

Cordelia M. Lewis –Burks

Cordelia Lewis-Burks is known for serving the community by educating and empowering others through the political process. She focuses on women of all ages, races and from all walks of life, working with families through the labor movement. Her commitment has been to provide leadership and dignity for working families in the struggle for equality and economic justice through the vote.

After sixteen years as the Director of Politics and Legislation in the state of Indiana for the American Federation of State County and Municipal Employees International Union, Lewis-Burks retired in 2005. An avid Democrat, she continues to serve her political Party, as the Vice Chair Woman of the Indiana Democratic Party for eight years and as a precinct committeewoman for forty years and as a member of the Democratic National Committee and its Executive Board. She has served as Secretary of the Association of Democratic State Chairs. Mrs. Burks believes there is only one day of the year when all people who are equal, that day is Election Day, that is if they are registered to vote. This belief was grounded in her by her work with the A. Philip Randolph Institute

She serves her community as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, a member of the Board of the Near North Development Association and has served as a Labor Representative to the Association of United Ways and numerous other local and national boards and Committees.

She has for years she been listed in the publication Who's Who in Black Indianapolis as one of the City's 100 most Black Influential Citizens. Mrs. Lewis-Burks has received numerous acknowledgments for her work including Indiana's highest honor, The Saga more of the Wabash... Upon her retirement the Indiana State Senate and the Indiana House of Representatives recognized her legislative service as a Lobbyist of 16 years by bestowing a Concurrent Resolution in her name.

Mrs. Lewis-Burks is also the recipient of the Rosie Parks award from the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the Sojourner Truth Award from the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists and the Rosie Parks Trail Blazer award presented by the Indiana Minority Council.

Upon her retirement the Indianapolis City-County acknowledged her with a special resolution for her service to the City, County and State. Cordelia remains a servant of her community.

For all she hopes to give to her community she owes to her mother who passed this life when Lewis-Burks was eleven but was active in the community, school and the church. And to her father, a Minister who with the help of his oldest daughter, Cordelia, raised her four siblings ages two weeks to nine years of age.

Mrs. Burks believes the best gift to give your enemy is forgiveness; to an opponent tolerance; to your spouse is complete fidelity; to a friend your loyalty, to your children ,

a good example; to a father, difference; to your mother conduct that will make her proud; to one's self; self respect..

She is the mother of David K. Lewis and Dawn Lewis, both of Indianapolis, Indiana, six grandchildren and nine great grandchildren...