

Grace Quarles Tinsley (1933-2006), civil rights activist, nurse, and advocate for public education, received her nursing certificate from the Jackson P. Burley/University of Virginia Hospital Licensed Practical Nursing Program in 1958. As one of several African American nurses to integrate UVA Hospital, she worked for 18 years as a labor and delivery nurse, pharmacology research technician, and Supervisor of the Pulmonary Function Laboratory. She also served as Supervisor of Nurses with the Charlottesville School System and was the first African American woman appointed to the Charlottesville City School Board. As an active member of the NAACP, she was executive board member and chair of the Political Action Committee. She also earned appointments on the boards of the Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center and the Piedmont Virginia Community College, while raising funds for the creation of a Public Defender's Office in Charlottesville. Tinsley was recognized as a Bridge Builder for her efforts to cross racial, class, and economic barriers. Among her many awards, in 2002 she received the Martin Luther King, Jr., Award. After her death in 2006, the Charlottesville Democratic Party created a scholarship in her name for students at Charlottesville High School who demonstrate exceptional community leadership.

Sources:

Robert Lee Tinsley and Grace Quarles Tinsley, *Bridge Builders, 2001-2016, Charlottesville, VA*, pp. 10-11 [READ](#)