



Doris Lamkin Burt-Johnson, I grew up on a farm in Luling Texas with my six siblings. At a very early age we quickly understood the meaning of hard work and respect. I attended Rosenwald School in Luling Texas in 1958 where I would graduate from the eighth grade.

My parents migrated to Phoenix Arizona in 1958 and settled in the Okemah Community. I quickly made friends with the Okemah girls and boys and have remained friends to this day. I would soon be enrolled and graduated from Tempe High School in 1962.

I attended Southwest Preparatory Medical School for one year where I earned a certification to become a medical assistant. When Cigna Health Plan first moved to Phoenix Arizona, I was the first African American female to be hired. I worked in medical records and primary care until the birth of my last child and would later become a stay home mom.

I became a member of Roosevelt School PTSO during my children school age years. I was a member of the “First Black Youth Recognition Conference” sponsored by the City of Phoenix. I served as a registrar enrolling high school students to attend a conference at ASU which offered educational workshops and lectures from motivational speakers.

I had a burning desire and passion to become a community activist. I served on the Greenfield Homeowners Association supported by the City of Phoenix and South Mountain Police Precinct. The organization organized neighborhood events such as carnivals, block watch, peace walks etc. I served on the first “Graffiti Free Program” in South Mountain under the directions of the City of Phoenix which allowed the resident to receive paint and brushes to remove unsightly graffiti. I embraced and served on the movement “Mother’s Against Gangs and Violence” organized out of South Mountain High School.

I had the honor and the privilege to co-author “Arizona History, The Okemah Community” written by my late husband William E. Burt. It was the research of so many Okemah families which allowed me to continue the long- standing relationship with the Okemah Community. I have served as Chairperson for the Okemah Community Reunion since 1998.

Later in life, my passion for health inspired me to become a certified aerobics instructor for the City of Phoenix. I retired as a School Age Child Care Director for after school and summer programs, providing study hours for homework, indoors and outdoors activities.