Mavis Claytor (1943 -) was born in Callaway, Virginia, in rural Franklin County. Her grandfather was a former enslaved laborer. Claytor's nursing trajectory began at Burrell Memorial Hospital's Lucy Addison High School of Practical Nursing Program, where she graduated in 1963. She attended Morgan State University, a historically Black college in Baltimore, Maryland, and then obtained a diploma in nursing from the Provident Hospital's Registered Nursing Program in Baltimore. Because she desired a baccalaureate degree, she applied to the NLN-accredited University of Virginia School of Nursing. Despite obstacles resulting from an entrenched segregation at UVA, in 1970 she became the first Black woman to graduate from the School of Nursing. She earned a master's degree in mental health nursing at UVA in 1985 and spent the rest of her career at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Salem, Virginia. She retired as Service Line Chief Nurse for Geriatrics and Extended Care, after 30 years of dedicated and awarded service.

Sources:

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