

# *Victorine Q. Adams*



*Woman of the Year*

**FUEL FUND, INC.**

**Monday, May 14, 1984**

**MARTIN'S WEST**



## ... ABOUT THE HONOREE

Victorine Q. Adams, a native Baltimorean, was born and reared in our great City! She is the daughter of the late Joseph and Estelle Quille, and has one brother, the late Sgt. William C. Quille. She is an active member of St. Peter Claver Roman Catholic Church. She is a graduate of Douglass High School, Coppin State Teacher's College and Morgan State University. She is married to William L. Adams, fondly called "Little Willie" by friends and associates. Mr. Adams also has a legacy that is his alone. He, too, is a lover of mankind, a community supporter and has helped countless numbers of people during his lifetime. One might call them an "ideal couple" . . . each lending so much to each other.

Victorine Q. Adams is a part of Baltimore's history because she has the distinction of being the first Black Woman to be elected to the Baltimore City Council. Victorine is a Democrat and served as Fourth District Councilperson for four terms, a total of sixteen years in that seat. She further has the distinction of serving as the first Black Woman President of the City Council. She acted as President to the Council and presided over their meetings while Council President Clarence "Du" Burns was on a diplomatic visit to Israel.

One of her greatest achievements, with strong support from Mayor William Donald Schaefer, was the idea and formation of the Baltimore Fuel Fund, Inc., a co-operative program between other private and public donors and the Baltimore Gas and Electric Company. This program has served thousands of people in need during cold winter months. So successful was her early venture that, since the program's beginning in 1979, eight Maryland Counties have created their own Fuel Funds. Those counties are: Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Calvert, Carroll, Charles, Harford, Howard and St. Mary's, in addition to Baltimore City. Thus, came the establishment of Fuel Fund, Inc. with the help of WMAR-TV 2 in 1981. This is an umbrella group of metropolitan counties for the various funds.

It would be easy to fill most of these pages with the many activities of Victorine Q. Adams. However, in the interest of space, we will list just some of her accomplishments.

- Former teacher in the Baltimore City Public Schools
- Former owner-manager of The Charm Center; shop for women
- Pioneer for Political Action among Black Women
- Organized the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee of Md. - 1946
- Spearheaded - Register-to-Vote and Get-Out-the-Vote Campaigns
- Organized Woman Power, Inc. in 1958 with Mrs. Ethel Rich
- Chair of the Door-to-Door Campaign for the New Provident Hospital. By 1970, raised over \$172,974.00
- Organized Council for Cultural Progress with Mrs. Marie C. Henderson to promote art and culture in our communities. CCP sponsored the plaque that marks City Hall
- Organized the Baltimore Fuel Fund, Inc. in 1979, with the solid support of Mayor William Donald Schaefer, and funded by the Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.
- Organized The Fuel Fund, Inc. with WMAR-TV 2 in 1981, an umbrella group of metropolitan counties served by the Baltimore Gas & Electric Co.
- Member: Phi Delta Kappa, Sigma Gamma Rho, Iota Phi Lambda Sororities; Negro B&P; Life Member, National Council of Negro Woman. Organized the first associate chapter in 1948; Baltimore Urban League; Life Member, NAACP; Charmettes, Inc.; School Marms; Martiniques, Inc.; League of Women Voters; N.O.W. Women Together; Penn North; Altar Guild-St. Peter Claver Church; Woman Power; Council for Cultural Progress (CCP) Hanlon Park Improvements Assoc.; Coppin State and Morgan State Alumni Associations; Health and Welfare Council Homeless Task Force; Chair-City Council Task Forces on Unemployment and member City Council Task Force on the Homeless.





(ABOUT THE HONOREE - continued)

- Took the New Provident Hospital as a Special Project and organized the "Century Club and thus began the first building fund drive for the facility.
- Has attended several seminars on Redevelopment of Baltimore City as it pertained to transportation and housing.
- Secured teams of volunteers to man register-to-vote stations in various parts of the city in an increased effort to locate and register new potential voters - especially the young voters.
- Conducted a successful "write-in" campaign to locate the Social Security complex in downtown Baltimore, thus assuming more than 6,000 new jobs and about 10,000 auxiliary jobs in this area.
- Formulated a network of clubs and organizations throughout the State of Maryland whose purpose was to:
- "write-in" to local legislators to press for more state funds for quality education for each child in Maryland. Suggested that a Task Force be formed to study the entire school picture and make recommendations that will solve the present-and hopefully prevent the future-problems that can be so devisive and disruptive.
- Initiated "Citizens Alert" to keep the public informed of what is happening in our community to enable the citizens to be ready to act on any issue of concern.
- Worked with the committee for the Kidney Foundation to raise funds for the foundation.
- Continued summer programs for needy youths. Sent several boys and girls to the Fresh Air Camp. Also participated in the Camp Concern Program.
- Announced the need for funds for the "House of Ruth" - housing for battered women and their children.
- etc., etc., etc. . . . .



OTHER MEMORIES FROM MY SCRAPBOOK . . .

. . . IN MEMORY AND APPRECIATION OF

- Estelle Tate Quille
- Joseph Columbus Quille
- William Career Quille
- Claudia Adams Black
- And other Members of
- The Tate Family
- The Quille Family
- The Adams Family
- The Simpson Family
- The Whidbee Family

With Deepest Respect, Love and Devotion

from

Victorine Q. Adams  
William L. Adams





## ... ABOUT THE FUND

Fuel Fund, Inc. is an umbrella organization serving the metropolitan area, including Baltimore City, Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Carroll, Harford and Howard Counties. It came into existence in 1981 with Victorine Q. Adams, as its first president.

Baltimore City's fuel fund, founded by Mrs. Adams is the first in the nation. It began in 1979 with \$10,000 in seed money from The Baltimore Gas and Electric Company and the pledge of an additional \$190,000 in matching fuel credits. About the same time similar groups were forming in the surrounding counties and the matching fuel credits were extended to them as well. The amount allotted for these credits has increased annually.

Representatives of the various fuel funds met at the invitation of WMAR-TV 2 to discuss the need for fuel assistance in the metropolitan area and ways in which WMAR-TV could be instrumental in helping to raise funds to meet this need. Thus FUEL FUND, Inc. was born.

Each year Fuel Fund, Inc. holds its major fund raiser, PADDLE FOR PEOPLE, in October at the Inner Harbor. Harbor Boating Inc. makes paddle boats available for the day. Schools, organizations, businesses and government agencies form teams to race against each other in a series of races starting every twenty minutes throughout the day. With thousands of balloons floating in the harbor and colorful T-shirts being sported by workers and racers alike, Paddle Day is lively and exciting. Volunteers come from everywhere. Never have so many had so much fun making money.

Fuel Fund, Inc. also benefits from the METRO CLASSIC held annually in early March at the Civic Center. The public school, MSA champions, play the Catholic League champions with Fuel Fund, Inc., as the beneficiary.

Contributions are the third source of income. These come from individuals, organizations, schools, churches and businesses. Each year Baltimore Gas and Electric Company makes an appeal in one of its monthly billings for donations to Fuel Fund, Inc. WMAR-TV runs public service advertisements during the cold months appealing to the public to support the effort to keep people warm.

In 1982 Fuel Fund, Inc. through the local fuel funds assisted nearly 2,000 households. By 1983 this had doubled to nearly 4,000. Through your help we will not only be able to continue but expand.

The local fuel funds as well as Fuel Fund, Inc. operate with very little administrative costs because all are run through existing governmental or quasi-governmental bodies. Almost 95% of the monies which come into Fuel Fund, Inc. are distributed to clients through the local fuel funds.

Because clients pay a portion of their bills from their own funds, the fuel funds, are able to help a far greater number of people than would otherwise be possible. And because the fuel funds, maintain a great degree of flexibility, they are often able to help when others can't.

### Corporate Sponsors:

WMAR-TV 2

BALTIMORE GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

BALTIMORE FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION

HARBOR BOATING, INC.

