

## **Biography: Juanita Woods**

### **A Legendary Leader in Highland Hills**

It was a cold Wednesday in December, the seventeenth day to be exact, in the year of nineteen hundred and nineteen. The family of Reverend J. W. and Ella Williams welcomed into their family a bouncing baby girl. They named her, Juanita. This took place in Flynn, Texas.

Juanita grew up and attended public schools in Ennis, Texas and graduated from Ennis Colored School. After graduating she made a decision to relocate to Fort Worth, Texas. She was employed by Tarrant County Junior College for 20 years before retiring.

A young man by the name of John P. Woods saw Juanita Williams and a courtship evolved. They courted for a while and on December 24, 1940 they were united in Holy Matrimony. They shared 62 beautiful and loving years until the Lord called Brother John P. Woods, Sr. home.

Mrs. Woods was a faithful member of the Rising Star Baptist Church for over seventy years and worked diligently as President of the Senior Usher Board, a Youth Sponsor, Culinary Team Supervisor, and a member of the Mission Chorus. Sister Woods served as secretary of the District Ushers and was a member of the Local, State and National Usher Division.

Mrs. Woods was a fiery and passionate community leader. In her local community, Mrs. Woods was a member of several civic and political organizations. Mrs. Woods served as secretary of the Highland Hills Neighborhood Association for over 30 years. She played an instrumental role in persuading the Parks & Community Services Department to build a community center in Highland Hills. Because of her persistence, former PACS Director, Ralph W. Emerson was compelled to open the beautiful facility that now sits at 1600 Glasgow Road. The facility was completed in October 1990. At Mrs. Woods' funeral, Rev. Emerson stated that Mrs. Woods's persistence is one of the main reasons that Highland Hills has a community center. Her contributions to the Highland Hills community will be remembered and appreciated for many years to come.