

JUDGE LEAH B. MCCARTNEY SCHOLARSHIP FUND



The extraordinary life of Judge Leah B. McCartney continues to touch and inspire new generations through the *Judge Leah B. McCartney Scholarship Fund*. Created as a memorial by her husband, the late Reverend Victor A. McCartney, the scholarship fund provides awards of up to \$2,000 to aspiring undergraduate students.

The scholarship is a particularly fitting tribute to one for whom education was of central importance and who achieved such educational distinction. Born Leah Brock in 1911 in Ellisville, Mississippi, she attended Sumner High School in St. Louis, Missouri. Leah subsequently enrolled in Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri where she received her Bachelor of Science degree in education in 1938. After many years as a teacher, she enrolled at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C., graduating with an LLB degree in 1954.

In 1968, Mrs. McCartney became the first African-American woman to earn a law degree from The George Washington University School of Law. While working full-time, she managed to graduate in three years with the highest grade point average in her third-year class.

Mrs. McCartney became the first woman municipal judge of record in Missouri, a distinction for which the Missouri Senate commended her. While serving as municipal judge in Kinloch, Mrs. McCartney commuted between St. Louis and Tulsa, Oklahoma, where she taught law at the University of Tulsa. Of all her achievements, however, Mrs. McCartney was most proud of an award she received from the residents of Kinloch thanking her for the steps she took to improve their community while municipal judge.

In 1977, Judge McCartney became the first African-American to serve on the Missouri Public Service Commission. At the time of her death in 1984, Judge McCartney served on the Board of Directors for the Missouri United Methodist Foundation. Married to Reverend McCartney for 25 years.

Judge McCartney lived a life of accomplishment, service and faith. She epitomized those American ideals of life-long learning and perseverance that have built a great nation, and her pioneering spirit crossed barriers of gender and race at a pivotal time in our history. We join in giving thanks for her life and her legacy to the future.



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