

## A Time TO CELEBRATE RETIREMENT

“To everything there is a season, a time and a purpose”

Milton Allen, Ph.D., Soil Scientist  
United States Department of Interior  
Office of Surface Mining, December 2003

And

Jerry Ann Craft Allen, MPM., BSN., RN., FCN.  
Allen Place Community Services, Inc.  
President and CEO, December 2020

Milton Allen has been anchored to success since his humble beginnings in Somerville, Tennessee where he lived until completion of high school. Milton is the oldest child of Mattie B. Allen Williamson. Siblings are Mildred Allen, Dorothy Allen, James Allen(deceased), and Tyrone Allen.

Inspired by strong family traditions and a deep respect for God, he continuously embarked upon a desire to succeed. Upon graduation from high school, he moved to Nashville, Tennessee and enrolled in the historically black University, Tennessee State University, receiving a Bachelor of Science in Agronomy and a Master's Degree in Plant and Soil Science.

Milton served his country in the United States Army. His tour of duty took him to Germany where he used his college training as a soil scientist in a construction engineering company. After receiving an honorable discharge from the Army, he started working for the United States Government but desired to do more. He took a leave of absence and entered the University of Tennessee where he received a Doctor of Philosophy Degree in Plant and Soil Science.

Dr. Allen has spent thirty-three momentous years of professional service in government agencies in Denton, Texas; Fort Worth, Texas; Knoxville, Tennessee; Indianapolis, Indiana and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. His achievements in these field offices reflect the dedicated efforts of wisdom and leadership.

Dr. Allen has a great sense of humor that illuminates and his incredible ability to create order out of chaos are lessons to be passed on. Behind the scenes he is a no nonsense, law and order man who adheres to his beliefs. Not only did he overcome racial disparities to reach the top of his career, but he also went beyond major cultural differences of the 1960's and 1970's.

On the spiritual level his energy reaches epic proportion in the churches and communities he resided through out his career. He is proud of receiving a diploma from Harty Bible School in Pittsburgh for four years of religious study. Dr. Allen is a member of Metropolitan Baptist

Church where the Rev. Dr. Lacy F. Richardson is pastor. He served as Chairman of Deacon Board more than twenty years and sings with the Metro Male Choir.

Dr. Allen volunteer contributions over the years has been supporting and making a difference in the lives of children and senior citizens. He fostered good relationships with North Hills School District serving on committees to enhance standards, services, and resources for all children. It is important to note that his help to raise awareness of the special needs community is treasured by many families served with the former Allen Place Personal Care Homes for over ten years.

In 2009, Dr. Allen and wife Jerry Ann founded Allen Place Community Services, Inc. a nonprofit 501 C (3) for community health and wellness promotion.

Jerry Ann Craft Allen, a native of El Campo, Texas is the oldest child of London Jerry Craft and Cloma Bedford Craft. Siblings are Linda Judie, London James Craft (deceased), Herbert Craft (Betty), Renwick Craft, Andrew Craft (Patricia).

By the age of six years, Jerry Ann decided she wanted to pursue a career in nursing as she watched or observed the nurses in her community save lives of family members and neighbors. While growing up at Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church with exposure to nurses in her church and community aspired her by their role in saving the lives of many people as racial barriers existed in the hospitals on addressing health care disparities like diabetes, cancer, and cardiovascular diseases. Influenced by her grandparents, Will and Gladys Bedford to pursue a career in nursing, they took every opportunity to expose her while in high school to programs and institutions of higher learning.

As a high school student, she shared leadership in the afterschool Teenage Progressive Society organization and school program Incentive Cooperative training nurse aide were a few programs that formed her beginning leadership roles with community work to help older African Americans get birth certificates for Medicare and voting cards. Despite threats of termination from her afterschool nurse aide position for helping people get proof of age for benefits, she continued to move forward with faith and courage as she worked as nurse aide.

Jerry Ann nursing career started at Prairie View A and M University and receiving Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Texas Woman's University. Later completed graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University at John Heinz School of Public Policy obtaining a Master's in Public Management with Concentration in Health Systems.

Jerry Ann uprooted from Texas, Tennessee and Indiana and moved to Pittsburgh in 1982. Her ability to expose family and community to wellness opportunities began with health ministry programs from motivation of Rev. Dr. Lacy F. Richardson and the Metropolitan Baptist Church family. She has been driven by personal experiences in her life as a registered nurse of forty years. Her life's passion of helping others through health equity programs, wellness promotion and disease prevention programs is an example of invaluable service she has given to so many

Faith-Based Health Ministry participants and programs launched in Allegheny County and Westmoreland County.

Jerry Ann and her husband Dr. Milton Allen have been empowered to serve the community with spiritual gifts as well as help address the shortage of nurses by providing scholarship through **POISE Foundation** for African American students interested in nursing. Blacks making up only 12 percent of all registered nurses in the United States, recruitment and retention are particularly critical within the black community.

The Allen's have started a new path in their life journey to share more time with their dynamic family, son Adrian and his wife Hong Allen, daughter Alicia and her husband Charles Robinson, grandchildren Ayden, Milton James, Faith, Charles Julius, Gavin, and Lillian. "To God Be the Glory"