

December 12

ELEANOR JOYCE TOLIVER-WILLIAMS



Mrs. Eleanor Joyce Toliver-Williams, mother of seven, moved from College Station, Texas to Anchorage, AK to help her sister fulfill a janitorial contract with the FAA. There began her legacy. Her work ethics, faith in God, fortitude, and mantra of “Never Let Them See You Sweat!” were the backbone of her success. Williams seized every opportunity for advancement, and unknowingly became the FAA’s first black female certified Air Traffic Controller (Anchorage, AK 1971). She served as a union representative for the Professional Air Traffic Controller Organization (PATCO). She made history again in 1994 when she became the first black female to manage an Enroute Air Traffic Control Center in Cleveland, OH – one of the busiest centers in the country at that time.

Among the many awards that Ms. Williams received are the National Black Coalition of Federal Aviation Employees (NBCFAE) C. Alfred Anderson Award and the FAA Central Region Paul K. Bohr Leadership Award. In 2001, she was inducted into the Black Aviation Hall of Fame, one of the signature programs of the Organization of Black Aerospace Professionals (OBAP). Her daughter, Dana, followed her Mom’s footsteps as an Air Traffic Controller. Her daughter, Kaye, works for FedEx and another daughter Sheila, is an Alaska Judicial System Retiree. Her son Rodrick has donated funds to Taste of Aviation to establish the Eleanor J. Williams/Janae Williams Scholarship for a student of color.

“Never Let Them See You Sweat!”