

Ms. Virginia Turner Dowell, known by her many friends as “Peggye,” is a retired educator whose career spanned 40+ years of outstanding accomplishments in community service organizations, Friendship Baptist Church, Spelman College, and the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College.

In the Field of Education, her Professional activities have included:

- ... Author, Getting a Good Start at Teaching: A Handbook for the Beginning Teacher, Junior Academy, Brooklyn, NY 1970.
- ... Co-Authored, Elementary Mathematics Curriculum for Malverne Public Schools, 1980.
- ... Founded and developed “**Odyssey**” - A program for the Gifted, in the Malverne Public School System, Malverne,
- ... Served on the Executive Committee, Phi Delta Kappa, Theta Chapter, Brooklyn, New York.
- ... Vice President - Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, Omicron Chapter, L.I. New York, 1981-1983.
- ... President, Delta Kappa Gamma International Society, Alpha Psi Chapter, Atlanta, GA 1988 - 1990. -A professional society of Key Women Educators.
- ... Developed and published concept of Problem Solving in Math for Children by initiating a community-wide Hands-on “STOP & SHOP” store which was adopted by several school systems in New York.

In Community Activities & Service, Virginia Dowell

- ... Founded the first 4-H Club in which Black girls could participate in Lakeview & Hempstead, New York. 9 “Blue-Ribbon” (no longer segregated) 4-H Clubs of this type have since been established and supported by Cornell University.
- ... Served as Welfare Secretary, Lakeview Unit of the Salvation Army, West Hempstead, NY, 1965-1983.
- ... Promoted and developed After-School & Weekend Volunteer Tutors for Disabled Children, Brooklyn, NY, 1964 - 1967.
- ... Member of Church Council, Lutheran Church of the Epiphany, Hempstead, NY.
- ... Volunteer Service, Atlanta Botanical Gardens, 1984 - 1990.
- ... Volunteer Southwest Community solicitor, American Heart Fund, Atlanta, GA
- ... President, Art & Garden Club, Friendship Baptist Church, 1984 - 1995.
- ... Chair of Furnishings & Funding Committee for New Building & Renovation of Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, 1996 - 1998.
- ... General Chairperson, Women’s Month, Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, 1988
- ... Prayer Breakfast Chair for Friendship Baptist Church Anniversary, 2002 - 2006.
- ... Serves on Deaconess Board of Friendship Baptist Church.
- ... Chair, Marketing Committee of Friendship Baptist Church, Atlanta, GA, 2009 -
- ... Treasurer, “Bridges Across Atlanta” - a group of 75 Atlanta metropolitan women dedicated to bridging the cultural differences in our community, 2000 - 2010.

In Spelman College & NAASC Activities:

- ... President, New York Chapter, NAASC, 1979 - 1983.
- ... Northeast Regional Coordinator, 1975 - 1978; Editor, **FEEDBACK**, Northeast Regional

Newsletter, (first NAASC Regional Newsletter) 1975 - 1978.

... Service on NAASC Executive Committee, 1979 - 1990.

... Chairperson, Spelman - Morehouse Christmas Carol Concert, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center, New York, 1978 and 1980.

... Served on Spelman College Board of Trustees, 1979 - 1985.

... Chaired 1st successful NAASC National Fund-Raiser, CAR & FUR RAFFLE which netted in excess of \$40,000.

... Her love and involvement in the work of the NAASC prompted her to write the Alumnae Prayer which is now used in chapters throughout the nation, 1984.

... Spelman College, Alumnae Advisory Board, 1986 - 1988.

... President, Atlanta Chapter, NAASC, 1986 - 1988.

... Treasurer, NAASC, 1985 - 1995.

Virginia (Peggye) Dowell has been the recipient of several awards and is most proud of the following:

... Alumni of the Year Award, by National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, 1979.

... Spelman College, Centennial Citation, April 11, 1981.

... Award of Excellence to Virginia T. Dowell, the New York Chapter President, by the Northeast Region of NAASC, Dr. Eleanor Franklin, NE Regional Coordinator, 1981.

... The New York Chapter established the Virginia T. Dowell Endowed Scholarship Fund, an annual award to aid deserving New York freshmen who attend Spelman College 1983.

... Friendship Baptist Church, "Outstanding & Dedicated Service" Award, by Rev. William V. Guy, 1988.

... Atlanta Chapter: President's Award, for Dedicated Service & Leadership, by President Nancy Hawkins, 1990.

... Spelman College, Founders Spirit Award, at Convocation, April 11, 2000.

... Spelman College, Outstanding Service to NAASC Alumnae House, by Dr. Audrey Forbes, President, 2002.

Peggye is the proud mother of two daughters: Jihan Abdur-Rashid, recently retired Art Instructor from Booker T. Washington High School; and Ginger Dowell, Spanish Teacher at Maynard H. Jackson High School; six grandchildren; and 14 great grandchildren. Although outstanding in the field of Education, Virginia Dowell is known equally for her contributions in civic and volunteer community organizations. Today, she continues active service to the *historic* Friendship Baptist Church, where Spelman College was founded in 1881, as well as to Spelman College, and the National Alumnae Association of Spelman College.