two granddaughters:
    - Norieta Goings Martin
    - Cassandra Renee Goings
  - One grand son-in-law:
    - Anthony Martin
  - One great granddaughter:
    - Joyce Martin
- Mrs. Perry was the first African American Extension Agent hired by Dinwiddie County.
- She worked for 35 years training elementary aged children and adult women in cooking, sewing, canning, family budgeting and other life skills.
- Mrs. Perry is a member of:
  - Epsilon Sigma Phi National honorary Extension Fraternity
  - Virginia and American Home Economics Association; and
  - National Association of 4-H Agents

- Is a member of the Senior Choir; and
  - Is a member of the Sunday School
- Mrs. Perry is a charter member of the Dinwiddie Chapter of the NAACP and Life Member of the national organization.
- She is a charter member of the United Churches of Dinwiddie and Vicinity Scholarship Committee
- She is a member of the Dinwiddie County chapter of the Virginia State University Alumni Association Scholarship Committee
- She is a charter member of the Dinwiddie County Food Bank
- Mrs. Perry is a member of the Petersburg and Dinwiddie TRIAD as well as a member of the Dinwiddie Diamonds and has been a member of the Poplar Grove Chapter #130 of the Order of the Eastern Star for more than 50 years.
- Mrs. Perry passed away on December 26, 2017, at the age of 97.