

Senior Award: Mabel Staton

In the Senior Category, the Woman of Distinction Award goes to Mabel Staton of Voorhees. She has devoted most of her life to track and field and to teaching, beginning as a member of the 1952 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Team, a member of the 1955 Pan American Team, where she was both a Gold and Bronze Medal winner. She was a seven-time member of the AAU All-American Track Team (from 1949-1955) and is the U.S. Record Holder in the Long Jump and 50-Yard Dash.

She was elected to Helms Hall of Fame Women's Track in 1966, received Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity's Rosa Parks Award in 2008, New Jersey Track and Field Officials Association Award in 2009 and their Lifetime Achievement Award in 2010. She is a former high school physical education and special education teacher, who retired in 1994 and then worked as a substitute teacher in Voorhees and Blackhorse Regional Schools from 1995-2005.

Mabel is Regional Coordinator for the Tri-State Olympians, is on the board of the Cherry Hill Chapter of the AARP and the Board of Black Catholic Ministry of the Camden Diocese, and a Eucharistic Minister at St. Thomas More Church in Cherry Hill.

"I think of the many lives my mother touched in the classroom as both a physical education and special education teacher and it overwhelms me," said her daughter Pat, who also lives in Voorhees. "She has always taught her children to be the bigger person because she chose to proudly represent America at a time when African-Americans were treated poorly in many parts of the country. Mom strongly believes that the Good Lord has a purpose for each of our lives. She has a heart of gold and has always been there for her family and friends."