

Myrtle was born in Dallas, Texas on September 21, 1927. She attended Prairie View College in Hempstead, Texas and her family moved to California in 1944. Myrtle proudly has 5 children, 13 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild!

In 1944, she was Employed by the Social Security Area office in San Francisco as a Clerk Typist. As time progressed, she received numerous promotions to various positions including Claims Authorizer. Myrtle lived in Berkeley so she transferred to the Berkeley District Office to be near her home promoted to Branch Manager of the Richmond Branch office. On January 1, 1980 she retired from Social Security (early retirement at age 53). And then worked at various jobs doing what she wanted to do, such as Office clerk in a Junior High School.

Instead of spending time on paying work, Myrtle started volunteering which was very rewarding. Volunteer positions included a member of the Richmond, California Recreation and Parks Commissioner for more than 15 years (served as Chair for more than 10 years). While in that role she joined CAPRCBM and was the first African American elected as President of CAPRCBM. She was also the First African American elected as President of NRPA Citizens Branch (CBM Branch) and the second Citizen Branch member to receive a plaque from the NRPA Professional Association.

During her time serving as a volunteer, she received many plaques, recognition and awards from City, County, State and Federal elected officials. When she termed off the Recreation and Parks Commission, Myrtle was appointed to the Richmond Commission on Aging where she served as Chair for more than 10 years. Currently, she is the Vice Chair of the Commission on Aging. At the same time, she is serving as the secretary of the League of Women Voters of West Contra Costa County, a Board member of the Richmond Crime Prevention Board, President of the Laurel Park Neighborhood Council, a member of the Transportation Advisory Committee of Contra Costa County, the Hospitality Chair at my church, and co-chair of the California Alliance for Retired Americans. Myrtle says "I'm sure I've left something out, but this is what keeps me going."

My main accomplishments as President of CAPRCBM was working with Executive Director Anne Woodell to create and print a Directory with photos of the Officers and Board Members so members could have information needed to contact each other. I also conducted workshops at National, State and Regional Conventions. I represented CAPRCBM at Regional, National and State Conventions and other meetings. I lobbied Congress annually at the National CPRS Legislative meetings in Washington, D.C.

This September, Myrtle will be 96 years old! Way to go Myrtle, you are truly a legend!