

BETTY JEAN CROSS

Betty Jean Cross has been a resident of the Hempstead Community for more than 40 years after coming to New York from Arkansas as a teenager. She is the longest serving member in the history of the Hempstead Public School Board of Education. During her tenure as a member of the Board of Education, she not only actively championed for academic excellence for the children of this community, but also for the Hempstead Community at large.

Mrs. Cross has a long list of accomplishments such as securing thousands of dollars in scholarships for the student of Hempstead High School, food drives for needy families, throughout the year, employment opportunities for teenagers and young adults, toy for tots drives. She has assumed the appointed position of a vice chair, and assisting burned out victims, clothing drives, volunteering time to the senior citizens of this community. The list of her charitable offerings is endless, all of which is volunteer work. May time she has utilized her own limited resources to make a difference in an individual's life.

Mrs. Cross has initiated and worked with a number of district- wide programs that are now part of the Hempstead Tradition, such as "The Hero/Heroine program," "the Music in our Schools program," "Courting Justice" and the annual "Holiday Festival." Mrs. Cross, along with the students of Ludlum School, introduced the concept and a resolution that resulted in the Board of Education's approval to rename their school from Ludlum Elementary School to the Barack Obama Elementary School. She continuously encourage the local businesses and professional organizations to donate their time and expertise to mentor our students.

Mrs. Cross has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards for her outstanding service to the Hempstead Community. A few of the organizations that have bestowed honor to her are as follows: The Episcopal Health Services, The National Association of Negro and Business Women's, Inc., The Hempstead Citizens for a Better Community, The Dorothy K. Robin Day Care Center, The Antioch Community Development Corp., Hofstra University, NABSE, Faith Baptist Church, Town of Hempstead, National Black Caucus, and the Marine Corps Toys for Tots.

The track record of Mrs. Cross is truly self explanatory. Mrs. Cross is a very spiritual individual. She has been an active member of the Faith Baptist Church in Hempstead. One of her major belief's is to **"Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."**