



Ms. Mildred D. Brown, owner/editor of the Omaha Star Newspaper, expired Thursday morning, November 2, 1989, in the offices she loved at the newspaper office at 2216 North 24th St.

One of four children of the Reverend B.J. and Maggie Brown, Ms. Brown was born in Birmingham, Alabama. At 16, she graduated from her mother's alma mater, Miles Memorial Teachers College, and then taught elementary school.

In the summer of 1936, she met Dr. Edward Gilbert. They were married in the fall and moved to Chicago where she continued her education and eventually to Sioux City, Iowa. "Millie" as she was affectionately known to her many friends and associates, started her career as a newspaper woman in Sioux City in the mid-1930's when Reverend D.H. Harris said she should venture into the newspaper business. During the two years that she published the small weekly, she organized the Booker T. Washington Community Center for young people in her neighborhood "who were wandering aimlessly in the streets."

In May of 1984, Mildred was honored at a fund-raising banquet for her support of a multitude of minority causes and concerns. The Omaha Star was used primarily as a vehicle of communication for news of concern to Omaha's minorities, and during the period of the publication, the newspaper faithfully recorded the political, cultural, religious and social life of Nebraska's Black people. Besides receiving numerous awards for her service to the entire community, she spent countless hours working with the community, and supporting any number of projects. One of her main concerns was seeing to it that young people received an education, the drug problem had also become a concern of the Omaha Star and its publisher, and after receiving the "Unsung Heroine Award" for service awarded by the NAACP, she became one of only 35 people in the country so honored. Mrs. Brown was appointed by president Lyndon B. Johnson as a "goodwill ambassador" to East Germany to investigate alleged human rights violations following construction of the Berlin Wall.

This special lady was a member of the NAACP, CHAD, the Black Publishers Association, the National Business League and supported many other community causes including the local and national Urban League, the Great Plains Black Museum and the United Methodist Community Center. Her interest in local causes was known throughout the country, and her involvement in the early Civil Rights movement with the Omaha DePorres Club and the other local Civil Rights organizations helped in establishing her reputation as a "strong person" who was interested in obtaining Civil Rights and Equal Rights for all persons. She personally went "to bat" many times during the early Civil Rights movement, and worked behind the scenes in local movements that helped greatly in making Omaha have to step forward to keep up with the rest of the country in Open Housing, FEPC and civil rights.

She was known for her love of blooming yellow chrysanthemums and was also known for her love of corsages, she was rarely seen in public without a flower.

Ms. Brown was preparing to celebrate the 51st year of publishing the Omaha Star, and during her career in Omaha, she was known as a dedicated person whose slogan was "that all people are alike, regardless of race, creed or color, and as one who has tried to educate people to that." She often said she would like to be remembered as a person who dedicated her life to youth... someone who tried to practice what she preached... that all people are alike, regardless of race, creed or color, and as one who has tried to educate people to that.

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