

**Della Marie Harris Clemons, RN' 46 from Voices (2012) by Dr. Evelyn Wicker**

I was born in Wendell, North Carolina, one of twelve children. My father was a farmer and my mother was a housewife.

While in nursing school I was a cadet in the Nurse Cadet Corps. I attended St. Joseph and White Rock Churches while in school. I worked a short time at Lincoln after graduating, while preparing for the licensure exam. After receiving my RN license, I took a short course in anesthesia. This course of work proved very challenging but not as satisfying as I had imagined. My work experiences included; St. Agnes Hospital in Raleigh, N.C; school nurse with a Federal Program under the Supervisor of Public Health Department in Raleigh, N.C; supervisor in the Department of Corrections Department, later known as the Correctional School for Women. I WAS FIRST Black nurse and the first RN at the Corrections Department. I had applied at Dorothea Dix Hospital after I graduated, but they would accept me only as an aid. As a continuous learner I earned the bachelor's degree in nursing in 1965, and I continued to be involved with the Lincoln Hospital School of Nursing Alumni Association. I retired from the Department of Corrections after twenty years.