

**Mrs. Gloria Cottman Jones (1926-2017)**

**Hometown Hero - 2015**

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- Gloria Cottman was born September 12, 1926 to Samuel and Olia Cottman in Somerset County, Maryland.
- She had 3 sisters and 1 brother who have all since deceased.
- Ms. Cottman graduated from Morgan State University, Baltimore, MD in 1947 and accepted a position in Virginia.
- Ms. Cottman worked for the Extension Office in Sussex County as their Home Demonstration Agent for 8 years.
- Gloria Cottman married John Lee “Kimbrough” Jones in 1951. Mr. Jones earned a Master’s Degree in Industrial Education from Virginia State University.
- Mr. and Mrs. Jones have two children, a son and a daughter who both reside in the tri-cities area.
- They have 3 granddaughters and 2 great grandsons.
- Mrs. Jones earned a second degree in Elementary Education from Virginia State University in 1971 and accepted a teaching position with Dinwiddie County Public Schools.
- During her teaching career, Mrs. Jones taught at McKenney Elementary, West Petersburg Elementary, Eastside Elementary, Dinwiddie Elementary and retired in 1988 from Dinwiddie Jr. High School (formerly Southside High School).
- Mrs. Jones has lived in Piney Beach since 1953 and is a member of Now Face That Works Christian Church (NFTW), where her son currently serves as pastor.
- Mrs. Jones was a member of the Southern Christian Leadership Council (SCLC) during the Civil Rights movement at attended two meetings in which Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke. While she fully supported the movement, Mrs. Jones maintained her family and career as priorities and the majority of her energies were directed in these areas.
- She was an active member of the Parent-Teacher Organization at West

- She has worked many, many hours with the West Petersburg Vicinity Awareness (WPVA) and is proud of the progress that has been made in this area.
  - Mrs. Jones was a member of the, now defunct, Citizens for a Better Dinwiddie.
  - She is a member of the NAACP.
  - Ms. Jones has participated in (what is now known as) the Adopt-A-Highway program in Piney Beach since 1957.
  - She is a member of the Virginia State University Alumni Chapter in Dinwiddie as well as the Morgan State University Alumni Association.
  - She has been active in Historic Southside High School committee and also spent five years as a volunteer for the Dinwiddie County Food Bank.
  - Mrs. Jones was honored as a “Community Pearl” in 2010 by the Zeta Phi Beta sorority at Virginia State University, for outstanding activities and community service.
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- *Mrs. Jones’ dedication to the youth of Piney Beach and Dinwiddie County was evident recently when she braved the snow and ice to travel to the Government Complex with information on a grant that would provide after school programming for youth in her community. Schools happened to be closed that day due to the weather, but we assured Mrs. Jones that her effort was not futile and that the information would be shared with the Superintendent. This was done and the Superintendent and his staff are researching and considering the opportunity.*
  - *Mrs. Gloria Cottman Jones passed away March 25, 2017 at the age of 90.*