

*Homegoing Service*

*For*

*Martha Edna Mae Burton*

*February 4, 1913*

*August 7, 2006*



**FRIDAY, AUGUST 11, 2006**

*Viewing: 9:00 a.m.*

*Service: 10:30am*

**CARROLL MANOR NURSING AND REHABILITATION CENTER CHAPEL**

*1150 Varnum Street, NE*

*Washington, DC*

*Father Leonard Hurley, Officiating*



*A Tribute to the Life of  
Martha Edna Mae Burton*



Martha promoted the sport of tenpin bowling for over 55 years as a volunteer and member of the Women's International Bowling Congress (WIBC) and The National Bowling Association (TNBA). She was one of the most respected bowling advocates in the nation and she is noted for bridging the gap between Black and White bowlers throughout the United States.

In Dayton, Ohio in 1954, Martha was the first Black delegate to attend a WIBC Convention and Tournament. She was the only Black at the formation of the Virginia State Women's Bowling Association of which she was instrumental in instituting. Martha was also instrumental in the organization and development of the Washington, D.C. Area Women's Bowling Association, the Greater Washington Bowling Senate and many bowling leagues and clubs.

Martha recruited and mentored several bowling leaders who served on national, state, and local boards. She was extremely effective in motivating youth bowler to excel on and off the lanes. Many of them went to college and are still league bowlers. Martha's lifetime of dedication to youth bowling by far surpassed the ordinary limits. And her reputation on brilliance of achievements character and renown in the promotion of tenpin bowling is echoed throughout the bowling industry.

Martha was President of the WDCAWBA from 1971-1979. She was President of the Virginia-Maryland-District of Columbia Young American Bowling Alliance for nine years and President of the Greater Washington Bowling Senate for six. Martha was a dedicated member of the WIBC Pioneer Club for 20 years and an active member of the National Women Bowling Writers of which she received the Helen Duval Award in 1984.

Martha was the first recipient to receive the TNBA Mary L. Wilkes Award and the first non-WIBC board member to be elected a Member Emerita. She was also bestowed the honor of Life Member by WDCAWBA, TNBA, and GWBS. In her honor, the Greater Washington Bowling Senate instituted the "Martha M. Burton Award" for outstanding service.

Moreover, Martha was inducted in the Meritorious Service Category of the Washington, D.C. Area WBA Hall of Fame in 1983, the Virginia State WBA Hall in 1981, the Virginia State Junior Hall of Fame in 1989, the Virginia State YABA Hall of Fame in 1990, The National Bowling Association Hall in 1989, and the Greater Washington Bowling Senate Hall of Fame in 1989.