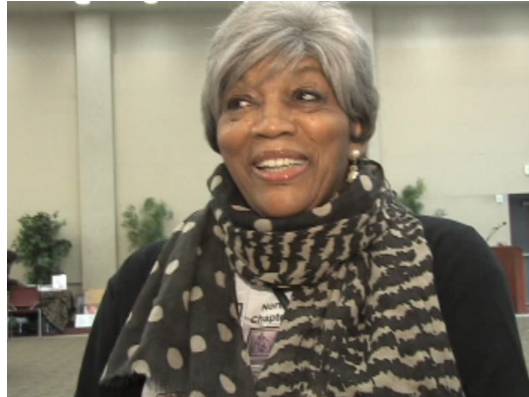


Dr. Esper Gold Hayes



Esper was born on October 13, 1934 in Farmville, North Carolina and at the age of three her family moved to Norfolk Virginia where she attended Booker T Washington High School. Esper went on to attend Shaw University where she majored in religion and after graduating from Shaw, she worked with youth organizations throughout the community helping young people to get the skills they needed to be successful. At the age of 33 she moved to New York where she became a social worker working for the City of New York where she worked tirelessly to help children find stability in their lives. While managing 2 group homes for Lutheran Services Agency, she went back to school where she earned her Master's degree and Doctorate of Social Work from Yeshiva University. When she retired from Lutheran, she went on to teach Human Growth and Development and Social Policy at Seton Hall University. She received an honorary doctorate degree from Seton Hall University for her work with students and the inspiration she had become to students in pursuing a career in social work. She started ESPER more than 30 years ago based on a promise to the Olympian Jesse Owens in an effort to get African Americans to be more prideful of their heritage and culture. Her dream was that African Americans, especially young people would develop pride in themselves through understanding their heritage. Since then, Esper Gold Hayes has been a stalwart of hope, encouragement, pride, commitment, and celebration for the members of the society that bears her first name and for the philatelic community in general.